



Bringing in the New Year 'Disney-Style'

To celebrate the start of their 15th anniversary year, the band undertook a four day tour to Paris over the New Year period.

The band spent two days in Disneyland Paris and had the privilege of leading the Disney Parade on New Year's Eve. Later that day, the band celebrated the start of 2016 by watching the main New Year's Eve Disney fireworks display. On the return trip to the UK, the band played a concert at the Nausicaa Aquarium in Boulogne.

The tour was a great success and everyone seemed to have a great time. Including band leaders and some parents, 82 people took part in the trip. The double decker coach was enormous (!!!) – although it was a pity the trailer wasn't bigger....some band equipment had to be left behind. However, all the arrangements worked well and the band members were brilliant throughout. The weather was very kind too, with crisp sunny weather for both of the days we were in the Disney Park. The band sounded great in Disney too.

Overall, it was an amazing start to our 15th anniversary year.







Group Scout Leader's Message



Charity Fundraising

The Scout Association has an ambition to mobilise its Half a million members (adults and young people) to make a million hands to support social issues and make a community impact.

One of the issues identified is improving the lives of those affected by dementia supported by the Alzheimer's Society.

As I write I have been informed by the Group Treasurer that we have raised £1,610 for the Alzheimer's Society, this was raised by a variety of activities, but is a really something we can be proud of collectively as Group. My personal thanks to all of the people involved and the leaders for their support to the young people in achieving this amount.

Our next Community project will be assisting with the Spring Claygate Clean Up. Details of this will follow in letters to the sections.

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

Amazing fundraising success helps support both 1st Claygate and the Alzheimer's Society

The end of the year is always a fun and busy time for our young people and families alike, starting with Fireworks night and ending with all of the Christmas activities, but this year's events have also helped to raise funds for 1st Claygate and for our nominated charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

The Fireworks event attracted almost 450 parents and children, the highest number for many years, who enjoyed not only the splendid sight of the fireworks but also hot soup and hot dogs afterwards, and the parents managed to run the bar dry!

Race Night at the Scout Centre was well supported and raised over £1,000 for the band trip to Disneyland.

One of our most popular fundraising activities is the delivery and collection of Christmas trees. This year we delivered over 260 trees and wreaths to households in Claygate and Esher, about 10% higher than in 2014. And there was praise for the quality of trees from our customers – many of whom buy from us year after year.

The Christmas Lights stall, barbecue and Grand Draw attracted lots of interest and the many helpers and cooks were all kept really busy at one of the highlights of the Claygate calendar. And the Cubs raised over £200 for the Alzheimer's Society through selling of items they had made in the weeks before.

The band were kept busy in the run up to Christmas, playing at the Christmas lights and Surbiton station – and on the weekend before Christmas the streets of Claygate resounded to the band playing Christmas carols supported by many vociferous volunteers. Thanks to this and further contributions from the Christmas Post service and the Carol Service collection we were able to send a cheque to the Alzheimer's Society for an amazing £1,610.

Thanks and well done to all the young people, parents, leaders and adult supporters who contributed to the amazing success all of these events.

Gary Ernest, Group Treasurer

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>



Fundraising for 1st Claygate

You will have seen how successful the Group has been in its recent fundraising activities. The consistency of our fundraising is of massive importance to the well-being of the Group, as a totally voluntary organisation.

It enables me to work with the leaders to ensure we have the correct equipment to deliver Scouting to the young people in the Group. As you can imagine it is important that we invest in both new equipment for different activities as well as replacing existing equipment.

So firstly:

Thank you to all of you who helped at any of the events in the last calendar year! - It is very much appreciated

We are looking to make it easier for parents to ensure they fulfil the requirement to help with two fundraising events a year. In future the whole calendar of events will be available on the web-site so that you can plan your offer of help in advance. The parent Reps' will also draw your attention to events as they get nearer. In the case of the recent Jumble Sale it was necessary for me to arrange for a further email to be sent as we looked in a difficult position. I hope that the flexibility outlined above will assist.

It is important that the system is used as it will enable us to check that the offers of help meets the membership requirement.

The remaining fundraising events for 2016 area as follows:

Jumble Sale	23 rd April 2016
Plant Sale	7-8 May 2016
Summer Fete	11th June 2016
Flower Show	16th July 2016
Jumble Sale	17th September 2016
Christmas Trees	Commences 3rd December 2016
Claygate Lights	3 rd December 2016

!! Dates for the Diary !!



Hugh Gostling





Paddlesports 2015



Having reviewed the 2015 paddling season we have again managed to successfully increase participation within the group along with improving the quality of coaching and equipment we can provide. This has been achieved by the group funding training and assessment courses for the leaders who work so hard to provide the courses the group offers to scouts.

