



GSL's Update

March 2022

As I sat in North Yorkshire with Storm Dudley raging outside, I decided it was the time to sit and write my article for the Newsletter.



The Autumn was a difficult time for all as the Omicron variant took hold in the community, but we continued with our Scouting, it felt much more like normal with the Scout Troop providing the Christmas Post Service, the Band playing carols in the Parade, the Cubs going to the Pantomime. All the sections delivered training and games a plenty at their section meetings. We even managed the sale of even more Christmas Trees than the previous year.

Next week it will be investiture time for all those new Beavers who joined us after Christmas. They join at an exciting time not just for Beavers but for the whole Group as we progress into 2022. By the time you receive this newsletter we will be talking about all the camps and events to come in the Summer Term.

There is our Group Camp in May, open to all members of the Group, closely followed by Bazzaz, a County event just for Beavers, held every three years, District Cub Camp and the County Camp for Scouts (Scoutabout) again held on a three yearly basis and then before we know it is will be time for the Scout Troop and Explorer Unit Summer Camps. The sections will issue details of these events as they become available.

What could be better than all these great activities outdoors?

I got home to find that the storm had damaged the gutters at my house and certain things had moved round our garden and one of the gazebos at the Scout Centre was flattened.

However these are small issues compared to the issues emerging in Ukraine. I have been advised that Our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, has written to the National Organization of the Scouts of Ukraine showing our solidarity, and extending the hand of friendship and support. We know this must be especially hard on the young people of Ukraine anxious about the future and concerned about the safety of their family and friends. Bear has assured them that they're not alone in this crisis. Here in the UK, our whole Scout movement stands with them.

At times like these, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in crisis, and remind ourselves we're part of a worldwide family of Scouts. Now is the moment for us to live our promise to help other people, especially as we begin to see refugees and displaced people. We hope and pray for a de-escalation and a peaceful resolution. When I next meet with the Group's leaders we will discuss how we at 1st Claygate can support Ukraine Scouts to assist with their local emergency response

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

Cubs Panto

Beauty & the Beast



Beauty & the Beast at Epsom Playhouse.

Having last been to see a pantomime in 2019, it was great to be able to return in December 2021. It's worth noting we last saw Peter Pan at Epsom, which was awarded the title of 'The UK's Best Panto 2019/20', so we had high hopes for this year's Beauty and the Beast,

With a great turnout, we filled 3 rows of the playhouse, you could not miss that the Cubs were in attendance!

Once started, it didn't take long for the Cubs to warm up and get stuck into all the laughter, shouting "he's behind you" or jumping up out of their seats to join in with the funny dance to be part of Lumiere's, played by former EastEnder, Ricky Groves', gang.

I think it's fair to say great fun was had by all (leaders included!)



Cubs District Quiz - Emoji Quiz

As this goes to print blue six of Lion pack (Jack, Cleo, Eve, Jonty, Henry & Seb) have won the district quiz competition.

With only a few points between the top 3 teams and only 14 between 1st and joint 5th it was close. All 3 packs entered teams to compete against packs from the district in 6 round and 2 picture quizzes.

There were asked questions about countries, general knowledge, history, science and film music (perhaps my favourite round) as well as a brand logo picture round and a guess the children's book emoji quiz.

As winners they will be representing Esher District at Surrey County final held later in February.

Congratulations also to the teams from Panthers (2nd) and Lynx (4th)

Well done everyone!
Akela, Lion Pack



Emoji Quiz: Name the Famous Children's Book

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Answers on page 9



Fundraising Successes



Since the last newsletter we have held our Christmas fundraising activities, the main event being selling and delivery of Christmas trees and wreaths. Having had record sales 12 months earlier during lockdown, we thought that this year would revert back to a more normal level of demand. How wrong we were – in fact 2021 was even better than 2020, with over 500 trees and wreaths being sold and delivered in the Claygate area, which definitely stretched our helpers when sorting and labelling, and our logistics on the delivery days! But a big thank you to everyone who bought, sorted, labelled or delivered a tree, it remains one of the most important annual fundraisers for the Group.



Our last Jumble Sale, another stalwart of the fundraising calendar, was held in January 2020. Omicron put paid to our plans to hold a sale in January this year, but plans are well advanced to run our first Jumble Sale in two years on Saturday 23rd April at noon. We need lots of help on the day, and of course we need the jumble (but not two years' worth please!) so please sign up to help on our website –instructions on how to volunteer have recently been sent out.



