



October 2019

## Exciting Developments as a new year begins!

I hope like me you all enjoyed the summer break with suitable down time to recharge the batteries. Not least the 50 Scouts and Explorers who enjoyed their camps in Yorkshire and Cornwall respectively during July and August. The weather could have been better, especially in Yorkshire, but that did not deter the young people from enjoying a full week of outdoor activities. Thanks to the leaders who supported these events.

The autumn term activities are in full flow, with over 40 cubs and leaders enjoying their recent trip to the HQ of UK Scouting at Gilwell Park, and a dozen or so scouts will shortly be travelling to the Solent on a sailing weekend. By the time you read this newsletter the District Night Hike, Shooting Competition and Cubs' Sausage Sizzle will all have taken place.

After half term we have Fireworks Night on 9th November, which is always very popular – I hope as many of you will join as last year to enjoy the fireworks followed by hot soup and hot dogs. After that activities become increasingly Christmassy, with the switch-on of Claygate Lights, Carol Singing on the Village Green and with the band around the streets of Claygate, and the term's finale with Carols Round the Camp Fire on 13th December.

One of the village events that we always support with pride is Remembrance Parade, this year on Sunday 10th November. And the day before the Band will be once again marching in the Lord Mayor's Show, which now seems to have become an annual event. Please support our young people with both of these community activities.

Those of you who have glanced down the side of the Scout Centre will not fail to have noticed that Project Merlin is progressing well, and we expect to have the new meeting room ready for use early in the New Year. The Project Merlin Fund now stands at just over £400,000, an amazing achievement, which enables us to do *almost* everything in our building plan. Ideally we need about £25,000 more to finish everything off – so if anyone has any good ideas, or in particular access to matched funding or charity funding from their employers, please get in touch with our Treasurer, Gary, who will be very glad of the support! We will be conducting 'Grow Your Group' sessions early in the new year to identify new leaders who will help deliver the additional beaver and cub sections that we plan to set up – watch out for a communications from me later this year.



The jumble sale in September raised over £2,000 for scout funds – a magnificent effort from John, Sandra and the team of helpers. Many thanks once again, I'm always impressed by the ferocious hive of activity on the day, then everything is remarkably back to normal next morning as if by magic!



Finally as Christmas approaches we will be running our Christmas tree delivery service again, one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We hope to exceed our 2018 totals of 330 trees and wreaths delivered, and over 500 packs of Christmas cards sold. Please support this important activity, and encourage your friends and neighbours to order our trees and cards.

Yours in Scouting  
Hugh



# Cubs Celebrating Gilwell's Century



Close to the home of Dick Turpin in Epping Forest, Gilwell Park is located. The Park, along with its White House, was donated to the Scout Association as camping grounds for London Scouts who struggled to complete activities due to a lack of open space.

Gilwell was officially opened on Saturday 26 July 1919. The Estate at the time consisted of 53 acres, which included the White House, Training Ground, Orchard and the Boy's Camping Field.

The first Camp Chief of Gilwell Park was Captain Francis Gidney who was appointed in May 1919. He formulated the early Wood Badge courses for leaders and developed the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Troop. All leaders who've completed their training gain the Wood Badge and become members of 1st Gilwell.

Gilwell is recognised as the spiritual home of scouting and quickly became home to statues, sculptures and structures many of which have become well known throughout Scouting. Gilwell is visited by Scouts from all over the world.



Over the weekend of 27-29th September 2019 Claygate cubs and leaders stayed at Gilwell in a purpose built pack holiday building named after and donated by Jack Petchey.

During the Saturday the cubs were able to do 4 main activities and then after a roast dinner we had a campfire followed by a movie. The Saturday activities were; Exploring Gilwell by following a Heritage trail around the site, have a go on a 3G swing, Climb the Gauntlet - a vertical obstacle course and build an elastic band car to race.





# Gilwell's Century - cont.

Throughout all this, although overcast, we managed to avoid the rain. During the Heritage walk the Cubs were able to find a brick on the faith walk, a pathway linking the five faith building and areas around Gilwell Park, in memory of Jem Salter, a former Claygate GSL and then later our Group President.



After dinner the Cubs enjoyed a great campfire lead by Ikki, (Paul Edwards). Unfortunately we were not able to use the Gidney building for our campfire on this occasion, but with a little pioneering, Hugh was able to extend the seating of the campfire area outside our building. With contributions from other leaders and Cubs it was a great success even more because yet again we had avoided the rain as it just started as we finished and it didn't stop until well into the night.



