

October 2016



District Camp (24-26 June)

The Beaver's Great Adventure

District Camp is the perfect opportunity for Beavers to try new activities and bring out their adventurous side.

There were a great number of activities to choose from : archery, caving, high ropes, giant assault course, crate stacking, zip wire , rocket making, circus skills, laser tag, backwoods' cooking and many others run by the district leaders', Beavers had to agree in their groups which activities to try out encouraging each other along.

A bonus point was that most activities were shared with Cubs and Scouts.

Smiles all around when one of our Beavers managed to get the day record for crate stacking, a total of 38!

Cooking was done centrally for 1st Claygate and the food was enjoyed by all. The day ended with a sing along around the campfire and a sleepover for the Beavers.

Thank you to all who made this event possible.

The Beaver Leader Team



District Camp



We had 19 scouts join us for District Camp, arriving on Friday night to pitch their tents and play a wide game before lights out. On the Saturday the scouts took part in many onsite activities – anything involving food always popular – so dough twists and candyfloss were well patronised.

A few scouts went offsite to take part in water activities run by Ajax including sailing and power boating, (options were limited due to river conditions.) After the novelty of a supper cooked for them, (usually the scouts do their own cooking on camp,) there was a campfire, Camp's Got Talent, (where we had entries from David and Jack,) and a Firework Display to enjoy. We managed to come up with a campfire sketch, ("Tracking") which involved all 19 scouts!

On Sunday morning the Troop leaders from around the District organised a number of activities for the scouts including volleyball, orienteering, a space hopper obstacle course and trek cart racing.



Then we had to pack up our tents, go to the closing ceremony, thank the District Commissioner who stands down at the end of the year, and head back to Claygate after a busy weekend blessed in the main by good weather, (rain coming during the lunch break on Saturday,) and a large 100 year Birthday Cake for the Cubs.

Katie Ernest



District Camp



All sections of the Group attended the Esher District Camp and all had a great time. The activities were brilliant and all Groups ran a range of challenging activities for all members to have a go at.

There was 'gunk' making, candyfloss, backwoods cooking, badge making, Cub wash, Beep test, Aerial Runway, Rope Bridge, and many more. There was also High Ropes and the Spider Mountain and an assault course.



After dinner on Saturday we had the 'Camp's Got Talent' competition followed by a campfire led by John Baldwin and some brilliant fireworks.

The Group provided the aerial runway, archery, backwoods cooking, woggle making, rope maze and other craft activities. We had our own area and there was a great atmosphere. I was particularly impressed by the Group of Explorer Scouts who attended. They assisted where needed and helped particularly with the presentation of the 100 years cake to the District Cubs.

I look forward to the next District Camp in 3 years' time



Cubs HMS Belfast Sleep-Over (well nearly)



It was time for the Cubs sleep over on HMS Belfast and as usual, we had an early Saturday morning start at Claygate railway station. 38 Cubs boarded the 08:31 train to London Waterloo, all looking forward to their day in London and a great sleep over.

The Cub Leaders have run this trip a numbers of times now, so it's a tried and tested plan. Catch the train to Waterloo then walk to the London Eye and board a Thames Clipper boat for an exciting river trip down the Thames to Greenwich, passing HMS Belfast on the way. Have a quick look round the National Maritime Museum then eat our packed lunches (this time up the hill in Greenwich Park).

Then take in a show at the Planetarium... After that, have a good look round the Maritime Museum again before visiting Pizza Express in Greenwich and catching the Thames Clipper back to HMS Belfast for our sleepover.



But 'hold the phone'... , oh dear! It didn't quite happen like that.



While Cubs were exploring the Maritime Museum after the show, I got a call from HMS Belfast. Bad news. An electrical problem meant our trip was probably going to be cancelled but they were just running some final checks to see if anything could be done.



I called our home contact Hugh Gostling and let him know the situation. Hugh and the Cub Leaders put our thinking caps on and by the time we'd finished our tea at Pizza Express and HMS Belfast had confirmed we could not sleep over, we had a plan. I talked to the Cubs and let them know the disappointing news about HMS Belfast, but we were going to have a sleep over... at the Scout Centre!