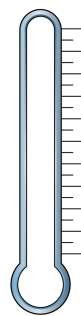
The Bedding Plant sale will take place on Saturday 7th May. Leaflets will be delivered or emailed shortly, and orders must be placed by Friday 8th April. Having successfully operated a 'click and collect' service for the past two years during COVID, we've decided to follow the same approach in 2022 only fulfilling orders made in advance. We will need a dozen helpers or so on the Saturday for the morning or afternoon to make up orders for collection – again, please sign up on the website.

Finally, we plan to hold our Beer Festival on Fri 2nd and Sat 3rd September. It would be great to have a couple of extra hands on our organising team – so if you love beer and want to help select ours for September, or know of a great band, please contact Gary (treasurer@claygatescouts.org). We only need to hold a couple of meetings in the evenings in June/July, so it is not a massive time commitment. Calls for help with serving the beer will come later!



Thanks again to all parents for helping out at our events and in supporting our fundraising by buying a tree, a tray of plants or a few pints of beer. Our fundraising income is important and is used to pay for capital works – new tents, equipment etc. The likely next major purchase will be for a new minibus to replace the 2007 model we are currently using.

GOAL



Troop Frost Camp 5-6 February **SCOUTS**

6am Saturday 3rd August 2019: the alarm goes and the final tiring day of summer camp 2019 gets underway as we pack up and drive home from Yorkshire. For the youngest scouts on that trip, they would not get another opportunity to sleep under canvas on a scout camp until February 2022. Safe to say that we were all ready for our first post-Covid "proper" camp!

Frost camp is an annual institution for the older scouts in the troop and is a great opportunity for them to brush up their camping skills and practice being leaders for the full troop camps later in the year. 15 intrepid campers turned up on a windy Saturday and quickly set about pitching tents and dining shelters before moving on to build a large bridge from scratch using ropes and pioneering poles. With the light starting to fade, it was time to get fires lit so that they could prepare and cook dinner outside before moving on to the dreaded washing up and scrubbing the pans clean ready for inspection.

Saturday evening started with a recap on first aid skills before moving back outside for wide games around the grounds. The day wrapped up with hot chocolate around the fire circle before the girls tent serenaded us with Disney Encanto tunes late into the night.

Sunday included an early start ready for the going up ceremony with the added bonus of sausage rolls and bacon rolls being cooked for us. The large bridge had a starring role as Beavers and Cubs moved up to their new sections. After the going up event, we had a team represent the troop at the district scouting skills competition where their recent camping, pioneering and 1st aid experience came in handy. Those staying behind had the less glamorous task of packing everything away and hanging up damp tents.

It was great to have everyone back on a real camp and we're all now looking forward to a busy schedule in the summer term. Roll on GAW!



Scouts District Day Hike

SCOUTS

The chill wind blowing across the scout centre car park at 7.00am suggested that this was going to be more of a "late winter" than an "early spring" event, but that didn't put off our 22 intrepid scouts. The day hike is an annual district event with competition teams earning points for the top troop trophy and training teams gaining experience for later years. After a quick organisation of the teams and sharing out of the required group equipment, it was into the minibus for the short drive to Box Hill.

Arriving at Pixham Scout HQ, our teams went through a kit inspection and checked their routes before heading off for a 9 mile circuit around the Surrey Hills. In addition to visiting a number of checkpoints (ideally, but not always, in the right order), the teams would have to locate various places in order to answer questions, such as the height limit on a railway bridge at a specific map grid location. The competition teams walk on their own, whilst the training teams are accompanied by leaders.

The recent storms meant that the paths were quite muddy, but everyone made good progress up and down the hills and despite a few spots that proved to be a navigation challenge, everyone managed to find their way round the course. There were some amazing viewpoints along the way and a chance to test your counting accuracy by determining the number of steps from the trig point on the top of Box Hill to the stepping stones at the bottom - I reckoned 262, but with the newsletter print deadline looming, the results are still pending so we'll have to wait and see how each team did on that question on the competition overall.

These events are impossible to run without significant help, so a big thank you to those who organised the route, ran checkpoints and walked with the training teams, particularly the parents who volunteered to walk.

As one of the scouts said during the event, "It was funner than I thought it would be", so you can't ask for more than that.



Band Update



It's been great getting back to regular rehearsals again in person on Friday evenings. And it's been lovely to welcome so many new members to the band over the last few months. Numbers in the training and junior band have swelled brilliantly which is great news for the long-term future of the band. In January we held a special Sunday afternoon & evening rehearsal to put the band through their paces on some new and difficult pieces ahead of our concert on 19 March. The band worked really hard, and we made great progress. There were a number of very tired young musicians at the end of the day!

