



## Beavers Toga Party!

As a recently-appointed Beaver leader, I had the pleasure of experiencing my very first annual District Beaver party. My concern over the rather long party duration was immediately addressed when I realised that the first hour and a half of the party was in fact dedicated to preparation and, for me, involved cutting the necks out of 200+ togas, while my Claygate colleagues painstakingly cut out thousands of Olympic rings made of icing! Yes, I admit I was responsible for the ill-fitting togas your children came home wearing around their waists.

The theme of the day was 'Ancient Greece' and the children were treated to a full array of activities, and I happily tagged along from room to room. The children decorated freshly-baked cookies with the Greek flag and the Olympic rings, which were placed into their bespoke-designed party bags for later consumption. They



Mini Olympics

donned their own toga and sash, made their own wreaths and badges, and fashioned some very stylish mosaic coasters, before taking part in a mini-Olympic games. Javelins and discus were thrown, and a relay race capped off the event, all without any children being harmed!



The day culminated with a performance of 4 Greek myths, delivered by The Cat's Grin Theatre Company. The children were completely captivated by this riveting performance, which included: Pandora's box, Tantalize, Change of the Seasons, and Narcissus and Echo. To be honest, when I saw the 1 hour and 20-minute time slot for this play, I had some serious doubts about whether the

children could possibly sit on the hard floor and remain entertained for all that time, and without a dedicated toilet break. How wrong I was! In what proved to be a brilliant and energy-filled display of theatrics, the children were rapt in what was a truly dazzling performance, and will without doubt be remembered for a long time.

I have to say that the organisation that went into the day was something that Seb Coe would have been proud of. I would like to extend a massive 'thank you' to Debbie Bowles (Owl) for her hard work in organising this fabulous day, the 1st Claygate Beaver Leaders and to the parents who volunteered to help.

Steve Matthews, Micheline Foreman







## District Cub Pinewood Derby



cubs

All three cub packs were represented in this year's Pinewood Derby, with 39 cubs entering from around Esher District.

"Pinewood Derby?" – no it doesn't involve horses, or hiking through woodland – but making a car from a standard kit to a particular specification and then racing the cars against each other on a special track. The event comes from the USA, where it is huge, and was introduced to Esher District via a US scouting contact of a 1st Cobham leader, and has been held for the last 7 years. This year's entry was one of the largest for several years.

As a precursor to the event itself, cubs signed up, and were then issued with a kit to make into a car at home, (with parental assistance, the emphasis being on assistance!) Cubs gave free reign to their imagination in decorating their cars – and there was everything from a mouse riding on a block of cheese, a rat, a unicorn, various varieties of racing car, to a minion. Cubs then assembled at St. Andrew's School in Cobham for Race Day itself. Cars were booked in on arrival and checked to ensure they met the specification, and allocated to one of 8 groups.

Then the racing started. Cars were raced along the track in pairs, each pair of cars racing twice, against all the other cars in the group, and eventually the whole group was sorted to establish which cars were fastest in each group. The odd running repair was undertaken to keep the cars "on the road" and the most stressed people in the room were probably the adults at the end of each track judging the winners – sometimes it was very close, and races had to be re-run, or go to a decider to find the faster of the pair of cars.

After the first set of races, slower cars were eliminated, and then a series of semi- finals were held, and then, (excitement mounting) the fastest 8 cars were raced in the final, and eventually a winner was established.



Although 1st Claygate was not among the medals, all cubs went home with a certificate and a badge for taking part, and enjoyed the afternoon.

*Footnote:* The kits for this event come from the USA and if imported directly attract a significant tariff (raising the cost of a kit from £6 to £16.) To continue this event the District are looking for either a sponsor who would be willing to contribute to the cost of imported kits, or somebody who would be willing to cut sufficient identical blocks of wood for distribution to the cubs to make their cars – wheels and axles are available locally. If you are able to help please contact [lynx.pack@claygatescouts.org](mailto:lynx.pack@claygatescouts.org)





# District Explorer Activity Weekend - Brecon Beacons Wales



This year's district winter activity weekend took place in February with 38 Explorers and leaders staying at the Plas Dolygaer Scout Centre in the heart of the Brecon Beacons, South Wales.