Last year the group funded two existing coaches, who are also troop assistants, to attend BCU UKCC Level 2 Coach Training. This year both trainees have become qualified Level 2 Coaches which allows them to coach at a professional flatwater level and helps the group keep up with growing standards within the sport.

The group have also funded two troop assistants to go and do their BCU 4* Leader Training. This will entitle them to lead kayaking on Grade 2 and 3 whitewater, again at a professional level. This means that 1st Claygate are not only able to provide 1 and 2 star courses but also progress onto 3* whitewater courses.

1 Star: In 2015 we provided the opportunity for eleven scouts to achieve their first qualification in paddlesport which all eleven successfully achieved, we hope that they will all continue to paddle and improve.

2 Star: For another successive year we provided a 2* course in which 6 scouts and explorers gained their 2* certificate in paddlesports. This course involves both canoe and kayaking and also a weekend trip to South Wales which allows the candidates their first opportunity on whitewater.



3 Star: For the first time, we have managed to negotiate an agreement with Claygate Primary school to enable the scouts to use the outdoor, heated swimming pool over the summer. This has allowed the coaches to train a group of explorers and young coaches working towards their 3*. It is an ongoing course that involves training at SSWAC (Surrey Scout Water Activities Club) and also weekend whitewater trips with SSWAC across the country.

Growth: The group has invested in more new equipment in the past year, including a brand new trailer. The requirement for this investment revolved around safely loading the equipment owing to the fact that previous trailer was only designed for kayaks, fortunately we now have one which can transport kayaks and canoes or a mix of both.

Plans for 2016: The plan for 2016 involves continuing to run the courses we already successfully run, however hopefully increasing the number of spaces available to scouts and explorers. We would also like to look into providing 'Have-a-go' sessions where many young people can try out paddlesports for the first time. Furthermore we are always looking for helpers willing to give up some time to helping provide our courses and can provide training to anyone interested.



How to get involved: There is a notice board in the main hall which is updated on occasion which shows upcoming events, past events, the coaching team and a contact email address. If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact: 1stclaygatepaddlesport@gmail.com

Finally I would just like to say thank you to everyone who has helped to provide these wonderful opportunities to our scouts and explorers and hope they all continue to help out and encourage participation in such a fantastic sport.

Michael Gostling





The 800th Lord Mayor's Show



In November the band took part in the 800th Lord Mayor's Show through Central London. This was a huge event for the band, performing in front of thousands of people through the heart of London. Our band leader, Robin Wilkinson looks back at the day.

"Whilst the St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle in April was without doubt the highest prestige event the band has undertaken, the Lord Mayor's Show would give us our biggest audience by far" explains Robin. "Nearly 7,000 people take part in the parade itself, along with 200 horses and more than 150 floats." The procession stretches three miles and passes the Mansion House, St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Courts of Justice before returning to Mansion House via Victoria Embankment.



"The band had worked really hard leading up to the parade, with extra rehearsals to ensure our marching and drill was the best it could be" said Robin. "We knew we were ready, but it was a big adventure nonetheless."

The band travelled to London by coach, leaving at 07:30am. After getting a little lost with all the road closures in London, we made it on time to our muster point (a large and unglamorous underground car park in the City). "We had to wait at the starting point for over 2 hours. The band enjoyed the free cakes (!!!) but it was also great to mingle with all the other bands taking part in the parade, including bands from the Royal Marines, the Guards and the Royal Air Force."



"The time eventually came for us to join the parade" remembers Robin. "It had started to rain slightly by this point and we were a little nervous. But we got going, only to find that all we were doing at this stage was moving to the formal parade start point. We had another wait here for about 40 minutes (fortunately we eventually squeezed under a fly-over to give us some cover from the rain). The parade works to really strict timings – it literally is planned to the second! But our time eventually came and we were off. The band sounded great and with all the tall buildings in London the music reverberated around in an amazing way. As we were marching, the crowd were great – and it was fantastic to hear shouted many times along the way "Come on Claygate". It was a long march, although it passed quickly.



At the half way point, everything stops for lunch – and fortunately the band found someone serving hot chocolate, which was very welcome and warmed us through. The rain kindly held off over lunch. We then reformed for the march back – and unfortunately so did the rain clouds....! Robin said "The return march was even better. I think we'd all relaxed by then and the crowds seemed even bigger. We got a good reception all the way along the parade route. We were all rather soggy – and very tired - by the time we returned to the coach. But the band had performed superbly well and had most certainly made 1st Claygate proud."