On the Sunday cubs got to do either climbing, bouldering, Go-Carting or Grass sledging. (A slight change to the advertised program due to the conditions on site) - and it had stopped raining! Instructors from all over the world were on site to lead these activities giving an international feel and allowing the Cubs to gain knowledge about scouting from other countries.

For many it was their first cub camp and for a few it was to be their last cub activity as they've moved on to scouts but whatever the age all had a great fun and created friendships and memories. My thanks to the adults who also attended - without you the cubs would not be able to go on such adventures.



Congratulations to Brown Sea team for winning the pack holiday competition and also to those who were awarded prizes for their cars. By the time you read this more photographs and videos will be available on our website.

Catherine, Akela Lion Pack.





# Cubs at Escapade 2019



50 Cubs from Claygate took part in the all sections District Camp, "Escapade 19", at Walton Firs, on a hot and sunny weekend in June. The cubs arrived on Friday night, if camping, or Saturday morning, if a day visitor, full of anticipation for the activities in store. The camp was officially opened by the Mayor on Saturday 22nd June, and once the opening ceremony was over, the cubs were free to move around the site trying the many activities on offer – a mixture of adventurous activities such as the assault course and climbing to gentler activities like backwoods cooking and craft. An added incentive for the cubs to try a variety of activities was the possibility of gaining a special Escapade woggle for trying 10 specified activities – not the big activities which tend to attract large crowds, but the smaller activities put on by the groups, e.g. 1st Claygate's Backwoods cooking. By the end of the two Saturday sessions many cubs had gained their woggle. The day was brought to a close by performances on the stage and then a campfire and fireworks. A lot of very tired cubs slept very well!!

On the Sunday all the cubs in the district competed in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament and then had the opportunity to complete a Walton Firs based adventurous activity – e.g. caving, low ropes, and archery. The Closing Ceremony, which started with the 1st Claygate band marching around the site to summon everybody to an address by the County Commissioner and the cubs saw a number of leaders from the group receive awards.

Thank you to all those who came along and helped run the activities – and to Owl who managed the catering for the whole group. The cubs had a memorable weekend and it would not be possible without your support.

One final mention must go to Josh Carswell of Panther pack who entered and won the competition to design the camp badge. His winning design was made into the badge given to all attendees of the camp.





# Escapade 2019 - Scouts



'Escapade' is an activity camp organised by Esher District for all sections. This is a once-every-three year event. This year's event took place at Walton Firs on a fine weekend in June. In the Scout section each group in the District devised and ran an activity and also the usual Walton Firs activities were available.

The Scouts were able to go round on their own and choose activities, marking their wristbands to get an Escapade woggle at the end. It was a good opportunity for some to meet friends from other groups in the District. Unlike our usual group camp, the Scouts weren't required to cook their own food so they could spend all their time enjoying the activities and the food cooked for them by leaders and helpers.

The scouts arrived on Friday evening and were served hot dogs before bed. Saturday was a full day of activities including the aerial runway, built by Claygate scouters, laser quest, adventure course, archery, shooting and much more. In the evening the Scouts enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by Owl (Debbie) and her team and attended the campfire. On Sunday there were more activities including the Spacehopper assault course.

The fantastic weather contributed to a really fun camp which the Scouts really seemed to enjoy. Looking forward to 2022!

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## Fireworks Party



Come and Join us for a Fun Packed Evening

Of

Fireworks, Sausage & Soup

a

Pay Bar with local brew

At

The Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate

On

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November , 5:30pm - 7:30pm(approx)

Price £6.50 each

Under 3 free

To include sparklers for All children at the end to take home

DVD on for children not liking fireworks!

Stay and have a drink and catch up with friends while the children are in a safe place

Enquiries to Debbie at [owl.bowles@googlemail.com](mailto:owl.bowles@googlemail.com)





# Yorkshire Summer Camp - Troop



The troop headed off to Appletreewick in the Yorkshire Dales on Saturday 27th July. We spent a week camping in a farmer's field next to the River Wharfe and a few miles upstream from the remains of Bolton Abbey. Despite alarming news headlines of flash flooding in the Dales, we survived the rain and the weather didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the Scouts.

Read on for their account of the week's activities:

## Kayaking (Theo)

We went to the car park to carry the kayaks down to the river. We then got in to the river and played a few games before getting out and walking upstream. We then kayaked down the river.

## Mountain Biking (Luke)

Mountain biking was great fun. We rode up a lot of hills and struggled down steep rocky hills with sheep on all sides. When we reached the end we gazed over a beautiful reservoir. The highlight of the journey must have been the leader getting a bit lost and having to go over multiple stiles.

