



October 2023

GSL's Update



I firstly wanted to welcome everyone back to Scouting! As we prepare for the events occurring in the coming months it is great to see the young people back in the centre and bring so much life and energy with them.

As some of you have mentioned we did not produce a newsletter last term. On speaking to some of you the newsletter is a welcome item to receive and even more as it is produced as a printed copy, so it can be read and referred to.

This bumper newsletter has reports of all the activities that have kept our young people busy, both at weekends and at the weekly meetings since our last newsletter. I thought I would take the time to remind you of some of the other activities that have taken place in the last few months.

- We assisted the local community, by taking part in the **Claygate Clean Up**, organised by the parish Council.

- The Scouts took part in the **District Scout Day Hike**.

- We have helped put up and subsequent taking down of the union Jack flags around the village for the Coronation, assisting the **Claygate Village Association**.

We held a successful **plant sale** in May based on our pre-order and booked collection time, that seems to work very well, as many customers return year after year.



At the **Flower Show** we have our stall and the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band appear in the arena. Our Scouts and Explorers help with the distribution of tables and other items as part of setting the whole event.

We also had a **Jumble Sale** raising over £2,000 and as I mention this it is time to think of the one on 30th September 2023. We were discussing this in the summer and realised how much of a recycling event a Jumble Sale has become. All the items that arrive at the Jumble Sale are no longer required by their owner, and thus they are given a new lease of life by those who purchase them.

We then have a recycling company who come after the sale and collect items for recycling, this includes; electrical items, books, clothes and some other items. The rest is taken to a Surrey disposal site. In terms of recycling and being as sustainable as possible we will be getting the message out there for the future Jumble Sales.



Escapade 2023

Walton Firs, 23-25 June 2023



The Esher District Camp Escapade takes place once every 3 years and is a huge event for all Scout sections within the district. 48 Beavers from 1st Claygate took part in the event, of which 23 stayed overnight.

The Beavers arrived on the Saturday at 08.30.am. After the opening ceremony, the Beavers went around in groups of 8 with 2 adults. The mission was to try as many activities as possible and collect 10 different Scout symbols on their wristband to get a 2023 Escapade woggle.

Some of the Beaver's favourite activities were caving, crate stacking, laser quest, campfire popcorn, the maze, campfire sausage dampers, keyring making, assault course, "the last man standing".

The Beaver colonies took part in a tug of war. Best of 3 went into the next round. Congratulations to our 4 colonies for winning most of their heats.

After dinner we said our goodbyes to the day Beavers and had some quiet time making slider planes and telling jokes before attending the campfire sing along and watching funny sketches acted out by the different troop patrols. The evening ended in a firework display.

The Beavers enjoyed sleeping inside the huts in their pop-up tents. An event of this scale is simply not possible without the help of the many volunteers. I am going to try and name most of them. Apologies in advance if I have forgotten a team or individual.

The organising team of Esher District.

Our local team Mark, Hugh, Rex, Sue, David, Katie, Mark, Jonathan and Micheline for doing the organising and coordinating the logistics. Our treasurer and computer team Gary and Rhid.

DBS checks: Rosy

The leaders of each section attending on the day for Beavers : Rosy, François, Vina, Emma, Namatra, Tom, Chris , Micheline

John for organising the Campfire and the singalong.

Our 1st Claygate central catering team, Mark, Joanna, Gill, David, Sue, Rachel, John, Sam. Breakfast, snacks and dinner: pasta bolognese, peas, sweetcorn, cake and custard were enjoyed by all.

Last but not least our Beaver parent helpers who did a splendid job keeping our Beavers safe and well hydrated during this boiling hot day: Victoria, Simon, Gareth, Alexandra, Craig, Rebecca, Richard, Liam, Alex, Gemma, Ruth, Stuart, Heather, Lindsey, Ken, Kirsty, Matt.

Thank you for making this a memorable day for all.

The Beaver Leader Team





Scouts Escapade:

Escapade 2023 presented our scouts with an opportunity to have fun, and frolics at Walton Firs over the weekend of 23rd to 25th June. Despite the heat of a blazing sun for most of the weekend our young people engaged in a huge range of activities including obstacle courses, monkey bridges, water slides, fire lighting, Circus skills to name but a few as well as craft bases, plus even dipping hands into mystery boxes of slime and unknown items that challenged one's nerve.