Remembrance Sunday Parade



The Remembrance Sunday parade in Claygate is always a special community event - but for three Cubs each year it is even more memorable. Why is this? Well, they are selected by their Akela to carry their pack's flag at the head of their fellow Cubs through the village.

In 2015 it was the turn of George (Panthers), Noah (Lions) and Edward (Lynx). Cubs are selected for a variety of reasons, but reliability, experience and strength are quite important factors - the latter because carrying a long wooden pole with lots of bright yellow fabric on, it which easily catches the wind, and with a pointy scout symbol on top is not easy. As Noah said "The flag gets quite heavy after a while and it becomes a bit of a balancing act: as well as the wind, you have to remember not to get the top caught in overhanging trees."

George enjoyed his duty, "I was very pleased to be chosen and it was enjoyable, though I was a little nervous and wanted to make sure I did the right thing". These duties involved stepping out in front of three columns of 25 or so fellow Cubs, being at the War Memorial during the Act of Remembrance itself and parading the flags in Church during the service. Afterwards, all the flag bearers also act as an "Honour Guard" as the whole scout group and congregation leave the church.

For Noah it was a very "special feeling" carrying the flag in the middle of the Claygate roads, with the police and marshals holding back the traffic. "Walking near to where my Nan used to live brought back lots of happy memories, but I did have to concentrate on what I was doing too."

Of course Remembrance Sunday would not be complete without the Claygate Scout and Guide Band. Stepping out in time to the National Emblem March gave the parade a real sense of occasion. "When the Band goes past, everyone comes out of their houses and watches us, so many people all together." commented Noah; and of course he is right this is a real community event for the whole village.

"I felt really proud...."

As flag bearers, the Cubs are right at the centre of the Act of Remembrance which takes place around the Village War Memorial at 11 O'Clock. Flags are lowered as a mark of respect during the two minute silence. As the trumpet sounds the Last Post (played beautifully this year by Ben Ross), the instruction is that flags are raised swiftly again to vertical - much easier for an Explorer scout than a Cub scout! Ed was very proud to be involved in this part of the ceremony which he had not seen so clearly before. For Ed the whole experience was even more "cool" as his brother Daniel was also carrying the Scout Troop flag in the parade.

All Cubs are at an age when the rituals of Remembrance Sunday are fairly new and difficult to fit within the scope of their modern lives; however, the reason why it is so important to "remember" was brought home very clearly to them during last year's church service on 8th November 2015. With rapt attention all those present listened to the personal story of Chris Salter, a Claygate resident and scouter, as he spoke to Rev Philip Plymington about his father whose name is on the War Memorial in the Church. Chris's father served in an anti-aircraft unit with the British Expeditionary Force and was one of the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk on 1st June 1940. Chris spoke of his last memory of his father as a two and half year old, walking along The Avenue and then waving his father off at Claygate Station as he left for a posting to the Far East, where he was captured and subsequently died in a POW Camp. Cubs felt that this was a "really sad" story, but also "interesting" and "real history".



The last word goes to Noah: "I felt really proud to take part in the whole parade". All three flag bearers should feel very proud to participate in such an important date in our village life. Thank you from all involved with Cubs for leading the way.

Jonathan Perkins
ACSL, Lynx Pack



Going Up Ceremony

This was held at Headquarters on 31st of January and those who got up early on a Sunday morning enjoyed a hearty breakfast.

At the meeting I shared a piece written by G.K. Sammy, a former Scout of 31st Trinidad. I found it very topical about our Scouting and thought I would share it with you all via the newsletter.

THE SPIRIT LIVES

The spirit lives, there is no doubt,
Within the heart of every Scout,
The hope lives on, the dreams survive,
The Scouting spirit is alive.

In England, many years ago,
There lived a man who sought to sow,
The seeds of brotherhood of man,
And there the spirit began.

The Scouting spirit spread about
To nations east, west, north and south,
And soon, on every land and shore,
Young men were taught the Scouting Law.

We camped and learned nature's ways,
We gloried in our youthful days,
We ventured where all others feared,
Because we knew we were prepared.

The world has changed as years went by,
Society's values went awry,
And many ask, "What is the worth
of Scouting on this wretched earth?"

But each new Scout who learns our law
Brings with him hope and so much, much more;
Each generation of Scouts gives
The proof that Scouting's spirit lives.

The treasured values of the past
Still guide Scouts of today; they last
in spite of changes that we see
Around us in society.

And, still adventures filled with fun
Await today's Scouts, every one;
In them that spirit, born of old
May yet transform this sorry world.

And so we say without a doubt,
That in the heart of every Scout
The hope lives on, the dream survives
The Scouting Spirit is alive!