## Day Hike (Harry)

The day hike was long and tiring but the journey was scenic. We followed a river back to the campsite passing a castle, going through a forest with many fun activities and we even climbed underneath a bridge. Overall it was tiring and enjoyable and definitely worth a try.

## Archery and Shooting (Red)

The archery and shooting was really fun as we got to do it outside and the targets were all different and some of them even blew up.

## Climbing (Will)

We went on the minibus to some rockfaces to go climbing. We began with a short climb up an angled rockface. After we went up a more challenging face and attempted to climb it. We all learnt how to climb and belay and all in all it was a very fun activity.

## Food & Cooking (Sam)

Every day (apart from Friday) we had to cook a meal on the fire. Building the fire would usually take 30-40 minutes and then cooking food would take another hour (depending on the meal). Overall, I think that cooking food was fun even if it did take a while. The food in my opinion was quite nice.

## Free Time (Alisha)

We all went down to the river quite a lot and one day the ball dropped into the river and Lydia bravely jumped in to get the ball back. A couple of scouts went fishing and David luckily caught a brown trout. The patrol leaders and some others played Uno.





# Yorkshire Summer Camp - Troop



## Skipton Town Visit (Sammy)

In Tesco we bought many supplies for the journey home. One scout had the bright idea of buying a 24 pack of coke. There were 2 litre bottles of lemonade and coke for an amazing 17p. The Tesco toilets were a HUGE step up from the camp toilets! *[There was also a boat tour on the Leeds & Liverpool canal and chance to explore the ancient market town of Skipton, although I think this neatly summarises what most impressed the Scouts – Ed.]*





# World Scout Jamboree

Two years ago, I was lucky enough to be selected to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA, as part of the International Service Team. I was part of a group called 'Pathfinders' and our primary job was to help facilitate the scouts to hike up Mt Jack, which had a variety of different activities at its summit.

There were four trails up the mountain and I spent most days manning a trail station at various points along the trail, making sure the scouts did not get lost and encouraging them on. On one of the days, there were over 10,000 children hiking!

Another role for the Pathfinders was to work on the 'Welcome' buses bringing the Scouts to the Jamboree. This was good fun, I managed to practice my Spanish a lot when being placed on the coaches from Mexico but it was hard work, one shift lasted 27 hours! Another aspect of our role was ushering and security at the three main shows: the opening and closing ceremonies and the culture show. It was great entertainment as we got to watch the shows while we worked.

The World Scout Jamboree was an amazing experience, I met so many people from different parts of the world and it was so interesting to hear all their different scouting stories. The next World Scout Jamboree is in South Korea in 2023 and I definitely recommend you apply, whether to go as a scout, or as part of the International Service Team like me!

Thank you to 1st Claygate Scouts, I couldn't have attended without your help and support!

Elloise Budd





# EXPLORERS - CORNWALL 2019

This Year the Explorers went to Cornwall near Looe and made their base camp at a green field site owned by the National Trust. The first part of the week was spent walking the lovely coastline, travelling light with NO tents. Like last year the days were very hot but it was all worth it, as we spent the long evenings on beaches to ourselves, cooking, swimming (washing) and sleeping in our Bivi bags. A few early joggers did give a double take when first seeing the bodies all over the beach.

The middle part of the week was back to base camp learning a few camp craft skills, cooking with herbs and spices, making an out door shower, basket weaving and relaxing.

The last part of our expedition was more relaxed but still sporty and testing with surfing at Newquay and coasteering and a day spent canoeing round Looe Island. Everyone did very well.

Graham Copland-Cale ESL







# Help needed to erect Christmas trees for Christmas Lights - 18th 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 **16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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 sells Christmas trees, which we deliver throughout 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 **7th, 14th & 21st 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.



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## Help needed to take down Christmas trees - 4th 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





# Carols Around the Campfire

**Friday 13th December**  
**6:45pm for a 7:00pm start**  
**The Scout Centre, Claygate**



All members of the Group - parents, family and friends - are invited to come along and enjoy this end of year celebration. The evening will include:

- A candlelight procession through the woods (do bring a torch)
- Carol singing round the camp fire, accompanied by our own Scout & Guide Band
- Santa is expected to make an appearance for the Beavers too

After the campfire, the celebrations return to the Scout Centre (from about 7:40pm). Mulled wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be served. And then we'll continue with the event :

- A photo presentation of the Scouting Year and all that's been achieved
- A presentation of this year's chosen Christmas charity by the Scouts, with a collection
- And more music and festive singing accompanied by the band – including a return of the very popular "Twelve Days of Christmas"

We hope this will be an enjoyable and festive way to end our Scouting Year. Please do come along – with parents and friends too.

