



October 2025

GSL's Update

It was certainly a summer Term to remember, with camps in Cornwall and Dorset and then a trip to Belgium for the Band. These will be covered in detail within the newsletter.

As ever it has been very rewarding to visit the sections at their meetings or at camp and see young people having a great time but also gaining new skills which will serve them well into the future.

Some of our Explorer and Network Scouts completed their Gold Level Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in the Lake District following a practice expedition in the Peak District earlier in the year.

To explain further a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's expedition requires a 4-day, 3-night journey with a minimum of 8 hours of purposeful activity per day, covering training, a practice expedition, and a qualifying expedition. Participants must be self-sufficient and be unaccompanied, have appropriate fitness, and work towards a team aim.



A lot of the other activities will be covered elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Annual Awards

We also recognised the young people in our sections and these are always difficult to identify the recipients as we have so many young people in the Group who put their effort in their Scouting and then get the best from their experiences and training.

Maple Beaver Colony	Tamara G
Oak Beaver Colony	Madi R
Sycamore Beaver Colony	Frankie J
Willow Beaver Colony	Rory Brown
Lion Cub Pack	Theo G, Bertie E
Lynx Cub Pack	Theodora (Teddy) P
Panther Cub Pack	William F
Scout Troop	Sam F-L
Explorer Scout Unit	Finlay G
Nightingale Award	Tom O'B

At the AGM we recognised the dedicated service that Stuart Ballard has given to the Group both as a Beaver Leader and then as the chair of the Trustees. Stuart was always supportive, offering wise council to myself and other leaders.

David Edwards has been appointed as the group's new chair and has been shadowing Stuart but will be chairing his first meeting in November. As we look forward, we have some big events next year:

- 15th - 17th May 2026 Group Camp (GAW) at Walton Firs (All sections)
- 20th June 2026 Scam (County Cub Event Apps Court) (Cubs)
- 26th – 28th June 2026 District tri-annual Camp Walton Firs (All sections)
- 21st – 30th August 2026 Scout Summer Camp. KIX 26 Switzerland (Scouts)



These are not to be missed, so please put them into your calendar!

Events to Christmas:

We have a number of major events in the run up to Christmas which I would like to recommend to you:



Group Fireworks - 2nd November : A family event at the Scout Centre with display fireworks, hot dogs and soup.

Carols round the Camp Fire - 12th December : Another great family event, with carols round the campfire, followed by refreshments, a special guest and traditional Christmas songs inside the Scout Centre.

GAW Beaver Scouts 2025 Wizard Camp



This May, the Beaver Scouts stepped into the world of magic at the GAW 2025 Wizard Camp, and what a spellbinding time we had!

From the moment the young apprentices arrived at the Mowgli Hut on Friday evening, there was excitement and chatter as they unpacked and settled into their tents. Our first task was to craft wizard lanterns to light the way, before heading out into the darkness for a thrilling wide game.

The Magical Owls of the Owl Emporium had escaped and scattered across the Memorial Field! With torches shining and teamwork at full power, the Beaver teams raced to track them down before they vanished into the night. The glowsticks helped guide the way, and after much running, searching, and cheering, all the owls were safely returned.

We then gathered around the campfire, singing our favourite songs alongside the Cubs, before heading off to wash up and snuggle down in our sleeping bags, ready for the magic to continue the next day. Thank you to the cubs for having us.

Saturday brought sunshine, breakfast, and fresh energy as our day Beavers arrived to join the fun. Each received a Wizard Passport and bag before setting off to develop our wizarding skills. Our magical bases included:

Dough Wand Cooking over the fire (always a favourite!)

Water Wizardry games with plenty of splashing and laughter.

Treasure Hunt of Spells and Riddles, including knot-tying and pioneering challenges.

Archery, testing skill and patience to score points.

Potion-Making, mixing natural ingredients into weird and wonderful brews.

Broomstick Relays, zipping around obstacle courses like true Quidditch stars.

Herbology Lab, learning about magical herbs and planting their own.

Wand Crafting, finding the perfect stick and enchanting it with ribbons, gems, and glitter.

The day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and plenty of wizarding pride. After a delicious dinner we packed up our things and gathered once more for a final campfire. By the end, there were some very tired little wizards sitting sleepily by the fire — a sure sign of a weekend well spent.