The vast array of activities available are built and supervised by leaders often rotating many hundreds of participants through their offerings – we as a group built an “Aerial Runway” – which looks like a 40m Zip line however is cleverly engineered with ropes pulleys and bungee cords for deceleration – this was an extremely popular activity with queues throughout its operation. Congratulations to the all those who challenged themselves on this white knuckle ride and a huge thanks to the team delivering it.

As well as the serious fun available all weekend there were two serious competitions too, The District Air Rifle Shooting Competition and Archery Competition. Great representation across the district made these excellent events with the icing on the cake being our own 1st Claygate Archery Team comprising George Warriss, Jenny Smith and Emily Burton being victorious – Very well done !



Explorer's Escapade:

Escapade is a great event with many interesting and fun activities for all ages, and certainly for active Explorers. It is unfortunate then that it falls in the middle of exams for most Explorers. Nevertheless a number of Claygate and Esher District Explorer's attended on the Saturday, though most were unable to attend both days. Those that did attend had great fun. The Explorers were generally able to decide their own choice of activities and threw themselves (sometimes literally) at whatever was offered. The highlight for most was an Explorer only Paintball activity offsite at the local “Campaign” site. There was a lot of high-energy engagement, which given the heat and the overalls was quite remarkable. Many tales of “heroism” and “disaster” were shared on the mini-bus back home.

For most, after a shower, the opportunity to relax at the “camp fire” on Saturday, was very welcome.

Those who did stay over to the Sunday enjoyed a pleasant overnight camp in good weather and more activities on the Sunday morning, before helping with the clear-up. Overall a very impressive event for all ages and those Explorers able to attend thoroughly enjoyed it.



Cubs Escapade



For cubs a district cub camp in June is a usual part of the programme, but in 2023 we joined the all sections district camp ESCAPADE '23 so not only were we camping with cubs from the whole of Esher District but also with beavers, scouts and explorers too.

We arrived at Walton Firs as usual on the Thursday and pitched tents for the cubs who were joining us for the whole weekend including 2 nights camping. We had feared, due to leader availability that we would have to cap the number of cubs who camped, but this did not happen, and along with the cubs who joined us for the day on Saturday we had a total of 50 cubs attend.

The camp officially started with a camp opening on Friday evening and after some film shorts everybody settled in their camp sites for a night's "sleep". (Does anybody sleep well the first night on camp?) On Saturday, once the day visitors and beavers were on site we had a Flag Parade and Welcome with a flag bearer from each section on camp following the 3rd Molesey Band into the arena. It was then time for the activities to start – all the Walton Firs on-site activities were available including climbing, caving and crate stacking, the District had bought in a series of Giant inflatables including "Last Man Standing" and Human Table Football, and each group provided 2 or 3 activities – some adventurous, some craft based and of course the opportunity to do backwoods cooking of various types. 1st Claygate provided an aerial runway (run by the Troop and Explorer leaders), stomp rockets (run by the Beaver leaders), and key ring making (run by the cub leaders). There were two sessions, morning and evening and the cubs are allowed to go around the site with their friends and do whatever activities they want- although one or two activities are age restricted. For those who managed to collect ten different stamps for completing 10 different activities an Escapade 23 woggle could be claimed from camp HQ and it was quite surprising how early in the day some cubs managed to claim their woggle.

After a day of activities and a welcome supper of pasta bolognese our day visitors departed. There was then a concert on the main stage, followed by a camp fire and a firework display before everybody returned to their sites for another night's sleep ready for more activities on the Sunday morning. Following flag break, the cubs took part in cargo net tug of war and volleyball, and the Walton firs activities were again open. Then the 1st Claygate Band marched around the site collecting everybody on camp for a Scouts Own and Closing Ceremony and the end of camp. We ran our usual tent competition to support the cubs in looking after themselves the equipment and their property at camp, (and not to disturb others overnight) and as always the top sixes were separated by a whisker.

A camp of this size is not possible without the significant efforts of



a large number of people – including volunteer leaders at Group and District level and parent volunteers, and huge thanks to everybody who contributed, both to the planning which started early in the year, getting kit out on Wednesday to putting the kit away on Sunday. Giving up your time is very much appreciated. Not least by the cubs themselves. The central catering team ensured we had plenty of drinks on a hot, dry weekend, when this was essential, as well as food – thank-you.

