

1st Claygate Scout Group

Help us.....

Help you.....

Help Claygate



scouts
be prepared . . .

Winter 2015

BEAVERS



Some events are just an instant hit with young people, Bazzaz is one of those. For those not in the know, Bazzaz is a county run event for Surrey Beavers held once every three years. This June, 1578 Beavers - 48 from 1st Claygate, attended Cranleigh Showground to try out a large selection of activities provided by commercial organisations and volunteer Leaders.

What activities ... Well, where to start? The Spiderman Wall, Laser Quest, Inflatable Maze, Electric Go Karts, Spider Mountain Slide, Scramble Nets, Children Railway, Zorb Balls and Inflatable Tracks, Noah's Ark, Assault Courses, Human Table Football, Laser Tag, Moon Bouncer, Crazy Golf, Boot Camp Challenge, Mega slide, Space Hopper, Climbing Wall and the Last Man Standing. Then there were the activities provided by volunteer leaders from each district. Too many to list but Esher District provided Panning for Gold, Mexican Masks and Velcro Penalty Shoot Out. Something for everyone and lots of

new experiences to have a go at. The Spider Mountain Slide at 7 metre high looked a bit extreme to me but the Beavers loved it!

Adult helpers enjoyed the sunshine and a chat while keeping a watchful eye over their groups. All Beavers had a fantastic time. As one of our Beavers put it: "When can we do this again? "

When can we adults have a go?!

Micheline Foreman





Chairman's Foreward...



SCOUTS

Welcome back after the summer break. The shortening days and cooling weather have little impact on our busy schedule of events and you can see from the various contributions to this newsletter that we are keeping your children well occupied.

The various leaders and those that support them continue to work hard to deliver programs that entertain, educate and build character in your children. They do a great job and the Scouting movement is enjoying a period of good growth, as can be seen by the fact that our waiting list is not getting any smaller. However, Scouting has reviewed its strategy and published a paper setting out certain targets for 2018. These targets include: growing the size of the Scouting movement; making it more inclusive; letting it be shaped by youth; and making it have more of an impact on our community.

We recently held a working session where various leaders, members of the Executive Committee and others involved in the Group met to discuss these targets and how we at First Claygate might look to work towards these strategic aims. It was very much a preliminary meeting, though some thoughtful opinions and useful ideas were heard, which we will now look to consider more carefully.

Autumn and Christmas is an important time of year for our fundraising efforts. I would again urge you to do your part in terms of volunteering to assist - there are no shortage of opportunities for you to give it a go!

Stuart Ballard

Summer Fete - A Great Success



It may seem in the dim and distant past, but the Scout Summer fete was resurrected this year in early June. Over 300 parents, families and children enjoyed a fantastic afternoon, and the weather was kind to us with sunshine all afternoon.

Many of the 'old favourites' were present such as Splat the Rat, the Coconut Shy, Bouncy Slide, Shooting At Goal and Tombola. They were augmented by one or two new stalls, one of the most popular being the Nerf Guns.

Competitive races were held involving all of the sections, and the camp fire was lit to make dough sticks – you don't get those at other village fetes!

The barbecue was organised as efficiently as ever by Ed and Debbie Bowles and proved very popular, the food just lasting out, and Claygate Ales made an appearance on the drinks stall. The superb 1st Claygate Scout & Guide Band entertained the crowd for the first hour.

Almost £2,000 was raised for Scout funds and thanks go out to all the Exec members, section leaders, parents, boys, girls and helpers who made the day such a success.

Next year's fete will be held on Saturday 7th June 2016 – put it in the diary now, roll on next summer!

Gary Ernest

Group Treasurer





KIP ON A SHIP 2015

This year a change to Kip on a Ship as we were at the Royal Dockyard Chatham, now a Historical Heritage site and no longer a working dockyard. 30 cubs and 6 Leaders went.

We kipped on HMS Cavalier one of the last Destroyers brought into service on the Arctic Squadrons (built in 1943) and service in 1944.

Our weekend included old Signals, Morse Code and Wheel codes.

Next the Hearts of Oak museum (about designing and building ships of wood) visited by half of us and the Lifeboat museum by the other half. This followed by the Ropery – learning about hemp, yarns, hawsers and cables including some of our members put to hard work making these ropes. Would you believe it 31 miles of rope to complete all rope requirements on HMS Victory.

We then went on board HMS Cavalier and set up for the evening. Fish and Chips for all followed by a two hour plus thorough exploration and full tour of the ship by Sarah, Chief Petty Officer Cadets.

Sunday morning started with knot tying and quiz on what we saw the previous day and then full breakfast.



Afterwards we went “through” HMS Ocelot one of the last submarines built which is now in dry dock as such originally the birth of Nelson’s famous flagship Victory.