Claygate Scouts' 5-A-Side Football Success



Saturday 21st November 2015 saw the annual Esher District 5-a-Side Football tournament at the Spectrum Centre in Guildford. With 15 scouts wanting to go we entered 3 teams with some trepidation – with no subs we had no room for any last minute injuries – or indeed any injuries during the event. The scouts assembled at the Scout Centre in the late afternoon and travelled to Guildford by minibus ready for the 6 o'clock start.

For the round robin stage the teams were placed in one of two pools – two Claygate teams were in pool A; the third team was in pool B. Each team played four matches with the winners of each pool playing off for the Shield, and the runners-up playing off for the Plate.



Both pools were very close. In Pool A both Hinchley Wood and one of the Claygate teams faced each other in the last match of the stage with three wins apiece – after a tense match, with one goal each, the teams were on equal points and Claygate went through to the Shield Final on goal difference. In Pool B the last match was also crucial with Claygate facing Oxshott with the possibility of also going through to the Shield Final as winners of the group on goal difference if they won the match, which they did 3-1.

Thus two Claygate teams contested the Shield final, with Josh, Mackenzie, Daragh, Laurence and Chris's team emerging victorious and bringing the Shield home to Claygate for the first time since 2008, and going one better than last year where we won the Plate.

Well done to all the scouts who took part, behaving well on and off the field, and being ready to play on time for each of their matches. Many thanks also to Patrick Ebbs and Luke who ran some pre-tournament training sessions at Chessington to familiarise the scouts with the rules of the indoor game, and supported the teams at the Tournament. The 5-a-side for 2016 is scheduled for Saturday 21st May due to availability difficulties at the Spectrum Centre; an awkward time of year with exams and the weekend after GAW but hopefully we can field a team or two and be in the running to retain the Shield.



District Cross Country Run

Sunday 7th February

For the second year running The District Cross Country was held at Oxshott Common, much more suitable for this type of event.

With the slightly early meeting time of 9.15 am came glorious sunshine.

The races started with the Leaders/service Crew, Explorer Scouts and Scouts who all had to run approximately 3 miles.

Congratulations to:

- Joanna, leader with the Sycamore Beaver Colony who came second but the first female to finish.
- Laurence (who came second) and Reece who were the only two member to run for the troop from 1st Claygate.

The Cubs and Beavers had to run approximately 1.75 miles.

The Dittons won both Beavers and Cubs overall team/group races with 1st Claygate coming second in both categories.

Jack was the first Lion cub to finish, Ollie for Lynx pack and Lucas for Panther pack.



In the Beaver race Ben from Oak colony was the first Beaver to reach the finish while Tilly was the first Maple Beaver and Gregor and William the first Sycamore Beavers to reach the finish.

Well done to all those who came and took part. Thank you to all the marshals who made sure nobody got lost and gave huge encouragement along the way.

The individual rankings can be obtained from your leaders.

The Beaver Leader Team



BEAVERS District Party

Saturday 6th February

The stories of The Happy Prince and The Selfish Giant chosen for this year's district party of 190 Beavers, linked in perfectly with the Beaver promise of why being kind and helpful can bring great pleasures.

The afternoon started with the traditional opening Ceremony after which the groups went around the 4 activities linked with the stories.

Beavers had fun making crowns, making and decorating bird boxes, decorating a bird and a crown biscuit (I do not think I have ever seen so many sweets fitted onto one biscuit) and playing games involving stilts and moving trees... anything to get the imagination going and to make it more exciting!

After refreshments we all enjoyed the performance of two stories by Cat's Grin with the usual humour aimed at Beaver age with plenty of interaction.

We also had visits from Sue Hathaway our Surrey County Beaver Leader, Peter our Esher District Commissioner and Hugh our Group Scout Leader to check out all the fun.

Thanks to Owl for organising and supplying all the resources and especially the biscuits.

As always, Yummy! Thanks to all the parents who volunteered. Without your valuable help we couldn't have run this event.

The Beaver Leader Team



Parent Representatives Needed

Please spare a little time for an administrative job which can be done at any time from your computer! This involves forwarding information about the fundraisers to the parents in your section to ask them to sign up on the Rotas! We need new reps in most sections, so please volunteer.

Please contact harriet.lay@btinternet.com or volunteer to your leader who will put you in touch with me.

Harriet Lay



**Help
Wanted**

Redecoration Works

The Group are planning to have the main hall redecorated this summer. This is clearly a job for a contractor and we are looking for suitable contractor from which to obtain estimates.



If you are able to recommend a contractor or indeed work for a contractor, can you please provide details to Gary Ernest the Group Treasurer. Please provide details of the company, contact details etc.

Gary can be contacted by email treasurer@claygatescouts.org



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.