Looking back – Paying Our Respects



On Sunday 7 November we had the privilege to lead a parade for Woking Scouts at **Brookwood military ceremony**. This parade has fond memories for the band, as it links to our performance in 2018 at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. In Ypres, the Last Post ceremony takes place every evening at 20:00 under the Menin Gate, one of the four memorials to 'the missing in Belgian Flanders'. The senior band had the honour of taking part in this event in 2018. The ceremony is a homage for the 11 million military personnel that lost their lives during the First World War.

This tradition started on 1st July 1928 and has continued uninterrupted every evening other than during the Second World War, when Ypres fell into German hands on 20th May 1940. At this point, the ceremony was transferred to the Brookwood Military Cemetery in the UK from December 1941, until Polish forces liberated the town of Ypres on the 6th of September 1944. After the daily ceremony returned to Ypres, the Brookwood Last Post Association continue the ceremony at Brookwood on the first Sunday of each month.



The following Sunday 14 November, we were on parade again leading the **Remembrance Parade in Claygate** – a central moment in our band calendar. A huge well done to Sam Warner who played the Last Post superbly well.

Unfortunately, COVID restrictions meant that we were unable to undertake most of our Christmas events, but the band did enjoy spreading some Christmas cheer by playing carols in The Parade on Christmas Eve.



Looking ahead to 2022...

2022 is also a big and exciting year for the band. In March we have our annual concert, and we then have a full schedule of events during the spring and summer, including supporting the closing ceremony of Surrey Scouts 'Scoutabout' event in July. But the highlight of the year will be our trip to **Disneyland Paris** in October, when we will once again be leading the Disney Parade. We've undertaken this trip on two previous occasions, in 2011 and 2015. Both trips were huge successes and enjoyed by everyone.



Young Leaders: an important part of our Scouting in Claygate now and in the future



All our younger sections benefit from the involvement of Young Leaders at their regular weekly meetings. At present, we have 20 Young Leaders helping us to deliver our scouting programme.

But who are Young Leaders and what are they doing?

Young Leaders are generally Explorer Scouts who typically volunteer with a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or the Scout Troop (we also have some Young Leaders helping with the Junior Band and Paddle Sports). Once established, a Young Leader plays a full part in the leadership of the section's programme. A Young Leader receives highly practical, hands-on experience and training from our experienced adult section leaders.

Young Leaders work towards one of the Top Scouting Awards – the Young Leader Belt. This involves both (a) volunteering with a section and (b) completing the elements of the Young Leader Scheme. At the heart of the scheme is the practical involvement in the planning and delivery of the programme for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Over the last year I have been involved in reviewing how the Young Leader Scheme is organised in Surrey. We are now piloting a completely new way of delivering scheme in order to benefit our young people, the Young Leaders and the Group as a whole. Esher District was one of three Districts which started to test the implementation of the "Surrey YL Scheme" in September 2021. We have already made some adaptations following feedback and we now have 6 Districts delivering the Surrey YL Scheme. Our aim, provided the rest of the pilot is successful, is to make the new Surrey YL Scheme available to the whole county from September 2022.

The Surrey YL Scheme provides leadership training and other essential skills to the Young Leaders in Four Stages. The Young Leaders combine their weekly experience in meetings with relevant online training, via the Surrey Scouts website, and practical workshops to build their confidence and knowledge. We held a very successful Surrey Young Leader conference in October 2021 to deliver the first of these workshops and we have a second conference lined up for 13th March this year at Polyapes.

The first step for a new Young Leader is to complete a Foundation and Essentials Workshop which covers the essential learning on the Fundamentals and Values of Scouting, Safeguarding, some of our Policies and Rules, and the importance of Safety and Risk Assessments

After that the Young Leaders are asked to complete a Stage of the Surrey YL Scheme each term.

Stage 1 is all about Games and there is also learning on Behaviour and Inclusivity. Stage 2 looks at Activities, with Leadership, Teaching Skills and Communication being emphasised. Advanced First Aid training is also part of this Stage. Stage 3 moves onto programme planning and gaining ideas from our young people. Stage 4 then brings all this together with the organisation and delivery of part of the section programme.



The four Stages to become a Young Leader



Recognition is provided at the completion of each Stage: with an Acorn badge worn on the right arm of the uniform which is then surrounded by oak leaf strips as the Stages are finished. There is also a Woggle earned after Stage 1, a district scarf after Stage 2 and it all culminates with the award of the Young Leader Belt.