Thank you to all those mentioned in the reports by the other sections attending the camp and thank you to the cub leaders and parents who supported the camp in whatever capacity including Catherine, Sue, Alistair, Rob, Jeremy, Claire, Phil, Liana, Sam, Gerry, Lizzie, Amanda, Adrian, John-Kai and Steve.



Group Activity Weekend

Beavers:

This year more than 50 beavers attended GAW, where we all became nature detectives for the weekend. In the beautiful sunshine, we cooked bug toast on an open fire, made a pooter to suck up creepy crawlies, designed a insect hotel, created natural art, became an expert archer and made a catapult. After dinner we wash up our own plates and then went and sang campfire songs around the fire. As it got dark we settled down to watch a film before hot chocolate and bed, sleeping in our tent pod. We all had a fabulous time and enjoyed, for many, our first night away from home.

Lucy Stimson Merlin BSL Willow



Scouts:

The event brought together 46 enthusiastic scouts, divided into 9 patrols, along with 12 dedicated leaders who generously volunteered their time. Special thanks go to Nick Waddingham and Helen Maguire for their invaluable assistance as parent helpers throughout the weekend.

A wide range of engaging activities were organised, ensuring an action-packed and memorable experience for all participants. The older Scouts eagerly took on the challenge of building their own bivvies, only to find themselves evicted by pesky insects after just an hour of sleep. The thrill of archery was also on the itinerary, providing the Scouts with an opportunity to develop their focus and precision. Camp skills were emphasised, with practical lessons on building a wet pit for food waste, constructing camp gadgets, and mastering camp site layout. Axe and saw training further enhanced the Scouts' outdoor skills. Orienteering played a prominent role, as Assistant section leader Mark H expertly designed a course that spanned the sprawling Polyapes grounds. Semaphore training proved to be an intriguing challenge for the Scouts, honing their communication skills and fostering teamwork. Pioneering activities centred around the construction of an obstacle course, symbolising the transition from cubs to scouts. This project not only showcased the Scouts' creativity and engineering prowess, but also provided a tangible representation of their personal growth.



One of the highlights of the weekend was the lively and entertaining campfire sketches. Performances brimming with humour and talent captivated the entire group, eliciting spontaneous bursts of applause. In addition, exhilarating wide games such as "find the explorer scout" and "capture the hat" were enjoyed by all, taking place amidst the tranquil beauty of the surrounding woods. Promoting leadership and responsibility, the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders assumed the task of planning menus, purchasing food, and overseeing the preparation and cooking on open fires. Afterwards, they diligently carried out clean-up duties and proudly presented their efforts during inspections.

Our thanks to Assistant Scout Leader Bob, a skilled First Aider, found himself fully occupied tending to the inevitable minor cuts and bruises that come along with an active weekend in nature.

The combination of adventurous activities, engaging performances, and opportunities for personal growth made for a memorable event that will undoubtedly be cherished by the Scouts for years to come and deliver valuable experience for Summer Camp 2024 which will be held in the picturesque hamlet of Appletreewick near Skipton in North Yorkshire on the 27th of July until the 3rd of August.



Crew Change in the Car Park

In the spring, the group said goodbye to a long serving member. She was very active within the group – never missing a camp, canoeing expedition or DofE hike for 14 years. On a cold winter's morning she might take a bit of encouragement to get going, but once she was on the go, we always knew we could rely on her....

I am of course talking about our white Maxus minibus! The registration 'KFC' made it particularly popular with some! It developed a major fault, which was not economic to repair, so it had to be taken off the road.

This meant we had to expedite our plans to replace the bus. Fortunately these plans had already been discussed, and we were able to start looking for a replacement immediately. This is where all our ongoing fund-raising efforts paid off – so thanks to everyone who has helped at jumble sales, beer festival, plant sales etc – this is how your support really helps the group! With our existing funds and some kind donations, including from Kenneth Green Associates, we were able to quickly purchase a replacement. (but watch out – I'm sure Hugh will be chasing soon to get those funds built back up again!)

In July, Hugh drove the new bus back from the supplier in Exeter, and we're really pleased with it!

The bus is a 6 year old Citroen Relay, which is effectively the same model as our Blue Peugeot Boxer, under a different brand name. This means that anyone who is familiar with driving the blue bus should recognise the controls of the new bus.

Both buses are classified as 'minibus lite' – these are specially converted vehicles which are designed to be driven with a standard car drivers' licence. Normally, drivers that passed their test after 1st January 1997 do not automatically have a D1 minibus category on their licence – so this would restrict their ability to drive a regular minibus, however they are able to drive our minibus lite. These vehicles are popular with schools and community groups because they help with driver flexibility and avoids the costs of getting drivers through a D1 test. In addition to this, the buses are wheelchair accessible.