On the Saturday 6 groups were formed to walk various routes all of which include a visit to the top of Pen y Fan which, at 2907 ft, is the highest point in South Wales.

Unfortunately the weather wasn't kind and the rain that had been falling since our arrival on Friday night continued all day.



The rain, along with the low cloud meant visibility was very poor and no one saw the view from the top although it did prove a great opportunity to practice navigation skills.

On the Sunday, it still hadn't stopped raining, the indoor climbing proved very popular whilst those who didn't climb undertook a walk close to the Scout Centre.

Despite the weather it was a great weekend and an opportunity for Explorers and leaders from around the district to get together.

We are already planning next year's weekend which will be to Scammonden in the Pennines.

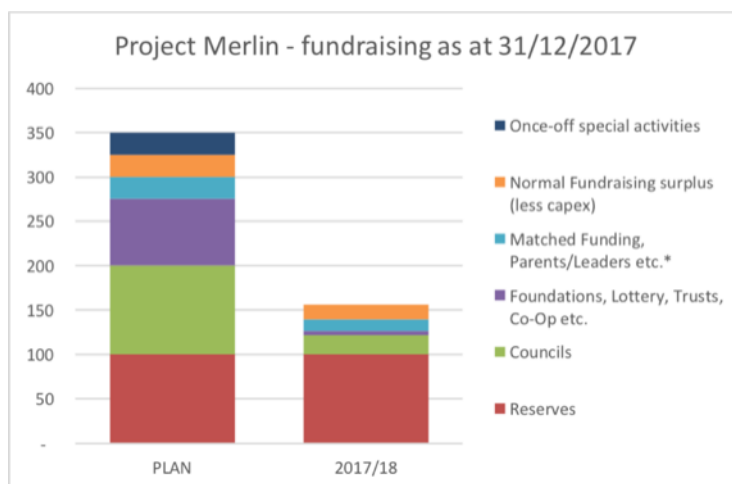


# Project Merlin

Project Merlin is the scheme to extend the scout centre to provide another large meeting room, doubling the size of the meeting room on the first floor of the Scout Centre. This will give us the capacity to hold two meetings in the evening at the same time, and thus potentially open a new Beaver Colony and new Cub Pack to enable us to offer places to the many young people currently on our waiting list – at the moment we have places for only about half of those who wish to join.



We have estimated the cost of the extension at around £350,000. So far we have raised £160,000, so nearly half way, but that means there is still a long way to go before we can commit to the building work. The detailed breakdown is shown on the attached chart:



Claygate Parish Council have been very generous and have given us a grant of £20,000. We have also received funding from the Kenneth Green Charitable Foundation, The Laing Charitable Trust and the Rowan Bentall Trust, the Co Op Community Fund, the Claygate Gardening Society and Flower Show, and donations via employer-matching schemes from BP, Barclays, Lloyds Bank and Rentokil Initial. We have applications pending with a number of other charitable foundations and trusts.

How can current parents help with our fundraising?

- First and foremost, please continue to support all of our regular fundraising events – the Jumble Sales, Summer Plant Sale and Summer Fete.
- Please support our BIG Group-Wide fundraiser, the Thames Path Trek (see opposite), involving all our young people, leaders and parents, and we hope to raise significant funds through sponsorship.
- We are planning a new event, the Claygate Beer Festival, on 1st and 2nd June. This will be a ticketed event which, we hope, will become a more regular fundraiser for the Group in the years to come.
- We are particularly keen to hear from any parents who work for an employer which offers 'matched' funding or charitable funding to organisations with connections to their employees. These schemes are often easy to apply for and can give generous donations to charities such

**Donate Here: <https://www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stclaygatescoutgroup>**





# Project Merlin

as 1st Claygate. If you work for an employer which runs such a scheme, please contact our Treasurer, Gary Ernest, [treasurer@claygatescouts.org](mailto:treasurer@claygatescouts.org)



**Donate Here:**



If anyone has any additional fundraising ideas, or would like to discuss any aspect of fundraising for Project Merlin or for 1st Claygate Scouts in general, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Hugh Gostling, [gsl@claygatescouts.org](mailto:gsl@claygatescouts.org).