**NOTE: THE FIRST HALF OF THIS EVENT WILL BE OUTSIDE. SO PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING**



**Christmas Post**  
**7th - 19th Dec**

**30p per card**



We work in partnership with the 1st Hinchley Wood Scouts to deliver your cards within the **Claygate** Parish borders. 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 Thursday 19th December**.

Please Note that unfortunately we will not be delivering to Hinchley Wood or the Dittons this year.

*Profits from the Christmas Post are shared between 1st Claygate Scout Group  
and our selected charity, which the Scout Troop will be selecting shortly.*

<http://band.claygatescouts.org>





# Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Expeditions



## Explorers DoE Silver Expedition Update

Over the summer 11 Claygate Explorers successfully completed their DofE Silver Expeditions – both practise and assessed.

We were able to complete both hiking and canoeing expeditions, this being a first for Claygate.

The Practice Expedition was earlier in the summer; Friday 28th June to Sunday 30th June 2019 with the canoeists navigating the Medway and the hikers around Ashdown Forest looking for Winnie the Pooh. It was a very hot weekend which suited the canoeists more, but all finished successfully with lessons learned along the way.

Then over the 3 days of Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September the Explorers successfully completed their Silver DofE Assessed Expeditions; again one a hiking expedition in the New Forest and the other a canoeing expedition down the Thames.

Those completing successfully were:-

Canoeing – Alex, Toby, Louis, Jasper, Kathryn, Oliver & Ben.  
Hiking – Gus, Tom, Chris, Andrew, Ali, Harry & Ed.

The lessons learned from the practise expedition were applied and both expeditions completed as planned.

The weather was generally kind but the days were long, particularly the middle day.

Perseverance combined with good navigation, camping and cooking skills were shown along with great teamwork. The teamwork was particularly pleasing as we had a mix of ages, gender, and for the hiking expedition a mix of Explorer units with 3 Dittons Explorers joining 4 from Claygate, yet all got on and worked well together.

The project readouts were shared by the teams at Explorers on Sept 10th.

A big thank you to the assessors, supervisors, paddle sport team and drivers who gave up their time to ensure the expeditions were a success.





# Paddlesport 2019

## The Story So Far...

Paddlesport within Claygate Scouts has been on the increase in the past years. As ever the team has been working hard to provide more and more opportunities for our young people.

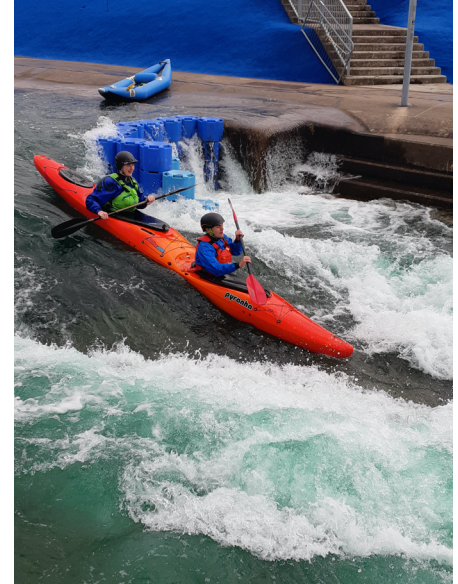


We started the year with a February trip to Devon, with great water levels and an improving group of explorers a fantastic weekend was had pushing the skills and getting the adrenaline pumping!

We then managed to fit in a new White-Water Award training course in March. This included a foundation safety and rescue training course and flat-water training towards a final day trip to the Nene Whitewater centre. This encouraged a new group to further the skills they require to attend the white-water weekend trips this winter.

In this time, we also managed to organise a Paddlesport Instructor award for six of our explorers. This award was previously known as the level one coach and it is brilliant that we are having enthusiastic young people join the coaching and team. These six explorers have been very active through the summer helping with our other courses.

In April we then began our full-on summer of Discover Kayak (formerly 1\*) and Explore Kayak (formerly 2\*) courses. These run April-July and, as ever, both courses were full. As in previous years we have used a few different locations for our summer courses including Hurst Park in Molesey, the Wey Canal in Godalming, Guildford Lido and Claygate Primary pool.



Our Discover course went brilliantly with 10 scouts passing their assessments and looking forward to the opportunities in 2020. Our Explore course has also been a great success, with the final part of this being our weekend trip to Symonds Yat in South Wales.