Our Cubs took news very well and 'did their best' to make the rest of our weekend really good fun. I was really impressed to see Cubs thinking through the implications of the news and asking questions about how we could solve them. It was raining heavily when we left the restaurant to catch the Thames Clipper back to Waterloo, but that didn't dampen our spirits!

Some really great team-work and quick thinking resulted in a quick mini bus trip from Claygate Station back to the Scout Centre and a nice comfy sleep over at the Scout Centre after watching a DVD. In the morning, we had cereals then bacon sandwiches for breakfast and after that had some games and skills activities.

When it was time for Cubs to be picked up on Sunday morning, we'd all had a great weekend, in spite of the change of plan. The Imperial War Museum were very apologetic about the fault and cancellation and are making sure Cubs who came on the trip will get to sleep over on HMS Belfast as soon as possible.



<http://www.claygatescouts.org>

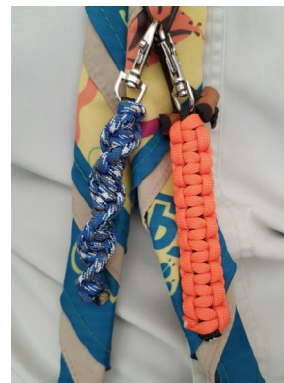


SCRAM 2016



On an overcast day in June a number of Cubs travelled by minibus to the deepest darkest grounds of Epsom, to Hook Arena. We should have taken our waders, for the arena was under water. This didn't damper the hardy leader team and their enthusiastic Cubs spirits. We were here to have fun at the County Cub event called SCRAM. Once every 3 years it just so happened to coincide with our Centenary.

Claygate's activity was to make knotted Keyrings from Paracord which proved to be very popular, so much so there was always a queue. With a large leader/helper team, a bit of patience and the very hard decision of what colour to choose we were able to get through a lot of paracord with not many having to start again....



Even though the grounds were under water there was a range of activities for Cubs to participate in then during the Lunch break the new County Commissioner, Jo, made his promise and official took up his new position.

There are lots more photographs on Surrey Scout webpage under Cubs scram. <https://surreyscouts.smugmug.com/Public-Galleries/SCRAM2016/>



Akela, Lion Pack



Record Breakers!!!

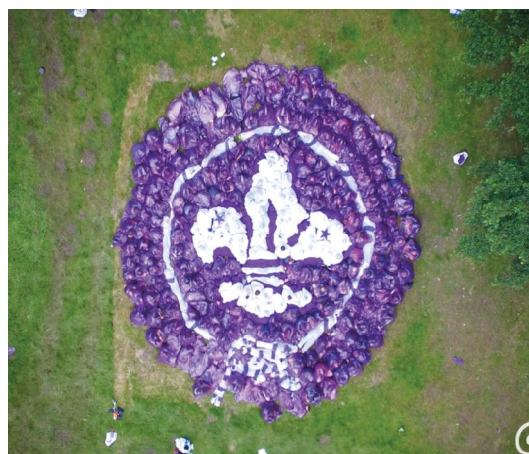


Esher District Cub Scouts took on and achieved a Guinness World Record, the Largest Human Image of a Badge!

A total of 312 Cubs and Adult Volunteers formed an image of the World Membership Badge measuring 10.0m x 11.5m.

Cubs in Esher District wanted to take part in a challenge to promote the values of Scouting and also to encourage other groups of Cub Scouts in any part of the world to take up the challenge!

A huge thanks go to everyone who was involved in the



<http://www.claygatescouts.org>





Chairman's Message



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. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that we are looking to provide more places for young people by adding extra space to the Scout Hut. More news on this to follow.

We have again had a very successful jumble sale with over £1,400 raised by Sandra Fox and her team. There is a lot of work that goes in to running these sales, but they make a large contribution to our fundraising. Thank you to the team that helps at every sale, and thank you also to the parents that volunteered at the most recent one. The more volunteers we have at each sale, the more jumble gets sold.