I can say this was a truly magical event to finish on. It was one of my last camps before stepping down as Merlin, and I could not have asked for a better farewell. The Beavers shone with teamwork, learned new skills, and discovered the joy of camping together.

A huge thank you to all the leaders, young leaders, and parent helpers who made this weekend possible – without you, this spell would never have been cast.

Yours magically,
Merlin (Lucy)





Beavers Bazzaz



1st Claygate took 41 Beavers to this year's Bazzaz. They joined 2000 young people at Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, near Guilford to enjoy a day full of exciting activities, games, and hands-on adventures designed to spark creativity and teamwork.

Bazzaz takes place every 3 years and is a day full of amazing outdoor activities for Beavers and Rainbows from Surrey.

We departed by coach at 8.30 from the Scout Centre to be dropped at the gates where one by one we were scanned in, and the fun could begin. Our bags were dropped at the Esher District gazebos, which were put up the day before by a few kind leaders. Thank you to Caroline, Catherine and Micheline who joined 3 other leaders from Esher district to put these up the day before.

The Beavers were allocated to their groups with as mission to go around as many activities as possible.

The first group of activities were the hired-in attractions, always very popular with the Beavers such as bouncy castle, assault courses, climbing walls, last man standing, penalty shootout, caving in crates, steam train, and racing cars.

Around the perimeter of the field were the second set of activities provided by the participating Scout Groups. Great fun with hardly any queues. 1st Claygate ran a paper rocket making and launching activity. Some of the other activities that stood out for the Beavers were the foam axe throwing, crazy golf, piggy racing, and bracelet making. The Beavers also had the opportunity to be interviewed on live radio!

At 12.00, we all had a well-deserved break to enjoy our picnic lunch. Some of our Beavers had a quick nap before resuming the activities until 16.00, when the bus picked us up to go back. We had a lot of very tired but happy Beavers in the bus.

THANK YOU - All the beavers had a fantastic day.

We cannot run these events without your support, so thank you to the Beaver leaders that joined us: Caroline, Catherine, Sam, Tom, Sheree and Micheline, as well as Young Leader Tom and the parents who joined us and supported us on the day: Heather B, Sam B, Lowri D,

Rebecca R, John H, Andrew F, Alex H, Jeni H, Craig S, Catherine P and Derek N.

All the other Beaver leaders who supported us behind the scenes with the paperwork but were not able to join us on the day, Emma, Rosy, Lucy and Mark A.

Thank you also to Tiana, Our Esher Beaver District Lead and her son for taking and bring back our large items in their van and to Mark B, Esher District Lead for visiting our activity.





Cubs Visit the Maritime Museum and HMS Belfast

With overnight bags loaded on the minibus, the London bound platform at Claygate Station was awash with excited chattering cubs on the morning of Saturday 27th September, waiting for the 9.34am train and the start of an eagerly awaited pack holiday to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich and a sleepover on board HMS Belfast.

We travelled to the Maritime Museum by train and Uber Boat, and by the time we arrived the cubs were ready to tuck into their packed lunches. After lunch the cubs went off in their small groups of 8 to explore the Maritime Museum, experience the Caribbean take-over including steel bands, and walk up to the Royal Observatory to see the Meridian Line and catch some great views of London. Soon it was time to gather, travel by Uber Boat to London Bridge City and meet the minibus and collect our overnight bags.

We boarded HMS Belfast at 6pm and were met by our concierge who showed us down to the mess decks where we were to sleep. Soon it was time for supper (or more properly “scrان”) and the cubs enjoyed either fish fingers and chips or macaroni cheese followed by churros with chocolate sauce. The concierge took us back on deck after supper so that the cubs could see Tower Bridge which had been specially lit up in red, white and blue to mark the Roses win at the Rugby World Cup. It was very impressive and memorable. Then it was back to the mess decks to change into PJ’s and settle down to watch a movie before lights out, and a night in the bunk beds in a 1950’s mess deck.

In the morning most of the cubs were awake when it was time to get up at 7am. Everybody had to get up, dressed and have their bags packed for 8am when the concierge came to get us for breakfast – bottomless porridge, cereal and toast. We then went up on deck for a breath of fresh air and were shown a special handle on one of the gun turrets that we were asked to remember.

Our concierge then took below decks again where she told us two stories – one of which related to the handle she had shown us on deck. During a storm in the Arctic in World War 2 a sailor called John Harrison had been saved from being washed overboard because his hand had frozen to the handle when a huge wave unexpectedly hit the ship - so the handle and the cold had saved his life.