## Thames Path Trek

As part of the fundraising for Project Merlin, we would like to involve as many of the young people, parents and leaders in a single, major challenge this summer.

To this end we have created the **'Thames Path Trek'**.

The organising team led by David Creigh, along with Margaret Creigh, Alistair Smith, Simon Christmas, Paul Smith, Jonathan Perkins, Rhid Tinkler, Debbie Bowles and Hugh Gostling are developing the logistics to what will be a memorable event.

On the 7th July 2018, 25 teams from the group will walk the 184 miles of the Thames towpath. The Trek will be split into sections and the sections will be from the Source to the Thames Barrier, so while no team will walk the whole distance the combined effort will mean that 1st Claygate will have walked the route in a single day.



This will be a unique event for young people to take part in and absolutely resonates with the teamwork ethic of Scouting. The aim is to generate a challenge and excitement about the event and for the young people to gain the support of friends and family by way of sponsorship.

Please could you put the date in the diary now in order to support the event on the day. The event needs to have maximum support to have the desired impact in the spirit of Lord Kitchener.

**On 7 July 'Your Scout Group Needs You'.**

There will be more information when the event officially launches after Easter when the section teams will be created and the online sponsorship will be available.

This is a major undertaking and the day will conclude with a BBQ and celebration at The Scout Centre.







## Frost Camp



### (Or was that Mud Camp?)

The Troop arranges an annual training camp in the HQ grounds for the older scouts, commonly called "Frost Camp" given the time of year.

This year we didn't get a frost but instead had to contend with wintry drizzle all day Saturday which, combined with 16 pairs of hiking boots turned our field into a sea of mud .



Undaunted, the scouts made an excellent effort in pitching their tents and getting roaring fires going, on which to cook their evening meals. The following morning was the Group's Going Up Ceremony which fortuitously provided a large cooked breakfast for the scouts. We had built a bridge the previous day for those going between sections to cross during the ceremony. Whilst some cleared up afterwards, a team of scouts went to the District Scouting Skills competition.



Whilst 1st Claygate did not win, they made an excellent effort, particularly with the knots ( the most important scouting skill!). All in all a successful camp, in which the scouts learned some useful skills, hopefully including boot cleaning!



We invite you to the first ever  
Claygate Beer Festival

Friday 1st June and Saturday 2nd June 2018

Variety of local and guest ales and ciders - Free collectors' glass with every ticket

Held at the 1st Claygate Scout Centre, Oaken Lane  
For details, a regularly updated list of beers and how to buy tickets please go to:  
[www.claygatebeerfestival.org](http://www.claygatebeerfestival.org)  
Entry - £5

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>





# Going Up Ceremony

Sunday 4th February, 7.30am: an hour when many are still in bed, but the Scout Centre is curiously busy – tents and dining shelters pitched in the grounds, tables and benches set up in the main hall, the rattling of pots and pans in the kitchen and an intriguing construction in the middle of a sea of mud under the oak tree – it's the Going Up Ceremony for the Spring term.

A Going Up Ceremony is held every term and is where the Group gathers to mark the movement of young people between sections. The Ceremony started as usual with a Scouts Own led by the Group Scout Leader, Hugh. Then there was a leader investiture and a presentation of a leader service award, followed by the presentation of certificates and awards to the beavers moving to cubs, and cubs moving to scouts.

Some of the Scout Troop had camped overnight at the Scout Centre (see article on the previous page) and as part of the camp had built the traditional Going Up challenge. After all the certificates had been presented everybody went outside, where the beavers said goodbye to their leaders, and crawled underneath an impressive looking platform structure made of poles lashed together, and thus reached their Cub leaders, who welcomed them into Cubs.