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!



Summer Fete : Saturday 2nd July



The Summer Fete was held on 2nd July – a bit later than usual in order to avoid a clash with the various other school fetes that happen in and around Claygate.

Alas, we were affected by a heavy rain shower shortly after the fete started, and this put a few people off. But many thanks to those who did attend – despite lower numbers the fete still made over £1,000 for scout funds. And many thanks to those who helped out – it is a big undertaking and requires lots of volunteers, and we did, in the end, have just about enough volunteers to man all of the stalls and activities.

Thank you also to those who completed the Survey Monkey questionnaire about the fete. The key learnings for the Group were:

- Most liked the activities which are 'unique' to scouting – for example, the races/competitions between the sections, making dough sticks over the camp fire, the Band. There was a request for more such activities to ensure that the Scouts Fete differentiates itself from school fetes and the Flower Show. And quite a lot of suggestions were made for such activities – thanks to those who made the suggestions.
- Most people thought the fete was a good idea and supported it continuing, but we need to make sure it doesn't clash with other school activities. We asked which time of the year people preferred to hold the fete – there was a slight preference to hold the fete in early June, shortly after half term.
- We asked whether the fete should be held on Saturday or Sunday – again a broad range of views, but with slight preference for Saturday afternoon, as currently.



The Group Exec will take account of the answers when deciding whether to run the fete next year. Thanks again for all those who replied.



Group Scout Leader's Update



The period from September to the end of October is always full of weekend activities and this year has been particularly busy with many weekend having multiple activities on offer. It just seems we are trying to get everything in before the hour change and we move into the winter months. However the winter brings us new challenges and is when we as a group think of others as we raise money for charities other than ourselves.

By the time the newsletter is issued the Band will have appeared at the Lord Mayor's Show - it is a great honour to be asked to appear again representing Surrey in a London event. After this it will be the Remembrance Parade. This is such an important event as the nation remembers.

We were pleased to welcome the New County Commissioner to the Scout Centre

This year we are holding a Christmas event at the Centre on 16th December more details will be issued soon.

Growing 1st Claygate

As those of you who attended the AGM will have heard, we are actively moving forwards as a Group to find the best way to increase capacity so that we can meet the ever increasing demand for places by young people in Claygate.

We are exploring a number of options to achieve this, one option that has presented itself which seems to be the most attractive solution and is being worked up at the moment. This is to make the first floor meeting room larger by extending at the back of our existing Scout Centre. This would double the size of the upstairs room and give us the opportunity to hold two section meetings at the same time (e.g. two Beaver colonies, one in the main hall and one in the upper hall), or to overlap sessions so that they can be held at more convenient times. One of our cub parents is an architect and has offered to prepare plans. These will be ready by the second half of November and, assuming they are approved by the Group Executive, we intend to submit these to the local authority for planning approval before Christmas. We will keep you informed of progress via our regular newsletter or via the Group's e-mail system.



Initial ballpark estimates are that the cost of this extension will be in the region of £200,000 - although we will, of course, try to keep this as low as possible. Part of this will be funded from our own reserves, but we will also be running new fundraising activities, and will also apply to community and other funding schemes that are available for such a purpose. The lead time for some of these schemes is quite long, so we have already submitted initial applications.

The first of these initiatives is with Aviva, who offer support of up to £25,000 for community projects, and we recently found out that we have been successful in being selected in the initial stage. You will shortly receive a separate communication about this with details on how to 'vote' for our project, which has to be done by 18th November. I encourage you to support this - and other - initiatives, which will go some way to funding our expansion and will ensure that 1st Claygate is able to offer places in future to more of the young people of Claygate.





Cub Scouting in the United Kingdom has been celebrating 100 years since its establishment in 1916. The Scout Association has challenged its members to mark the occasion with "the wildest party ever". A challenge which 85 Cub Scouts in Claygate took on with relish on Sunday 25th September.