We changed over the two visits made on Saturday and included the loft of one building built like the upside down of a wooden ship and included the picture and model ship museum which included a short film about King George III’s visit and the Battle of Jutland painting (where the youngest VC was awarded to a scout Jack Cornwell).



A great weekend with a big thank you to David Creigh for arranging. A very tired but full of fun and information group returned just a bit late due to the flat battery on the A team bus.

Thank you all





BAND



The band had a very successful summer term. Following their excellent performance at the **national St. Georges Day parade at Windsor Castle** in April, the band's annual concert in June was a great success receiving a really positive response from the audience. In addition to our normal summer performances – including the Flower Show – the band also played this year at the TAG youth club in Chessington for local teenagers with a disability. What a brilliant audience they were – and very enthusiastic. It was a very special evening.

The autumn term began with a request by the Guide Association Trefoil Guide to play at their annual South East region event at Dorking Halls. Again the band performed to a high standard – and in front of a very appreciative audience of over 450 guiders.

The 800th Lord Mayor's Show

Since then, our focus has been on the band's next prestigious event – taking part in the 800th Lord Mayor's Parade through central London on Saturday 14 November. This is a major national event and one that required the band to meet a very high standard for acceptance by the Pageant Master for the Lord Mayor. It will be an extremely long march through the City of London and past many of the Capital's major landmarks. We will be one of many bands taking part in the event and we do hope that Claygate residents will be strongly represented in the audience. The odd cheer along the way will renew our energy!!!

But there will be no time to draw breath after the Lord Mayor's Parade. Christmas is our busiest period with a number of performances around Claygate, including the Claygate Christmas lights, Carols on the Green with Holy Trinity Church, and the Scouts Carol Service. We will also be carolling down many streets in Claygate in the run up to Christmas.



Paris at New Year

And we mustn't forget our trip to Paris this New Year to celebrate the start of the Band's 15th Anniversary Year in 2016 – where we will lead the Disney Parade in Disneyland Paris on New Year's Eve and then take part in the New Year's Day Parade through central Paris.



You can find out more about the band, its activities and future performances by visiting the band section of the groups website at: www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm



Scouts Sailing Trip

18th-20th September



After an hour and a half in the minibus from Claygate, we are introduced to our home for the next 2 nights. The 60' Clipper yacht 'Thermopylae' is moored in the Hamble river.

Designed for a round the world racing crew, the accommodation is 'functional' with 15 of us including the 4 crew, enjoying our first night in the three-tier bunk beds.

On Saturday morning we head down the Hamble and out into the Solent. In light winds we practice handling the boat and 'man overboard' drills before heading in to



Newtown Creek on the Isle of Wight for lunch. The afternoon brings better winds and a chance to get the yacht performing. Our stop for the night is at Yarmouth, on the island, where we organize a tour of the town (sweet shop).

The following morning we cast off at 5am to allow another training yacht out of the harbour and head out to the Needles. The scouts gradually rise from their bunks, wondering whether we are in France!

"Are we in France?"



That day's 'watch' cooks us a hearty breakfast as we head back in to the Solent. The beautiful weather is more conducive to sunbathing than hard sailing but everyone has a turn helming the yacht and after anchoring for lunch in Southampton Water we head back to port.

After a busy hour, with all hands cleaning the boat, the scouts enjoy a snooze on the bus home. A fun weekend and a great introduction to yachting, we'll be back for more next year.

Paul Smith





Troop News: Summer Camp 2015, Avonwick, Devon

Saturday 25th July 2015 and a 7.5 tonne truck pulls away from the Scout Centre loaded with tents, patrol boxes, a mountain of personal kit, and all the equipment needed for 28 scouts and 8 adults, (Ali, Paul, Mark, Mike, Rob, Mark, David and Katie,) to spend a week on a Greenfield Summer Camp in Devon on the edge of Dartmoor. By 8am the Scout centre is buzzing as parents say goodbye and two minibuses, (every seat taken,) and the canoe trailer pull away for the journey down to the West Country.

Several hours later, and after the inevitable delay at Stonehenge, the Troop arrive, and the scouts discover that the field is indeed green, and the only amenity is an outside tap up the hill in the farmyard from where they must fill their water containers, oh so regularly. Tents, dining shelters and toilet tents are pitched and the field becomes the home of 1st Claygate for a week.

Sunday, and the weather takes a turn for the worse – wet and windy enough to blow the notices off the camp noticeboard. The scouts set to, making their camp gadgets, tables, benches, mug trees, etc., and enthusiastically digging “the pit” – an essential waste disposal system for the week. Mid-afternoon the rain stops, and many of the scouts happily take up the option for a paddle in the small river bordering the campsite- and discover that a Devon stream flowing off Dartmoor has its nippy side. Two whistles and the Quartermaster from each patrol goes to be briefed by Mike on the food to be cooked for supper: Sunday – it must be Roast Chicken with some of the trimmings – all cooked in camp ovens on a wood fire.