Before touring the ship in groups we took all our bags to meet the minibus which then bought them back to Claygate. The cubs then spent the morning exploring – they went from the top of the ship where they could sit in the Captain’s chair to the bottom of the ship where they could see the engine rooms, brig and ammunition store. There were crew quarters to explore, along with the kitchen and medical facility, some naughty mice to find, and the opportunity to design a badge like the ones the sailors wore to show what their job was on board.

It was then time to leave HMS Belfast but not quite time to say goodbye as we ate our picnic lunch sitting on the riverbank near the ship. We then gathered everybody together and headed for the station for an uneventful journey back to Claygate, where some quite tired cubs were re-united with their bags and their parents – there were lots of experiences to recount!



A huge thank you to all those who made this trip possible. Taking 40 cubs to London for the weekend by public transport requires lots of adult support – so thank you to the 18 leaders and parents who helped over the weekend, to Gary who drove the minibus, Mark who was our home contact and to Akela-Lions who made the Sunday lunchtime sandwiches for all those who stayed overnight. Thank you also to the cubs who were well behaved, paid attention and stayed with their assigned adults over the weekend, all while having fun. You all contributed to a successful and memorable pack holiday.



Scout Troop Summer Camp Wareham, Dorset

26th July – 2nd August

This year we chose to have our annual summer camp at an activity centre near Wareham in Dorset. With 36 Scouts attending we needed 3 minibuses to get everyone there (thanks to The Dittons Scouts and Kings College School for loaning us the extra buses). Not a greenfield site like last year, the scouts enjoyed the luxury of toilets and showers! The centre offered a number of on-site activities including water sports and climbing and was located close to a number of attractions including Brownsea Island, the Swanage Railway and the Tank Museum. We had a packed programme of activities for the week as well as the usual camp tasks such as building fires to cook our dinner on. I'll let some of the Scouts write about our activities.



Buddens Activity Centre

Scout camp is always packed with great activities- some we have done previously either at Scouts or past camps. The first two days of our camp were devoted to on-site activities which included climbing, zip wire, raft building, kayaking and archery. The events were well organised, and you got to try new things or show your existing talents. We were put into smaller groups to take part, and the instructors and camp leaders make each activity interesting and encouraged us to participate. All the activities help with teamwork and responsibility but are also full of laughter. The kayaks were large enough to take two and you had to wear life jackets in case the worst happened and you capsized, this is quite difficult because you have to paddle in time with your partner. Archery was another good activity with proper long bows and arrows, and you had to shoot targets hopefully without missing. My favourite activity was the raft building where you are given some large buoyant barrels which you need to tie together and get all your team aboard and downstream without sinking or your knots coming undone. (Sam Collins)



Bovington Tank Museum

It was mid-week of summer camp when the scouts loaded their minibuses and set off for Bovington Army Camp. The ride was relatively short however filled with excitement as armoured vehicles, tanks and motorbikes encountered us on the narrow Dorset Roads. We arrived in good time at the museum and divided into groups to explore the site packed with tanks, guns, relics and more. The Scouts then went outside for a large helping of packed lunch sandwiches mostly containing chocolate spread! After lunch, we headed back in for round two of the tank museum. We explored more tanks, fascinating the whole group young and old, taking everyone back on a tidal wave of historic knowledge of the past. After a rather long trip to the shop, we loaded the minibuses and drove a group of exhausted scouts back to the camp, ending a wonderful excursion to the museum. (Jack Dickinson)



Brownsea Island

During one of the days of we visited Brownsea island, just off the coast of Poole which was awesome. We arrived at Poole around 10 o'clock and sat down awaiting the ferry

which arrived a few minutes later and took us on a 20 minute boat ride to Brownsea island. Upon arrival we split into groups and wandered around the island, going to some bird hides, where we saw spoonbills in the shallows. Around the island there were a few activities and animal awareness stalls set up. At twelve we sat down on the lawns of St.Mary's church to eat our lunches. We ended the trip with a last walk around the other side of the island looking for the famous red squirrels, seeing the scout monument stone, ending it by going down to a pebble beach and looking for crabs. Back at the dock whilst waiting for the ferry home we saw a harbour seal bobbing its head out of the water, a perfect end to a great day out. (Ben Smith)