The Cubs moving to Scouts had a tougher challenge – after they had said goodbye to their Cub leaders they had to walk over the structure in order to reach the Scout Troop, where they were welcomed by their leaders. It was then time to return indoors and enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast – appreciated by all, and especially by the Scouts who had camped overnight.







# Bandmaster's Round Up



## Lord Mayor's Show 2017

The last few months have been very busy ones for the band. In November the band took part for the third year in a row in the 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.

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 weather was also kind this year – and we completed the parade in the dry!

The band looked and sounded great – and there was some superb footage of the band on BBC1 too!!!

Also find us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y05IVvnPtuw&feature=youtu.be>

The following day the band led the Remembrance Day parade in Claygate

Also find us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKlkB5d0hZY&feature=youtu.be>

## Christmas 2017

December is always the band's busiest time of the year, and this year was no exception. The Christmas season began in mid-November when the band supported the Christmas Fair at the Day Centre. The band supported the Christmas Lights switch-on event in the parade, and then Carols on the Green the following Sunday. We also thoroughly enjoyed the Carols Round the Campfire event at the Scout Centre – marking the formal end of the 2017 Scouting year.

But no let-up yet for the band! On Sunday 17 December we were in Kingston Town Centre raising money for the Mayor's Charity. The weather was unkind – cold and very wet. But despite this we collected nearly £300.

And then finally, on the Saturday before Christmas we undertook our traditional carols in Claygate, raising money for Project Merlin – the fund to enable the extension of the Scout Centre. I'm delighted to say we raised over £1,000 that evening alone – a great effort by the band.

## Looking ahead to 2018



So, well done to the band! Another superb year – and with lots to look forward to in 2018. Just a few of the highlights coming up this year:

- Friday 16 March 2018 – Our annual concert, Holy Trinity Church (buy your tickets online at our payment page)
- Friday 6 April 2018 – Mayor of Elmbridge Concert, Cobham
- Saturday 12 May 2018 – Tolworth tattoo
- September 2018 – Weekend trip to Ypres, Belgium







# Subscriptions 2018/2019



The subscription rate has been set by the Executive Committee for 2018/19 at **£48 per term**. This is a £2 increase over the rate for 2017/18.

About half of the increase will be used to cover the increased costs levied by the UK Scout HQ, Surrey County and Esher District – all of which are used to provide the backup support for our local groups, training, policies, and support for activities such as the Global Jamboree in the USA in 2019. The other half of the increase will cover increased costs at the Scout Centre, not least on maintenance (the 'new' Scout Centre is now 12 years old), insurance and on higher energy costs.

One way we manage to keep the costs of subscriptions down is through the use of Gift Aid. This raises almost £10,000 a year for the Group, without which subscriptions would be about £11 more each term. If you have not signed up to Gift Aid, please contact the Group Treasurer, Gary Ernest, [treasurer@claygatescouts.org](mailto:treasurer@claygatescouts.org), who will send you the Gift Aid declaration form to complete.

## Fundraising Updates

### Christmas Trees

Another great year. 285 trees, 21 wreaths and nearly 500 packs of cards were sold! The cards proved to be a very popular addition with a second print run being required!

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone involved - **you're a great team!**

This involved the following:

- Leaders and scouts arranging and delivering leaflets
- Parents phoning around previous customers to chase up orders
- Parents printing and putting up posters
- Parents setting up the ordering system and printing labels
- Simon Clark from Elm Farm bringing his loader to unload trees off the lorry
- Parents, Explorers, Leaders and Scout Active Support members for sorting and labelling the trees
- Parents, Explorers and Scout Active Support members for helping with the deliveries and in some cases using your own vehicles for the deliveries

***Without all of you it would just not happen!***



### Christmas Post

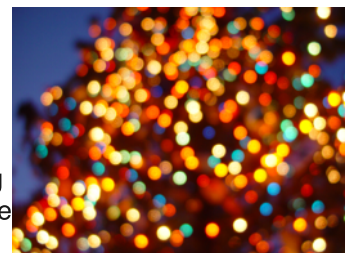
Once again the Troop organised a Christmas Post service for the village. Every scout in the troop was involved in delivering the post and many parents and scouters helped with collection and sorting. Even in the age of email and social media the service seems as popular as ever, raising £660. Many thanks to all those who helped with this valued community service. Particular thanks to Louis Elliott and Nick Vorbrich for co-ordinating the deliveries.