Monday and Tuesday are activity days – Mountain Biking offsite on local trails, or kayaking on site led by our Canoe leaders Mike, Rob and Mark, and raft building. One advantage of the rain on Sunday is that there is a suspicion of white water on the river which adds to the fun. But before they can leave for activities the scouts have to cook breakfast, make sandwiches for lunch, and pass inspection – “ if it doesn’t move scrub it, and if it comes off when scratched by a fingernail scrub it again. “ The patrol has to pass the same inspection after the evening meal and before being allowed to visit the onsite tuck shop run by Mike and Katie – and do so before the Tuck Shop closes. After tuck shop there is an evening activity, and a Patrol Leader’s Council led by Ali and Paul, before hot chocolate and bed.



Wednesday is a quieter day: the scouts start to help Ali and David build an aerial runway at the far end of the site, collect kindling from the woodland across the stream, and plot the route for the planned hike on Dartmoor. After lunch each patrol gets to test the raft they have built. Will's patrol produced the champion raft that made it down the course completely in one piece. On Wednesday evening the Patrol leaders go off on an evening hike and the Assistant Patrol leaders take over the cooking of the evening meal, (and there is that inspection again ...)



Thursday brings perfect weather, hikers' lunch, (sausage, primula cheese, crackers, fruit,) and an all day hike on Dartmoor. The scouts have the opportunity to practise their map reading and navigation skills as we do a circular hike from the Avon Dam. From the top, as we followed an old tramway, we could see for miles and miles, and when we get back to the car park we find that the ice cream van has waited! Back to site and Mike has got enchiladas for 36 in hand – not much of that left after a day on Dartmoor.

Friday morning brings a trip on the South Devon Steam Railway to Totnes and back: the scouts visit the museum and the shop, and quickly discover the delights of the on board buffet car. Back to site for lunch, a turn on the aerial runway for those who want it and then it is time to start striking camp – and the ultimate whole patrol box inspection which contributes many points to the patrol competition that has been running all week. Fish and Chips for supper, and as much kit as possible is put into the 7.5 tonne truck which has returned, driven by Hugh. The day finishes with a campfire led by Hugh and with songs and sketches from the scouts – we are joined by Ron and Mary Andrew – the farmers on whose land we have been staying, who have hosted two previous camps, and who are retiring so we may not be able to camp on their land again.

Saturday brings the end of camp. We pack up the final kit, walk the site to look for rubbish, and have our final flag break. The results of the patrol competition are announced – Ya Nan (Chris's patrol,) are the winners, followed by Good Olde Kimme, Sedentious, Me Gusta el Petite Pene and The Munchkin Army, and Chris is awarded best scout. Then it is back to Claygate, unload the kit, and reunite scouts with their parents, (and a much needed bath.)



This was the first greenfield camp the troop has held for four years, so was a new experience for all the scouts taking part, and a steep learning curve. But the scouts got to grips with the camp routines and working together in their patrols. Many thanks to David Saunders and Hugh Gostling for driving the truck, David Huddart for supporting the camp indefatigably, Sally Thorogood and Richard Baldwin for being home contacts, and our hosts, Ron and Mary Andrew. Photos on the website!!

The Troop Leadership Team



Scout District Night Hike - 17th October

The district night hike is finally here. The troop has spent the preceding half term preparing for this annual event, with skills training ranging from map reading and navigation to first aid, pioneering and problem solving. Everything was brought together with a practice hike through the West End woods one dark Monday evening.

Twenty-six expectant scouts are now gathered at HQ, waiting to be assigned into their teams and driven down to Shalford for the check-in. As with past years, there are two competition teams who will be walking on their own to gain points for the top troop



trophy. This year's competition teams are led by Kathryn Ainley and Will Boyce. For the younger scouts, there are three training teams, who complete the same course, but with the assistance of a leader.

Upon arrival at Shalford, teams must wait for their allocated start time. First order of business is kit inspection. Any missing equipment will cost points and could potentially exclude someone from walking, so this is a tense time. Fortunately everyone has remembered their 30p for the phone (quaint but true) and is ready to get started.



With inspection completed, each team is given a set of grid references, which must be plotted on their maps and used to devise a route. Two sets of maps have to be marked up and approved by the district before the teams are allowed to step out into the night.

The route takes in sections of the North Downs Way, including the spooky graveyard at the church of St Martha On-the-hill (10 points for spotting the memorial plaque to Yvonne Arnaud). Some tricky navigation through myriad footpaths sees the successful teams picking their way through the woods to find the Downs Link path as they loop back to the start point.