Day Hike

On one of the days during the week, all the scouts went for a Day Hike around the woodlands in the surrounding area. The day hike was around 17 km long and took us 6 hours to complete. During this time, we had to test our navigational and map reading skills to stay on the route that we were given without getting lost. Before the hike, we prepared lunch in the form of sandwiches and crisps. After a few hours of hiking the sandwiches and water tasted better than they ever had before. The weather was bright and sunny the entire time and it was a great day to be outside. We hiked through some magnificent woodlands and got to experience the best of the wildlife that surrounded us. A group of older scouts who left for Explorers after the summer term, did their DofE along the same route, however they did a full day of travel beforehand. Overall, the hike was a true test of our troop's abilities and skills, but at the same time, we were lucky enough for the opportunity to experience the outstanding natural beauty of the British forests. (Ruben Bitner)

Swanage

On the last day of camp, the Scouts enjoyed a trip on the steam railway to Swanage. They had time at the seaside resort to spend their pocket money on sweets, ice-cream and some quality souvenirs. After taking down some of the canvas in the afternoon we had a fish and chip supper and a farewell campfire. We had some songs, jokes and sketches - a great end to a successful week. (Paul Smith)



Band Visit to Belgium

1st CLAYGATE SCOUT & GUIDE BAND PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN HEROS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



In early September, the Senior Band spent the weekend in Belgium, a superb trip and one that will stay in the memories of all who took part for many years to come. The trip marked the start of a year of celebrations for the band marking 25 years since the band was re-formed.

Leaving Claygate mid-afternoon on Friday by coach, spirits were high, and remained high despite the best attempts of the queues for British and French passport control at the Eurotunnel terminal! We arrived at our accommodation around 9:30pm, grateful for the hot meal that awaited.

On Saturday, breakfast was early as we had a full day ahead ... but there were some surprisingly happy faces.

The band began the morning with a visit to Tyn Cot cemetery, the largest Allied Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. It was a poignant occasion, with many band members searching for the names of distant relatives who fell during the many battles for this stretch of countryside in Belgium.

After some free time in Ypres and a visit to the local museum (and the purchase of vast quantities of Belgium chocolate by some in the band) the band played a concert in Ypres Market Square in glorious sunshine and to a large and enthusiastic audience.

After dinner, our attention moved to the central part of our visit, our performance at the Menin Gate, an impressive monument on which the names are carved of thousands of soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown.

Every evening since 2nd July 1928, at exactly 8 o'clock, buglers of the Last Post Association play their simple but moving tribute to the thousands of Allied soldiers who lost their lives in the battles of Ypres in the First World War.



Young Leaders

Young Leaders keep going from Strength to Strength

Our cohort of Young Leaders at 1st Claygate continues to thrive. We currently have 24 Explorer Scouts who help with the running of the junior sections at their weekly meetings. They will be joined, after half term and in the New Year, by a further six new Young Leaders who have just moved up to Explorers.

Young Leaders are full members of a section leadership team. They are supported both by the adults in a section and by a progressive leadership training programme developed by our own Jonathan Perkins for Surrey Scouts. This programme involves a mixture of online training, practical workshops and fulfilling missions in their sections. A Young Leader starts at 14 and by their eighteenth birthday can achieve a Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community. Several of our young leaders achieved this BTEC during the course of 2025, together with

The Surrey Young Leader Journey on a page

Young Leader Award



Senior YL Award



the unique Surrey Senior Explorer Scouts Young Leader award.

Each section hugely values their Young Leaders and continues to rely on their enthusiasm to help deliver the programme. But just as important, is that they are great role models for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. This was recognised at the Group AGM in June in when Tom received the Nightingale Award, which is given by Hugh Gosling, our Group Lead Volunteer, to someone in the Group who has made an outstanding contribution - in this case to Willow Beaver colony as a Young Leader.

A huge thank you to all our Young Leaders.

Jonathan Perkins
Surrey Scouts Young Leader Adviser and Top Awards Team 1st Claygate

Photos:
Young Leaders enjoying themselves in April, Flo receiving her Young Leader award from the Surrey County Lead Volunteer Joe Rogerson 5th October 2025, Donnie and Aoife receiving awards at the Young Leader conference 5th October 2025 & Tom receiving the Nightingale Award.



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

Claygate Scouts encourage as many young people as possible to complete their Scouting "Top Awards" – Kings Scout and DofE.