The party brought together the three cub packs (Lions, Lynx and Panthers) within the 1st Claygate Scout Group at their Scout Centre in Oaken Road, Claygate. Over 30 leaders and parents were on hand to help with the activities.

Also present was Joe Rogerson, the Surrey Scouts County Commissioner, who threw himself into the fun and games with great enthusiasm.

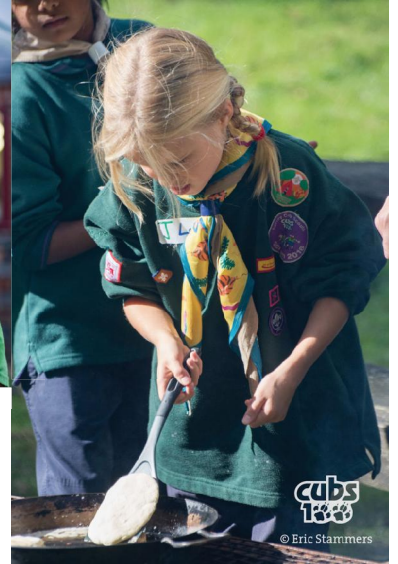
The Group was very pleased to welcome home ten former Cub Scout leaders, which meant there was a continuous link to cub scouting in Claygate over a period of 50 years. In fact the first Cubs in Claygate date back to 1921 under the leadership of Dorothy Barnfield, the sister of the then Scout Master Tom Barnfield.

Activities at the party represented different periods from the last century and also looked to the future. These included cooking dampers over the embers of a campfire, various games from the fairgrounds of the 1950s, motor



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sport in the form of electric go-carts and wind powered vehicles, the construction of a "millennium" bridge using pioneering skills and an Astronaut trail simulating a space walk.

One of the happy Cubs said, "Our Cubs 100 Party was brilliant, I cooked over a real fire and made a brilliant bridge from wood and rope which did not fall apart when we all walked over it. I've had some amazing adventures with Cub Scouts, it's awesome! Being a Cub Scout is all about doing your best and I try to do this every day".

The afternoon was fuelled with plenty of cake and concluded with a traditional campfire and songs, led by cub leader John Baldwin, with lots of old favourites sung at full volume.



Scouts Sailing Weekend



On Friday evening 9 scouts and 2 leaders made their way by minibus down to the Hamble River to join the crew of the sailing yacht "Thermopylae" for our offshore sailing weekend.

The evening was spent collecting waterproofs, transporting supplies to the yacht and fighting over which bunk to have. We set sail after the scouts had cooked our breakfast on the Saturday morning and headed out in to the Solent.

The weather wasn't great and the forecast was worse but the scouts seemed untroubled as they relaxed on the foredeck lashed by rain and waves. After some exciting, if damp, sailing the skipper decided we might head in early to Cowes to dry out. We went on a walking tour of the town, the highlights of which were an excellent ice-cream parlour and the presence of a friendly seal on the sea front who seemed more than happy to pose for pictures.

We spent the night moored up on the outside of the marina and awoke to a much better day. The sun had come out but unfortunately the wind had gone so we motored leisurely back to the Hamble and had some dinghy races before cleaning the boat and disembarking. As always, a very enjoyable weekend and a great introduction to yachting.





Scouts District Nike Hike - 8th Oct



A record number of 36 scouts from 1st Claygate took part in this year's night hike. Starting in Effingham and following a nine-mile circuit around Ranmore Common a total of 25 teams from Esher district took part in this incident hike.

As well as walking round and answering questions, the scouts were also required to deal with incidents including an assault course, a first aid incident and the cooking of a pancake.

The three competition teams from Claygate all made a great effort and managed to find their way home, with Claygate A coming third in the competition and earning valuable points for the troop.

Leaders and parents accompanied 4 training teams of younger scouts who also made a good effort and impressed us with their mapwork skills and endurance – even having returned to the Scout Centre at 2am they displayed no interest in sleeping until about 3.30am!

Thanks to all the leaders and parents who helped with this event – it's one of our favourites and the young people certainly seemed to enjoy it.