So we welcome our newest member to the group and look forward to all the exciting activities that it will allow us to do. If you see our buses around the village, give us a peep and a wave!

In addition to this, over the Summer we have had the blue bus in for some care and attention. Over 10 years of service the paintwork was getting a little tired, and some narrow access tracks to campsites had taken their toll! These minor repairs have been done, and the bus is now back in great condition.

Let's make sure we all take extra care of the buses – we are lucky to have these resources and they are not cheap!

For those involved in booking the group vehicles, we will shortly be moving to a new online booking form. It's very similar to what we have used previously, but you might notice some minor differences – any queries to transport@claygatescouts.org.



Explorers Scotland



This year the Explorers Unit was lucky enough to go to Scotland on our annual summer camp, it was 10 days filled with camping, walking, adventure and lots more. We departed Claygate early on Saturday to beat the summer holiday traffic; although we knew we were in for a long drive to Glasgow, the drive was filled with singing, chatting and even the odd game.

Our overnight stop was in 121st Glasgow Scout Hut, for dinner we had a Scottish classic of fish 'n chips and some interesting battered pizza for some members of the group. After six more hours driving the following day, we arrived in Morvich, where the minibus would be parked for the duration of our stay. It was a team effort to build and pack the trek cart with all our food, tents and other equipment. After a quick lunch stop in the car park, we transported the trek cart and all our kit two hours by foot to the Hut.



We stayed in a Scottish walking hut called a Bothy, named the Glen Licht memorial hut, which acted as our base camp, it had recently been refurbished and included: a composting toilet, kitchen area, living area with fireplace and water source outside (straight from Highland springs). On one of our day trips we walked 10km along the Highlands Way to a public Bothy, luckily no other walkers were staying that night and we had the place to ourselves. Surprisingly we fitted eleven explorers on one bunk bed: seven on the top bunk and four on the bottom bunk. The following day we ventured off the beaten track and up a mountain Beinn fhada, a strenuous climb yet the stunning views made it worth it once we reached the top. Arriving back at base camp in the evening for a well-deserved dinner after two days of steep hiking.

To keep ourselves entertained we went swimming in the river (which was absolutely freezing) and created our own version of highland games which included : javelin, tossing the caber, shot put, hill climbs, and other team games. During our attempt at the Games, we met some Belgian walkers who showed us a kilt they had found earlier on their walk and some of our more fashionable explorers tried it on. On one of the following days we walked back to the minibus for a day trip to Skye; we visited the beach, gift shops, hydroelectric dam and did a very important food shop. We ate the best fish n chips, especially after six days of only dried or tinned food, for dinner before heading back to Morvich and a quick walk back to the hut. As we had been food shopping just the day before we had picked up some haggis for dinner, thus creating the somewhat traditional dish of penne pasta and haggis, which was enjoyed by the majority.

In the following days Graham made us walk up a few more mountains, one of which yielded incredible views of the waterfalls and the dramatic Scottish landscape. Other walks ended with torrential rain and biting wind, before being called off due to hypothermia





risks. Everyone was much happier once we were off the mountain with a hot chocolate back in the hut and a good night sleep indoors. We did manage to bivouac one night, across the river from the hut, we enjoyed watching shooting stars and trying to savour the beautiful views of the valley at night, truly an incredible experience.

Our penultimate day started at 5:30 with a walk to the minibus, however, we were rewarded by a wonderful sunrise. We drove out of the highlands and onto the motorway. Our final night consisted of a dinner we didn't have to cook ourselves, which was appreciated and we slept in a Scout Hut which was on route.



None of this would have been possible without our amazing Explorer leaders who have not only given up their time to go with us on the trip but a considerable amount of preparation time, which made it such a great trip. We really wouldn't be able to do any of the amazing things we do in the Explorer unit without them. Huge thanks and onto Morocco 2024!

Written by Nicole and Evie (Unit Exec)



SCRAM 23

A large number of Claygate Cubs joined over 3,000 Cub Scouts, Brownies and leaders from across Surrey for a day of fun and adventure at SCRAM which was held in Hook Arena, Epsom on Saturday 17th June 2023.