These cover 3 levels: Chief Scout Platinum & DofE Bronze Awards, Chief Scout Diamond & DofE Silver Awards and the ultimate King's Scout & DofE Gold Awards.

Whilst these awards cover multiple requirements, the expedition is always one of the highlights.

Following good success at all levels we were pleased to have 8 Claygate Explorer/Network Scouts taking part in the challenging KSA/Gold expeditions this year.

The expeditions need to be done as a team and for KSA/Gold there are two separate expeditions (Practice & Assessed) and they both take place over 4 days in Wild Country.

This year they joined with the Surrey County Scouts "Western Watch" team, alongside 30 other participants from across the County.

In addition to the normal Explorer expedition training, the teams took part in a February training weekend to finesse their skills, particularly navigation, and plan their actual expeditions for later in the year.

The Practise expedition was in April and based in the Peak District; the final Assessed expedition was in late August in the Lake District.

As good Scouts they came "prepared" for any conditions on both expeditions; which was lucky as they meet strong sun & icy mornings in April and gale force storms in August – but they prevailed and remained smiling.

The Peak District expedition in April required good open country navigation, and wild camping skills and enabled the team to practise their expedition skills and test their personal equipment. The weather offered wonderful views but the temperatures plummeted overnight testing sleeping bags and/or requiring layers of clothes to be worn. Everyone completed the expedition successfully and felt more confident regarding the assessed expedition later in the year; there were also lessons learned regarding how to reduce rucksack weight.

The Lake District assessed expedition in August started with everyone well prepared, but they were tested right from the beginning as they arrived in awful rain and had to pitch a tent late at night whilst trying not to get too wet. The next day was a preparation day to finalise kit and familiarise themselves with the local environment, before setting off the following day for the actual expedition. A four day self-sufficient and unsupervised route had been planned with overnight stays in campsites, some wild, some formal but all quite basic. The weather was wet for the first few days but with some sunshine there were glimpses of the beautiful mountains and lakes, particularly at height. However the weather got progressively worse in the last few days with gale-force winds and rain forecast on the higher ground, so for safety reasons the teams were diverted on to their pre-planned "foul weather routes" which were similar in length but avoided the high ground. These conditions tested the team's resolve, navigation and camping skills and the team did well, finishing successfully, tired but in good spirits. The journey back to Claygate was unusually quiet!

Congratulations to all the Claygate participants for completing their King's Scout & Gold Award expedition : Kathryn Ainley, Toby Woodward, Jess Warriss, Jamie Aulds, Lydia Aulds, Luke Sewell, Ruby Dunman, Eamonn Maguire

Thanks

Mark



1ST CLAYGATE'S QUIZ & CURRY *NIGHT*

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate 1st Claygate quiz champion? Then, gather your friends and join us for the 1st Claygate Quiz Night.

This is your chance to show off your knowledge, have fun and win the coveted 2026 Quiz Champions trophy.

Saturday, 28th February 2026



Doors Open 7pm
for a 7:15pm start



£18 per Head
Includes entrance fee and curry



1st Claygate Scout Centre
Oaken Lane



Curry & Veg Sides
Additional Indian appetizers available



Paid Bar
Beer, wine and soft drinks

SAVE THE DATE
BOOKINGS WILL OPEN IN DECEMBER

JOIN US AND HELP TO RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT SCOUTING

www.claygatescouts.org

GAW - Cubs

This year's Cub Group Activity weekend was theme was "Adventurer's" taking inspiration from our new Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields. During their time on GAW Cubs had the opportunity Cubs to enjoy time in the outdoors over a particularly hot weekend but this didn't stop the FUN!

On the Saturday Cubs got to learn how to light fires, learnt how to build a shelter in the woods and learnt some pioneering skills which result in the building of a fantastic archway for the going up ceremonies. Cubs also scavenged for natural materials to add detail to their air dry clay artwork and take part in a frisbee golf course. For lunch Cubs got to make and cook their lunch of a calzone pizza on a fire while the leaders sent out for additional bottles of suntan lotion.....

Another great life lesson which is practised frequently over the weekend is that of washing up. With the invention of a dishwasher, we now find that Cubs do find this challenging..... At least the T-towels dried quickly this year when they were used as a washing up cloths instead of for drying up...

Thanks to the leader team for the planning time, prior to the weekend and weekend itself. We'd also like to thank the parents that supported the Cubs section across all the activities and food preparation.