### Christmas lights

This is a team event and I would again thank you all. This involved the following:

- Collecting the Christmas trees from Elm Farm where they are stored for the year
- Fitting the lights, Erecting the trees around the village, Putting up and taking down the gazebo on the day, The Scout and Guide Band playing on the day, Manning the Scout stall on the day, Letting off the fireworks, Taking down the trees from around the village, Removing the lights, Returning the trees to Elm Farm



These are all very important fund raisers for the Group with the benefit of also supporting the local community.

Mark Aulds  
Assistant Group Scout Leader

<http://www.claygatescouts.org>







# Carols around the Camp Fire

The Group was as busy as ever in the run up to Christmas and these are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We had our final gathering at the Scout Centre. The evening is billed as Carols Round the Campfire, but it is really so much more. The evening starts with a candle lit walk through the grounds and woodland into the camp fire circle. The Band had been playing while we walked through the grounds. We then sang some carols as the campfire burned brightly and everyone relaxed as it felt that Christmas was really on the way.

We then made our way back to Scout Centre for refreshments, the younger members were able to go and see Santa. We were joined by other friends of the Group who weren't able to make the first half of the event. After refreshments prepared by Debbie Bowles and team we sat down to some more informal Christmas songs finishing with a rousing rendition of the 12 days of Christmas. We also had the first showing of the photographic review of Scouting in Claygate - thanks to Mark Southey for putting it together.

As we tidied up after the event I reflected that Christmas was nearly here and I felt that I was lucky to have enjoyed such a great event as part of my Christmas preparations.

Look out for the details about next year's event and come and join us, just remember to bring a torch!

Hugh Gostling



## UK 3 Peaks Trek in 24hrs 11-13th May



A few months ago, over a drink at one of our local establishments, I asked a friend if she'd like to climb the UK 3 peaks with me and strangely enough she agreed.

Fast forward 2 months, numerous conversations and we now have a team of 6 mums who are rising to the challenge, a driver, transport and childcare sorted. Thank you Gary Ernest for agreeing to be our driver, some maybe envious of you driving 6 ladies around, others might not be able to think of anything worse but you will be well looked after! Thank you 1st Claygate Scouts for the use of your mini bus, we hope to raise lots of money for your project.

Climbing the 3 UK peaks in 24hrs has always been an ambition of mine and we're so pleased to be doing it as a fundraiser for the 1st Claygate Scout Hut 1st floor extension where my 3 kids have had so many amazing experiences and learnt so much.

To introduce you to the team, it's made up of 2 Beaver leaders; Joanna Shillington and Helen Maguire. Susannah Moffat is a Scout parent and Yris Byrne lives locally. The 2 other ladies in the team are Sheryl Burmicz and Sarah Clarke.

The 3 peaks challenge is not for the faint hearted- we will be climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all in 24 hrs. A total walking distance of 23 miles (37km) and total ascent of 3064m (10,052ft) with a total driving distance of 462 miles. About 13hrs walking time and 11 hrs driving time. Interestingly all my research indicates that it's sleep deprivation and not inability to ascend the peaks that prevents most from achieving their goal so pillows and duvets will be a must in the mini-bus!

We will be completing the challenge on the weekend of 11th May and to test out our slightly older than the scouts muscles and bones, we are completing a training weekend in the Brecon Beacons on 24th March with 2 back to back 9 mile hikes.

Wish us luck and if you feel like you would like to support us in our fundraising endeavours then the Scouts will be posting a separate page on their fundraising website soon, details will be communicated separately. Helen Maguire

### 3 Peaks Challenge



<http://www.claygatescouts.org>

# World Scout Jamboree - North America 2019



A World Scout Jamboree is opportunity of a lifetime, it is an adventure beyond anything you can imagine. In 2019, 45,000 Scouts from almost every country in the world will camp together for 12 days of fun and adventure.

