



December 2020



Scouting under Lockdown



As I sat to write my contribution to this terms Newsletter and wondered what to write, I searched a few other Group websites to see if I could get some inspiration, but could find nothing appropriate to meet the need.

Then I found I needed no further inspiration but to look at some photographs of what our great Group had achieved. I then found the photograph of the wall of international scarves we saw on the last Cub Trip to Gillwell Park. The message of Scouting together by the same ideal across the world says it all.

Like everyone we have had a difficult year in 2020. Everyone involved in the Group will have their own story to tell of the Covid 19 pandemic, I know I certainly have mine from working in the NHS.

However, when I reflect on what we have achieved, I am immensely proud of the Group, Leaders, supporters and young people. We have done so much Scouting virtually and strived so hard to have arrangements in place to meet face to face when we can. This is why I know that Scouting is alive and well in Claygate. My thanks to all of the adults who have given so much to make this all possible.

Hopefully we will be able to meet face to face more frequently and to again undertake some of our larger activities. Be assured that once the rules ease the leaders are ready with lots of programme ideas.

A special thanks from me and I am sure all of you to Mark Aulds and Debbie Bowles for all their efforts this year, they have put so much into ensuring that we have had the resources to deliver Scouting both face to face and virtually.

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

Christmas Panto - Online for 2020



Each year the Cubs normally have a trip to the theatre to see a Pantomime,

Oh no they don't....Oh YES they do!

This year, like so many things, it will not be possible to attend. But fear not! If in the runup to Christmas, your family, like the Cubs and their leaders, enjoy a good laugh at a Pantomime, then please join us to watch JACK AND THE BEANSTALK on Sunday 20th December from the comfort of your own home.

Peter Duncan, former Chief Scout, Blue Peter presenter and a critically acclaimed Panto Dame, has written and directed a pantomime, This took place in garden during this summer. He promises "you boos, cheers, 'he's behind yous', a sing-a-long song and all the classic panto antics that we love"

We will be charging a small fee per family of £5.00, this will be paid for via the Group website, and then on 20th December we will then issue you with a unique password, enabling you to watch the Pantomime. All proceeds will go to Charity.

Beavers Lockdown Newsletter



Following weeks and weeks of Zoom meetings, the return to face to face scouting in September was welcomed by beavers, parents and leaders!

We were so lucky to have had 6 weeks of wonderful late summer sunshine to complete an exciting programme of outdoor activities. The meetings were different in that each colony was split into groups of 8 with each group trying a different activity each week. So much fun was had around the campfire with backwoods cooking (dough twists with plenty of icing!) and an evening of firelighting (so much to learn!). Beavers brought in their bikes for the cyclist badge and completed a challenging cycling obstacle course.



We all learnt how to pitch a tent and how to follow a trail using tracking symbols. An insect hunt in the woods provided some interesting results!

Our thanks go to the many parents who generously gave up their time to help us run the meetings. We couldn't have done it without you!



Cubs - Autumn Adventures...



Following a lot of work over the Summer to set up the Scout Centre as a COVID secure venue, Cubs returned to face-to-face meetings in September. Things were a little different with all meetings taking place outdoors and the cubs attending in small groups of no more than 10 for an hour. Given numbers and logistics we were only able to offer the cubs a face to face meeting every other week, although we did suggest activities to do at home between face to face meetings.

With the requirement to socially distance we decided to work on aspects of the communicator badge and started off by looking at sign language and marking the International Day of Sign Languages. We then moved on to finding out about Morse Code and trying to send messages (in the dark) with our flashing torches.

Lion pack and Lynx pack managed to meet just before lockdown 2.0 started and face to face scouting was suspended and marked both Remembrance Day by making poppies and Bonfire Night with sparklers. The poppies were displayed at the Village Hall in lieu of our attending the Remembrance Parade, and we held a minute silence in our first virtual meeting. (Panther Pack still have their sparklers to look forward to.)

With the lockdown we dusted off our zoom brains and returned to virtual scouting.. we have continued our badgework with the Disability Awareness badge, tried drawing with our feet, sung some campfire songs and many of the cubs joined our zoom baking session .. sadly the leaders couldn't taste the cubs' efforts over zoom although the results looked delicious.

Thank you Cubs for joining in enthusiastically this term and coping with all the changes, and thank you to the Cubs' parents who supported our face to face meetings in the first half of term and our virtual activities in the second half of term.





Scouts Round Up



The troop enjoyed returning to face-to-face scouting this term and were happy at being in the outdoors again. For the first half of the term the Scouts rotated through three activities including: backwoods cooking; an introduction to kickboxing; and orienteering. The cooking required the preparation of foil parcels with corned beef hash followed by bananas with chocolate. The parcels were then left on the embers of an alter fire until they were cooked to perfection ... or burnt to a crisp. Despite being new to many Scouts, corned beef proved very popular. The (non-contact) kickboxing covered an exercise routine learning some basic moves and routines followed by fun group games. The orienteering teams were taken to Telegraph Hill, where they had to use their navigation skills to find various points around the woods.

Following a half term break, we have been moving on to another set of activities building mini-catapults, learning firelighting skills and trying out a geocaching hunt around Claygate using hidden QR codes to answer questions about the history of the village. Despite a brief return to online meetings during the recent lockdown, we are eagerly anticipating a return to more normal meetings.

Due to the uncertainties around lockdown, we have had to suspend the traditional Christmas Post service this year, but are planning to be back in operation in 2021!



Explorers Update

EXPLORERS

Whilst the current restrictions have meant that we have not been able to undertake all of our usual activities it hasn't stopped us being able to enjoy some slightly different ones outside.

Whittling, the art of carving shapes out of raw wood, backwoods cooking and how to use camouflage yourself have all been enjoyed. The camouflage evening was very successful and the Explorers all disappeared into the undergrowth. Unfortunately for us and I suspect some of the parents they all later reappeared! The unit also enjoyed a firework evening and bonfire.

Whilst restrictions look like they will be with us for some time there does appear to be a light at the end of the tunnel with a vaccine now being distributed so we are hoping that we can return to some of our usual activities next year.

Until then keep safe.

Graham, Simon, Harris, Mark B, Ed & Mark S
Explorer Leadership Team



Dragon DofE



In the summer of this year five groups from within our scouting district decided to join together and form a group to offer the Duke of Edinburgh awards along with the equivalent scout awards.

The five groups are 1st Claygate, The Dittons, 1st Molesey, 1st Oxshott & 1st Weston Green and following a vote by members chose the name **DRAGON** as our group name.

We currently have over 70 members enrolled for the awards and 31 new members enrolled this September.

For those who don't know the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is for young people between the ages of 14 and 25. You will gain new experiences, meet new people, challenge yourself, have fun and take part in activities to gain new skills and build confidence.

There are three Award programmes:

Bronze Award – for young people aged 14+ years

Silver Award – for young people aged 15+ years

Gold Award – for young people aged 16+ years

Scouts will also have the opportunity to gain the equivalent scout awards.

Platinum Scout Award

Diamond Scout Award

Queens Scout Award

If you would like to know more please check out our website at: www.dragondofe.org where there is lots more information.

If you are currently aged between 14-25 and would like to sign up or just find out more please get in touch at info@dragondofe.org

If you haven't yet reach 14 and are interested then do register your interest and we will be in touch as soon as you can sign up.