I hope that the Cubs enjoyed their GAW, making lots of new friends and memories.

Our chosen Adventurers were.....

Dwayne Fields, Tim Peake, Helen Sharman, Ben Fogle, Amelia Earhart, Sacagawea, Tenzing Norgay, Tupaia, Karen Darke, Jacques Cousteau and Alastair Humphreys.

...but do you know what they were famous for? (and if you like a quiz look out for the advert for the Group Curry & Quiz planned for February!

1. I am the current UK Chief Scout.
2. I am the first British person to travel into Space.
3. I am one of the first 2 people to reach the top of mount Everest.
4. I am a British Paralympian and have skid across icecaps.
5. I am Navigator who accompanied Captain James Cook on HMS Endeavour his first Voyage
6. I am the first British astronaut to perform a spacewalk
7. I am an inventor and underwater adventurer.
8. I am a cyclist who has cycled 46,000 miles around the world.
9. I am interpreter and guide (and my waxwork figure appeared the movie "Night at the Museum")
10. I am famous for flying solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932
11. I am a well know TV presenter and Adventurer

Answer on the last page







JOIN US FOR

Carols Round the Campfire

WITH CLAYGATE SCOUT & GUIDE BAND
AND A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS GROTTO

**12TH
DECEMBER**

7:00PM

1ST CLAYGATE SCOUT CENTRE

Visit the Christmas Grotto

Grotto tickets £2.50 per child

*Write a Christmas letter
Make reindeer food
Meet Father Christmas*

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS
ON THE GROUP WEBSITE NOW!**



**Santa's
Grotto**

CAMP FIRE

**ELVES
WORKSHOP**

NORTH POLE

District Cub Camp



The last weekend of June saw the annual Esher District Cub Camp, with around 200 Cubs at Polyapes from almost all of the District's packs gathered for a weekend of fun in the sun.

The event started with a Friday night disco, an innovation for the 2025 event, which went down fantastically with the Cubs in attendance. Some great moves were on show and I'd guess that the disco is set to become a Friday night fixture at future camps.



Over the course of the Saturday programme, Cubs had a great mix of adventurous activities, crafts and games. 1st Claygate laid on a tree identification wide game taking participants from one end of the the campsite to the other; Kim's game offering a great opportunity for Cubs to do something calmer; and a mini-pioneering base where the Cubs made Roman-style catapults out of lollipop sticks and elastic bands, before testing their range and accuracy against a wall of plastic bricks.

Away from the 1st Claygate tents, our Cubs made paracord bracelets and keyrings, threw (soft) tomahawks, explored the caving bus, bounced on inflatables, and played Space Hopper football. On a hot day, the water-based activities were very welcome.

Perhaps the most surprising activity though was the 'I'm a Cub, get me out of here' experience run by the Dittons Cubs, featuring a range of edible insects and bugs. What might be more surprising was the gusto with which Claygate's Cubs tucked into these invertebrates. Perhaps we need to consider them as part of the future camp diet?!

Alongside all the great activities laid on by the District and the other packs, our Cubs kept their tents tidy, washed up their dishes and learnt to work together in our tent points competition. All in all a great time was had by everyone and the Cubs went home tired, but happy.



Fundraising Success

The summer is the busiest time of year for fundraising, with two Jumble Sales, the Bedding Plant Sale, the Flower Show and the Beer Festival.

Jumble Sales:

The two Jumble Sales would not take place were it not for a cadre of willing helpers supported led by Sandra Fox and John Baldwin. They sort through mounds of clothing, toys, books and other bric a brac, run the sale then any surplus is either taken to the local recycling centre or picked up by a recycling company. Each jumble sale generates about £2,000 of sales for the Group, and more importantly helps ensure that items no longer required by their original owners are recycled for use by others – surely a good thing.



Bedding Plant Sale:

The Bedding Plant sale in May has been operating for over 20 years, supported by our supplier Shane who consistently provides high quality plants that are admired by our customers. Since COVID we have only supplied plants to order, but the success is measured by the customers who come back year after year. Thanks to the helpers who ably sort over 2000 items for pick-up by our customers.



Flower Show:

1st Claygate Scouts support the annual Flower Show in a number of ways – by helping set up the event on the Saturday morning, by the band parading in the demonstration area and by running a bottle and gifts tombola – thank you to all parents who donated items for the tombolas, and for parents who manned the stall during the afternoon. Everything went, raising over £1,000 for Group funds. And again, to parent helpers who set up and man the stall. Great job.