A World Scout Jamboree is a world Scouting event for young people aged between 14 and 18 and is a gathering of Scouts and Guides from all over the world for an exciting programme of global development, peace, cultural understanding, adventure, fun and friendship.

It takes place every four years in a different country. The first World Scout Jamboree took place in England in 1920 and since then 23 such events have been held.

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will take place at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, a 10,000 acre campsite, in West Virginia.

The event is being hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada and Scouts of Mexico. This is the largest event delivered by Scouting worldwide and 45,000 young people and adult volunteers are expected to attend from over 150 countries.

I am delighted to announce after a tough selection process 1st Claygate will be represented at the Jamboree by **Chris Wilkinson** and **Hannah Wood**.

I look forward to hearing about their preparations and their experiences, so more from them in future newsletters.

Further information about the Jamboree can be found at [www.2019wsj.org](http://www.2019wsj.org)



## <sup>st</sup> 1 Claygate Scout and Guide Band



### Annual Spring Concert Friday 16 March 2018



Doors - 7.15pm, Concert - 7:45pm

Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Claygate.  
Surrey. KT10 0JP

For details of how to buy tickets please go to:

[www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm](http://www.claygatescouts.org/band.htm)

Adults - £7, Children and Senior Citizens - £4



<http://www.claygatescouts.org>





# Dates for the Diary



MONTH DATE	EVENT	BEAVERS	cubs	SCOUTS	EXPLORER	network	activesupport	HELP WANTED!
<b>March</b>								
4th	District Cross Country Run (Oxshott)	X	X	X	X		X	X
10th	District Paint Ball			X	X			
10th	District Scout Day Hike			X				
11th	District Cub Quiz (Scout Centre)		X					
16th	Band Concert	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	
17th - 18th	HMS Belfast Pack Weekend		X					
17th	Maintenance Day (Scout Centre)							X
20th	District Wide Game				X			
23rd-25th	4 Inns Walk				X			
24th	County Cub Cooking		X					
<b>April</b>								
19th	New Parents and Link Meeting (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X			
22nd	St Georges Day Parade	X	X	X	X			
28th	Jumble Sale (Scout Centre)							X
28th	Claygate Clean up	X	X	X	X			X
29th	Cub Quiz Final							
<b>May</b>								
12th	Band Tattoo		Band	Band	Band			
11th - 13th	Plant Sale (Scout Centre)							X
18th - 20th	Group Camp (Walton Firs)	X	X	X	X			
29th	Cub Quiz Final		X					
<b>June</b>								
1st - 2nd	Beer & Food Festival (Project Merlin)							X
9th	Summer Fete	X	X	X	X			X
15th - 17th	District Cub Camp		X					
23rd	Bazzaz (County Beaver Day) (Merrist Wood)	X						
24th	District Archery Competition			X	X			
25th	District Explorer 'Raft-less Race'				X			
<b>July</b>								
7th	Sponsored Thames Path Trek (Project Merlin)		X	X	X	X	X	X
7th	Group Annual Awards and Thames Path Trek celebration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10th	Explorer Archery/Volleyball				X			
14th	Claygate Flower Show	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>August</b>								
17th-26th	Troop Summer Camp (KIX Kandersteg)			X				
TBA	Explorer Summer Camp				X	X		
<b>September</b>								
4th	New Parents and Link Meeting (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X			
7th - 9th	Band Trip to Belgium		Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	
15th	District Fishing Competition			X	X			
19th	Group Executive Meeting						X	
22nd	Jumble Sale (Scout Centre)						X	
27th	District Scout Cooking Competition			X				
29th	District 5 a Side Football			X				
<b>October</b>								
2nd	District Shooting Competition				X			
6th - 7th	District Night Hike			X				
13th	District Cub Sausage Sizzle		X					
14th	Going Up Ceremony	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16th	District Explorer Backwoods Cooking Competition				X			
<b>November</b>								
3rd	Group Fireworks (Scout Centre)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10th	District Chess Competition		X					
10th	Lord Mayors Show (London)	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	
11th	Remembrance Parade	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