Sometimes a Young Leader is not an Explorer Scout and is volunteering only as part of their DofE. This has its limitations and we try to encourage all our volunteers to become Explorer Scout Young Leaders so that they can benefit fully from the opportunities of the Young Leader Scheme.

By delivering the Young Leader Scheme:

- we provide positive role models close in age and experience to the young people they are leading,
- support section leaders in delivering the programme
- create a pipeline of potential adult volunteers who have scouting skills and knowledge, and
- in term increase the number of young adult leaders.

For the Young Leaders themselves, they gain practical skills and leadership experience which will help them to stand out in day-to-day life and when applying for future jobs, apprenticeships, college or university places. Young Leaders will gain plenty of real examples of commitment, planning, organisation, communication and interpersonal skills, maturity, taking responsibility, determination and teamwork, which will enhance any CV.

Young Leaders benefit from the act of volunteering itself which studies show help to improve the mental health of young people. This service also satisfies the volunteering element of Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards and helps Young Leaders to complete their other Top Scouting Awards, including the Platinum and Diamond Chief Scout Awards and the Queens Scout Award.

The Adult Leaders are all hugely appreciative of the work the Young Leaders do for 1st Claygate and look forward to watching them develop their leadership skills in the future.

Jonathan Perkins

Assistant Cub Scout Leader & Esher District Young Leader Adviser



Fireworks Event



Another successful fireworks event!

This year the 400 tickets sold within days of being released, which is great. We were lucky that the rain held off and the ground was not too muddy. The display itself was very much enjoyed and we would like to thank Johnson's in the Parade for providing them at such a great price. The display was then followed by ever popular hot dogs and tomato soup, the sausages again coming from the Game Larder. The bar and crepes did a roaring trade.

Thanks for your support and we hope you join us again in November this year.

Remembrance Day Parade



Remembrance Day Parade

It was really great that we were all able to attend this event and with tremendous numbers. The scout parade walked from the war memorial to the mini roundabout and was led by our skilled Scout and Guide Band.

The village tuned out in force as well for the outside service where our members showed great respect. This year we did not attend the service in the church due to the Covid infection rates, however some members joined their families in the church after the parade finished.

Thanks to all those who attended and were a credit to our Scout Group.

Emoji Quiz: Answers



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| 1. The Cat in the Hat, by Dr Seuss | 7. Captain Underpants, by Dav Pilkey |
| 2. The Wizard of Oz, by L Frank Baum (more properly The Wonderful Wizard of Oz) | 8. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, by JK Rowling |
| 3. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, by CS Lewis | 9. Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr Seuss |
| 4. The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett | 10. The Tiger Who Came To Tea, by Judith Kerr |
| 5. Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott | 11. Alice Through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll |
| 6. Winnie The Pooh, by AA Milne | 12. Jungle Book, by Rudyard Kipling |



Lifesaving Defibrillator installed at Scout Centre

The executive committee is delighted to have successfully bid for funding to purchase a defibrillator which is now installed at the Scout Centre. Thanks to Councillor Mark Sugden, who allocated funds from the Surrey County Council Members' Community Allocation Fund.

The lifesaving machine is stored in the entrance lobby, under the stairs – as shown in the photograph. The cabinet is not locked, and the machine is ready for use (although we of course hope we never need it!). Please familiarise yourselves with its location the next time you're at the Scout Centre.

This semi automatic defibrillator intelligently guides the user with calm voice prompts and large clear illustrations which illuminate to highlight key commands. It comes with dual electrode pads which can be used on adults and children.

Since the machine is portable it can be available for Scout group off site activities such as camps, hikes and water sports.

The machine has also been registered with the Ambulance service, so that it may be accessible to the wider community during Scout Centre opening hours.

If you want to familiarise yourself with the defibrillator, there is useful information on the website: <https://www.ipad-aed.com/ipad-sp1/> (Note the model is an IPAD SP1 Semi automatic). Feel free to take a look at the machine, but ensure to leave it as you found it, and report any problems to the exec committee who are looking after the maintenance.

Useful information on what to do if you come across someone who is in cardiac arrest can be found on the British Heart Foundation website (including how to use a defibrillator): <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/how-to-use-a-defibrillator>

In the event of finding yourself faced with treating a suspected cardiac arrest, the most important thing is to first call 999 and start CPR. Send someone to grab the defibrillator and follow the simple steps to operate it.