12th – 22nd Dec



30p per card

Post box locations:

ExCellar

The Foley

Holy Trinity

Matthew Pierce & Co

Baileys Delicatessen

74 Coverts Rd

7 Forge Drive

44 Oaken Lane

We work in partnership with the 1st Hinchley Wood Scouts to deliver your cards within the **Claygate** Parish borders as well as to **Hinchley Wood**, the **Dittons & Esher**. Pop your cards (in fully addressed envelopes) and **30p per card** into one of the conveniently located **yellow Scout post boxes** and they will be collected the same day for prompt delivery. Last collection is at **2pm on Thu 22nd December**.

Profits from the Christmas Post are shared between 1st Claygate Scout Group and our selected charity, which this year is Malaria No More.



Top Troop

Trophy Update



As reported in the last newsletter 1st Claygate found ourselves, (with a little surprise) “top of the table” in the 2016 competition after excellent results in the Day Hike and Shooting Competitions, with 1st Oxshott in 2nd place and 1st Hinchley Wood , who have won for the last two years, in 3rd place. (The Top Troop Trophy is an annual competition between the Scout Troops in the Esher District running over a number of events during the year testing scouting skills.)



So, with slightly bated breath we have been watching the results of the summer and autumn competitions as Hinchley Wood have, (to use a racing analogy,) been coming up fast on the inside. Will, Louis and Alex achieved an equal 2nd place in the Archery, (Hinchley Wood came 1st) and James and Josh achieved a 3rd in the Fishing Comp, (Hinchley Wood came 2nd) to leave us level pegging with Hinchley Wood before the Night Hike. 1st Claygate gained 11 points through a 3rd, 7th and 8th place in the Night Hike, with Hinchley Wood gaining 19 points through a 1st and a 4th place, taking them into the lead.

Five days after the Night Hike our team of Archie, Louis, William and Jack travelled to Cobham for the District Cooking Competition where, by 1 point, they gained 3rd place over Hinchley Wood, thereby earning 9 points to Hinchley Wood's 7 and closing the deficit by 2 points.

So, a bit like a decathlete who has to win that last race by a sufficiently large margin to secure the Gold it looked like the overall result was going to depend on the scores from the 2015 Troop Log competition, which were not yet in. We knew there were only 3 entries, but not who! We needed to win, with Hinchley Wood in 3rd place (or not entered,) to level the scores.

The scores for the Troop Log came in – the good news was that 1st Claygate had been placed 1st, but Hinchley Wood had come 2nd! Thus 1st Claygate has 98 points and is in 2nd place, and Hinchley Wood has 100 points and is in 1st place.

We have one event to go, (the Chess Competition,) but can only earn 1 point for entering, so it looks like 1st Claygate will be valiant runners up in the 2016 competition, by the narrowest of margins.

“Well Done” to all the scouts who have represented the Troop over the year, or contributed to the result in some way, (this is your achievement,) and **“Thank You”** to all the adults who have supported the scouts in their endeavours. The challenge is to go one better in 2017!

The Troop Leadership Team





Survival Weekend 2016



On the weekend of 1st-2nd October we had some Explorers on a Survival Weekend. While the main part was at the Scout Hut we did some wild Camping on Esher Common.

The Explorers Plucked and gutted some Turkeys and pigeons. We turned the Turkeys into a turkey Stew, which we cooked on the fire. We also made some fruit tarts - also cooked on the fire.

After our hearty meal we left the Scout Hut Grounds and went to Esher common to sleep the night, in the open.

In the morning we headed back to the Hut and after a bacon Sandwich we did some wood whittling making wooded spoons.

The Piggens we roasted in the camp ovens and we had that for lunch with some homemade bread.

Although we had some rain we had a great time, before the Going up ceremony.





Philmont Scout Ranch



The 1st Claygate Explorer Unit is travelling to Philmont Scout Ranch in the southwest United States for its 2017 summer expedition. Philmont offers an unforgettable 12-day backpacking adventure along miles of rugged trails. There will be wilderness camping, of course, but also many programme activities whilst visiting one of the 34 staffed camps in the backcountry. Backcountry programmes include folk music, burro packing, gold panning, chuck wagon dinners, rock climbing, tomahawk throwing and black powder rifle shooting.