Along the way, checkpoints provide a place to stop for a rest and scouts are set a challenge to complete. Throughout the night, our teams are expected to deal with first aid situations, problem solving challenges and getting to grips with a primus stove to cook pancakes (no points available for predicting which of these was the most popular).

The route is quite long and very hilly in places, so making it to the finish before cut-off time proves challenging. Many of our teams are bussed the final mile or two back to Shalford, although Will Boyce's competition team makes it home unaided.

At time of going to press the results are unknown, but everyone certainly enjoyed the evening. Special thanks also to the following parents for helping with checkpoint duty and walking with training teams: Colin Coburn, Steve Fenton, Michael Lynch, Paddy Willard and Paul Wood.



Scout District Night Hike

Team "B" led by William Boyce were 2nd with 401 points.
Team "A" led by Kathryn Ainley were 8th with 280 points.

Esher District Cub Scout Hiking Challenge

On 26 September three intrepid groups of cubs travelled to the deepest darkest depths of Puttenham to take part in the Esher district Cub Scout hiking challenge.

The three teams, representing, Lion, Lynx, and Panther Packs, had to engage all their map reading and observational skills as well as be physically fit enough to tackle the 4 mile course. And tackle it they did, coming in at impressive 3rd (Lynx), 4th (Lions) and 5th (Panthers) overall.

All teams got 100% of the observational challenge questions correct and finished within 20 minutes of the eventual winners, Weston Green.

Many thanks the parent volunteers who ensured all the cubs had a great time.

Nick Waddingham
Chil, Lion Pack



A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away....

...the Esher District decided to hold a monster and aliens themed Cub Camp at Polyapes.

Oh how I love a theme! so across the district we got our thinking caps on and set about organising monster or alien themed activities. Lazor quest, backwards cooking, pop guns, caving, bush tucker trials, paper rockets, face painting and minion pin badges to name but a few. Oh and not forgetting our space twists and Mang's (Jonathan Perkins) inter-galactic space news reporting, code cracking, treasure hunt all rolled into one

"The Scout Association has interviewed the Sixers of the *42nd Inter-Galactic Cub Pack* about being extra-terrestrial cub scouts.

However, as the answers travelled many light years to reach planet Earth and due to a blip (possibly caused by Balloo's snoring last night) in the space-time continuum, the answers have (a) been spread around Polyapes and (b) have become scrambled. These messages need deciphering."



We ended Saturday with a campfire lead by our own talented Hathi (John Balwin) in which we were treated to sketches and a lot of great campfire songs. I don't think there was a spare seat round the campfire and everyone had a great time.



All in all the Cubs, Leaders and helpers had a great Saturday but Sunday morning it rained, not heavily, but just enough to keep the canvas from drying. So we packed away in the the drizzle, loaded up the vans, for the sun to finally make an appearance during lunch time. Just typical you say, but we have been rather fortunate in pervious years. Thank you to everyone who helped hang all the canvas up once we returned to the scout centre and thanks to those who helped pack it away again on the Monday evening. Lastly thanks to the leader and helper team who without we would not be able to take so many cubs on camp...

Akela, Lion Pack
Catherine Hackett.

Code Wheel Challenges....

Find the key letter and then using your code wheel decipher the scrambled part of the message

Q1: what is your favourite **g**ame at cubs?

A1: I like to play dodge ball - especially when Akela uses our collection of *TOTK SOTO GYZKXUOJY*

Q2: Do you **w**ear a cub uniform?

A2: Of course - some of us are green already so we don't to wear shirts, but our woggles tend to fly off in VANK CNWREPU so we all use two friendship Necker knots as well.

Calling all musicians



Our band is looking for new people to join – whether you already play an instrument or are interested in learning one. The band runs a senior band for accomplished musicians, a junior band and a training band for those just beginning. 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 : bandmaster@claygatescouts.org.





Help needed to erect Christmas trees for Christmas Lights - 21st Nov

In preparation for the Christmas lights the Group is involved in the erection of the Christmas trees on the Parade and the Green. We are hoping **parents/older Scouts / Explorer Scouts** will help with this important support to the community.



The trees are to be erected on 21st November and it involves changing bulbs and actually putting the trees in the holders.

Help is required from 9:30 to about 13:00 hrs and even if you can help for only an hour your help would be most appreciated. (Meet outside Boots in Hare Lane)

If you are able to help please register on the Group web site or if you would like more information please contact Mark Aulds on 01372 810406.

Help raise over £3500 for the Group - Delivery of Christmas trees

Have you got a van/people carrier and/or a few hours to spare?

To raise funds the Group sell Christmas trees, which we deliver through out Claygate and Esher. To help with this we need extra vans/ bodies to help with the delivery. The dates when help is required are as follows **5th, 12th & 19th December.**

If you have a van/people carrier and can help on any of these dates, please contact Mark Aulds on 01372 810406 for further information

If you can help with the deliveries please register on the group web site.