1. Turn the defib on using the green button – it will start giving instructions
2. Attach the sticky pads on either side of the patient's chest
3. The defib will then analyse the patient's heart rhythm
4. If it decides a shock is required, it will tell you to hit the shock button (ensure no-one is touching the patient at this stage)
5. Defib will tell you if you need to restart CPR
6. Continue with CPR until the defib tells you stop so that it can analyse the heartbeat again

We hope we never need this, but it's great to have it available so that we have the best chances for a good outcome. Thanks once again to Councillor Mark Sugden for the allocation of funds.



Band - Calling New Members

The band continues to go from strength to strength, but is always looking for new people to join – whether you already play an instrument or are interested in learning one. The band runs a senior band for accomplished musicians, a junior band and a training band for those just beginning.

Band rehearsals take place on a Friday evening at Scout HQ. Band membership is open to all involved in the Scouting (cubs and older) and Guiding movements in Claygate.

If you are interested in joining, or just wish to find out more information, please contact Robin Wilkinson, our Band Leader, on 01372 464173 (robinwilkinson149@gmail.com).



Christmas Post



After a Covid-enforced absence in 2020, the Scouts Christmas post service was back in full operation in 2021. The process started in October, with a presentation from our chosen charity, The Besom, who support the homeless back into accommodation.



Come November, it was time to organise the whole troop into their respective delivery areas and to have the scouts agree the sorting and delivery schedule amongst themselves.

In early December, the distinctive yellow boxes were delivered to their hosts around the village and thanks to an army of parent helpers, were checked and emptied on a daily basis. The delivery schedule was slightly updated this year to provide a better opportunity for scouts to deliver the post safely during daylight hours either at the weekends or during school holidays. A sorting night sees the upstairs hall at the Scout Centre turned into a temporary post office, with rubber stamps being used to frank the envelopes and deliveries sorted into their various rounds.

The final stage is for the scouts to get out and about in the village putting cards through people's doors. Despite the two year gap, the whole process ran smoothly, with all cards safely delivered by the weekend before Christmas and a total of **£410 raised**.

Thanks again to all the scouts and parents who make this possible!



Sixer – Secondar Weekend



It was with some excitement that 27 Cubs arrived at the Scout Centre after lunch on Saturday 6th March clutching pillows and sleeping bags for a sixer – secondar training weekend. For many of the cubs this was their first opportunity to experience a night away as a cub, and for some it was the last opportunity as well, as a number will be moving to the Scout troop after Easter and have not had the opportunity to camp as cubs due to the restrictions linked to COVID-19. Our last overnight was run in March 2020 a couple of days before face-to-face scouting was suspended due to the COVID pandemic, so for all of us the weekend was something of a milestone.

The first activity of the weekend was an hour of challenges where the cubs, as a team, had to compete a number of tasks, earning points along the way. Challenges included making a table out of newspaper to hold a mug of water for 30 seconds, arranging a rope in a design blindfolded, making an origami cub shirt, identifying the items a cub would need on a day hike, pushing a woggle across the scout centre floor and learning to say some tongue twisters – all activities to encourage teamwork and team building. Some challenges were optional and some compulsory and some required all members of the team, and some could be completed by one team member alone. The session finished with the newspaper tables being tested outside, and amazingly they all managed to hold a mug of water for 30 seconds!

It was then onto cooking dinner outside over a fire – pasta and meatballs with carrots and beans, and rocky road which was served with ice cream for dessert. All the cubs remembered to put fairy liquid on the outside of the cooking pots before putting them on the fire to make them easier to clean afterwards, and everybody successfully cooked and cleared up their dinner, including the washing up! We were ably supported by parent volunteers and Young Leaders without which this part of the weekend would be impossible.

After dinner we were treated to a campfire led by Haithi – indoors because of the cold wind and threat of rain, and the cubs were soon singing many of our campfire favourites. It was then time to sort out beds and watch a film, “Cool Runnings” before settling down in the Hall to “sleep.”

Breakfast on Sunday (Cereal and Bacon Rolls,) was followed by a Scouts Own, where we thought about “doing our best”. We had a Rock Council where the sixers and seconders discussed the cub programme and made suggestions as to activities they would like to do in the future, and a game of Human Hungry Hippo. We then thought about the characteristics of a good sixer and secondar before a final game and flag down.

This weekend requires a huge amount of additional support and I would like to thank all the adult leaders, young leaders, and parents who joined us to make the weekend a success, and also the cubs for their enthusiasm and teamwork.

Katie Ernest, Akela-Lynx.