Claygate Beer Festival:

The summer holidays in Claygate are now rounded off by the Beer Festival, which has quickly become an institution in the village, selling out in advance and providing a great end-of-holiday event for parents and (on the Saturday afternoon) children alike. The threat of rain hung over the event for most of the week, but in the end the Friday night and Saturday afternoon were dry and we had just light rain for the first half of the Saturday evening session. This didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the attendees, who enjoyed high quality beers, ciders, gins and wines and great food provided by the Game Larder. And the fantastic band, Retrosonic.



The event would not be a success without the hard work from the organising team –David, Jon, Nigel, Kathryn, Rhid and Debbie – and all the other helpers on the night serving drinks, manning the kitchen and crepe stall, the front desk and the cash desk – and cleaning up after every session (thanks Steve). Thanks to everyone who make this one of the most successful fundraisers of the year for the Group.

Now on to the Fireworks and the Christmas trees...!

WHY NOT JOIN THE BAND?

Rehearsals take place on a Friday evening at Scout HQ. Band membership is open to all involved in the Scouting (cubs and older) and Guiding movements in Claygate.

If you are interested in joining, or just wish to find out more information, please contact Robin Wilkinson, our Band Leader, on 01372 464173 (robinwilkinson149@gmail.com).

The band is looking to attract new people from brownies, guides, rangers, cubs, scouts and explorer scouts to join. **You don't need to play an instrument already** – we can lend instruments to you and help with tuition. Existing musicians are of course also very welcome. We select music to play that enables people of all musical abilities to take part. You're never too old to learn an instrument – and it is great fun too.



Explorers Summer Camp

This year our explorer summer camp was in Cornwall. We started the week by leaving the Claygate scout hut early Saturday morning and arrived in Cornwall that evening.

We had a bit of a walk down the hill to reach our home for the next week, where we would be cooking all our meals on a fire - like chilli con carne and apple crumble.

Throughout the week we slept under shelters we had made. We did many activities through the week including coasting, swimming in the sea, and a two day coastal hike where we slept on a beach for the night while having to carry supplies for dinner and lunch the next day. We also had days at camp where we made a sauna to relax and enjoy while practicing our pioneering skills.

We had many walks up to church to watch sunsets and enjoy the sights. We then left early on the Saturday morning to be back home in Claygate for lunch time after an action packed week.



Adults Needed

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

For some very good reasons, we have a number of gaps in the organisation, which we need to fill by the end of term

1. One of the Lynx Pack leaders is travelling extensively in 2026 and we need to have a replacement in place for January.
2. We need additional leaders for the Sycamore Beaver Colony Team as one of the team is standing down at Christmas.

The above roles are key to the delivery of the Scout Programme in those sections and not filling them will materially affect the young people in the sections.

We also need the following roles in the non-uniform part of the organisation

1. A newsletter publisher, this role takes the copy and photographs provided by the leaders and puts it together for printing. The existing publisher can work with anyone interested.
2. A team of people to act as Parent Coordinators to give valuable feedback and work with our fundraising groups; it would be great to have three people; one for Beavers, one for Cubs and one for Scouts and Explorers
3. We also need to add to our Communications and IT team, someone who has flair for communications and can further promote the Group in our community.

If you would like to discuss these roles, please contact me; Hugh Gostling - gsl@claygatescouts.org

**Volunteering with Scouts is...
#GOODFORYOU**

It's a great feeling knowing you're helping young people get skills for life, and you might even learn a lot about yourself along the way. We'll guide you to an opportunity where you'll:

- Make friends and meet people
- Try new things and challenge yourself
- Improve your mental and physical wellbeing
- Get outdoors and get stuck in
- Positively impact your community
- Create vital opportunities for young people
- Make memories that'll last a lifetime

If you can only occasionally help, that's OK. Whether you'd like to be an activity planner, tea-maker or craft creator, we appreciate any time you can spare.

Get involved
Find out more about volunteering
scouts.org.uk/volunteer

Cub GAW Answers

1.Dwayne Fields; 2.Helen Sharman ; 3.Tenzing Norgay; 4.Karen Darke; 5.Tupaia; 6.Tim Peake; 7.Jacques Cousteau; 8.Alastair Humphreys; 9.Sacagawea; 10. Amelia Earhart; 11. Ben Fogle