A group of our explorers have also now completed their Silver DofE expeditions for the first time in canoe. This was organised by the explorers and the paddlesport team are incredibly happy that the young people in Claygate are keen and experienced enough to be able to take themselves out on a 3-day expedition.



Our White-Water Award (formerly 3\*) program has continued to progress and many of our candidates have enjoyed day trips to Lee Valley and Cardiff Whitewater centres. We have also just organised more day trips to Lee Valley and the Nene, along with 5 weekends away over the winter season.

Further more, the Group has just approved the Paddlesport Team's request to add to our ever-growing fleet of equipment. Due to the growing popularity, our courses are being attended by our youngest scouts. This is great and we have just added two smaller kayaks to our fleet to help in providing the best equipment alongside our high standards or coaching.



### If you would like to get involved:

If you would like any more information or are interested in helping at all please get in touch via [1stclaygatepaddlesport@gmail.com](mailto:1stclaygatepaddlesport@gmail.com).

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone involved in Paddlesport in Claygate Scouts. It is ever rising in popularity and the people who offer their time are very much appreciated. It is brilliant that our scouts and explorers are provided with such great opportunities, and this is shown in their enthusiasm to return and help with courses in their own time.



# Merlin Building Update



After what appeared to be a slow start due to the need for a number of items of investigative work to be undertaken, the steel frame was delivered to site on 5th September.

The frame was then “final fixed” and on Monday 9th September a very large crane parked in the car park and lifted the concrete flooring panels into position over the top of the existing building.

The external brickwork is now progressing well and can be seen in the photos below.

Watch out for the progress photographs going onto the website.





# Claygate Beer Festival 2019



Following the success of the first Beer Festival in 2018, it was with some trepidation that we set forth to make this year bigger and better. We built on the last year's event, changing some aspects of the Festival and adding new innovations – and the positive feedback from the 700 or so attendees suggest we succeeded.

Mike procured twice as many beers and ciders as last year – over 2,000 pints in all – which was an ambitious quantity but we were very keen not to run out! Last year we borrowed much of the infrastructure to ensure the beers were in tip-top condition – this year, thanks to an amazing effort by Jon and David, we invested in building our own stillage and set up our own coolers and taps, which will be re-used in future years.

We also decided to try out a Gin Bar, which proved very attractive – thanks to Tim for the splendid construction which immediately provided a focus for guests as they walked into the hall. And once again the barbecue was ably provided and manned by Debbie and Ed, supported by willing helpers throughout. The final innovation was a live band on the Saturday night, so thanks to the Front Covers for a splendid set, enjoyed by almost 300 guests.

Many thanks to the others on the organising team – Caroline and Enrico, Mike and Rhid, plus the many helpers each day, for their support. The event raised significant funds for Project Merlin and we hope it will continue to receive strong support in future years from both the community of Claygate.

Gary





# Dates for the Diary



As ever, we have a wide range of activities for 2019, the indicative calendar is set out below. This will enable you to detach it and pin it to you notice board at home. As ever some dates change so the latest calendar is available on the Group website, so always check, or you can sign up for updates.

MONTH & DATE	EVENT	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts	Network Scouts	SASU	Band	Group Support
<b>October</b>									
05th-06th	District Night Hike (District)			[SCOUTS]					
11th-13th	Scouts Sailing Weekend Solent			[SCOUTS]					
12th	District Cub Sausage Sizzle (District)								
13th	Group AGM Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			X
13th	Going Up Ceremony Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS				
15th	District Shooting (Explorers) (District)				EXPLORERS				
17th	District Scout Cooking Competition (District)			[SCOUTS]					
<b>November</b>									
09th	Group Fireworks Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			X
09th	Lord Mayor's Show London (P)								
10th	Remembrance Sunday Claygate Village			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			X
16th	District Cub Badge Afternoon								
16th-17th	Triangle Night Hike Sussex				EXPLORERS				
18th	District Explorer Games Competition Hinchley Wood				EXPLORERS				
20th	Group Executive Meeting								X
30th	Claygate Lights Claygate Village								X
<b>December</b>									
08th	Carols on the Green Claygate Village			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			
13th	Carols Round the Camp Fire Scout Centre			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			X
15th	Cubs Pantomime - Peter Pan Epsom 16:00 - 19:00 Epsom								
22nd	Carolling Round the Village Claygate Village			[SCOUTS]	EXPLORERS	network*			X

(P) Provisional Date; (TBA) To Be Advised. (UNDERLINED) = more location information available.

## Early notice of dates for 2020:

1. Group Camp at Walton Firs 15 - 17 May
2. County Camp for Scouts Scoutabout 2020 26 - 28 June 2020.