Philmont has provided unforgettable experiences for more than 1 million young men and women from the age of fourteen since 1939, but their constant commitment to low-impact camping has maintained the Ranch's unspoilt wilderness. Hiking at Philmont offers an unparalleled opportunity for Scout fellowship, meeting and sharing experiences with other crews from across the United States and other countries.

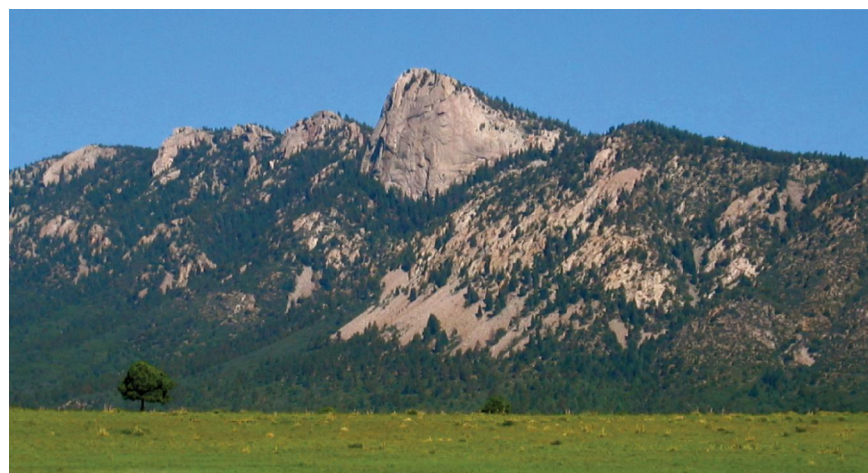


Philmont is the Boy Scouts of America's largest High Adventure Base covering 214 square miles of mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains in the State of New Mexico. There are breath-taking vistas with elevations that range from 1,975 to 3,800 metres.

Philmont has a fascinating natural history and features the only confirmed Tyrannosaurus Rex tracks in the world. The area was also on the Santa Fe Trail, a major 19th-century pioneer settler route, and was home to the Jicarilla Apache and Moache Ute native American tribes. Later it was a prospecting community and working cattle ranch.

Our contingent will comprise two crews which will be entirely youth led, each with a Crew Leader, a Chaplain's Aid in charge of crew morale and our scouting duty to God, and a Guia (Spanish for 'Guide') responsible for no trace camping and respecting Philmont's wilderness conservation imperative.

Additional information is available at <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org>.





BAND



The band began the autumn term by performing at the 90th Gilwell reunion. We were asked to play at this national event by Scout HQ. The reunion was established to mark the occasion of the first Wood Badge course in 1919.

The event has run since 1921 every year (except for four years during the Second World War) and is an opportunity for adults in Scouting to experience an active and educational weekend and to meet up with friends old and new from across the globe.

The band performed very well, and to a large and appreciative crowd. The feedback was very positive – and it was great to be able to put on a good show in front of central Scout HQ team.



15th Anniversary



Saturday 10 September was a special day for the band, as we celebrated our 15th anniversary with a reunion event. Despite the best efforts of the weather (it rained all day..!) the event was a great success, with a number of former band members coming back to join the band for a rehearsal and an informal concert (under very wet marquees) in the evening.

The main event for the term is the Lord Mayor's Show through central London on Saturday 12 November, where the band is taking part for the second year in succession. We're hoping for drier weather this year...!

On 26 October a number of band members attended a concert by the Royal Air Force Central Band, one of the best military bands in the country.

And we are looking forward to the band's busiest part of the year, supporting a range of Christmas events in and around the village.



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 - 19th 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 **19th 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 £4000 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 **3rd, 10th & 17th 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.



Help needed to take down Christmas trees - 7th Jan

The Group is involved in taking down 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. 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