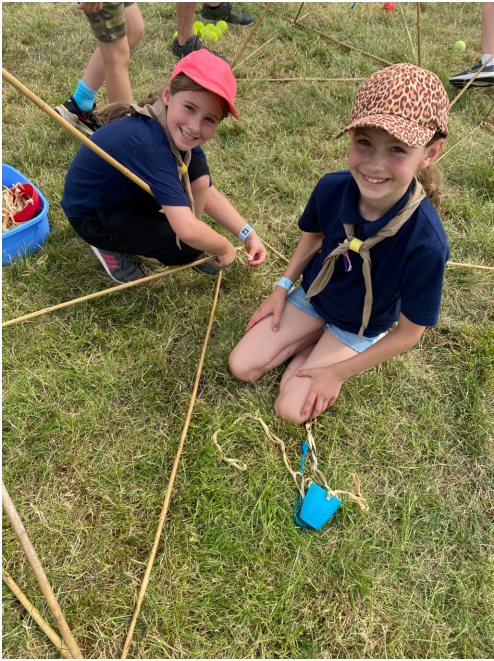
Cub Scouts and Brownies were able to try many new and large activities that cannot be organised in groups or districts as well as being able to mix with Cubs and Brownies from other districts.

Over 200 activities were on offer including pedal karts, high ropes, bungee trampolines, Assault course Wire, bungee running and zorbing as well as smaller activities like making popcorn, Grand Prix table game, firing water rockets and much more. The Claygate activity was making key rings out of paracord. As well as having fun and enjoying the activities on offer, many activities taught them #skills for life.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and it was great for our young people to see how scouting is thriving across Surrey. Many thanks to the parents and leaders who gave up a Saturday to give the Cubs such an excellent experience.

Jonathan Perkins, Mang ACSL Lynx Pack





Kix 23

Expedition to Kandersteg



A group of 33 Scouts and 8 leaders joined around 630 scouts from all over Surrey to travel to the International Scout Camp at Kandersteg in Switzerland. Thirteen coaches left Cobham services on Friday evening, arriving early afternoon Saturday. 1st Claygate had their own campsite area allocated and we pitched our tents and explored the huge campsite. The Scouts met up with lots of Scouts from Spain, Portugal, Italy and Canada and well as plenty from Surrey.

We had a packed programme of activities planned for the week, the first of which was rafting on the fast-flowing Aare river from Thun to Bern. This was a favourite activity of many of the Scouts, who spent more time out of the boats than in them!

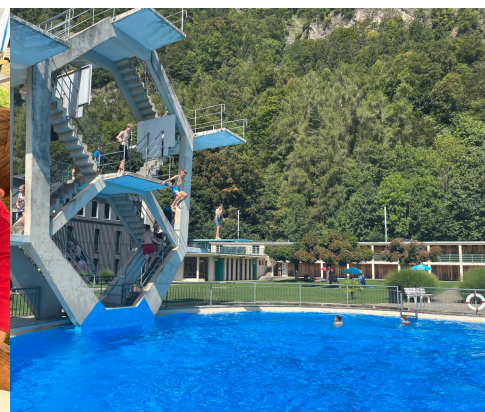
On Monday we did our high walks in the spectacular mountains around the Kander valley. We split into three groups with some climbing the imposing Gaellhorn peak, some climbing to the Cheesery at 1850m and another group trekking to the Lake at the Gemmipass. It was a tough day for all in 30-degree heat but we were rewarded with some amazing views (and cheese!).

On Tuesday we hiked at lower level down the valley to the picturesque Blausee, with a quick trip to Kandersteg village on the way back. On Wednesday we travelled to Interlaken where we had some time in the very impressive lido where the Scouts showed off their skills on the diving boards followed by a trip to the high-ropes course nearby.

On Thursday we hiked up to the beautiful Oeschinensee lake where the Scouts splashed around before heading off to the toboggan run. We came down to Kandersteg the easy way by gondola lift. On Friday we had another swimming pool trip, this time in Kandersteg village. In the afternoon we were on-duty to do jobs around the camp. Our assigned task was buttering lots of bread for the scouts to make their sandwiches for the trip home.

The final activity on the Friday evening was the international campfire where the Surrey Scouts were joined by groups from Portugal, Spain and Germany. On Saturday it was down with the tents and on to the coaches for the journey home, arriving at Cobham at around 8 am.

Thanks to the team from Surrey for organising a fantastic week of adventure for so many Surrey Scouts. The 1st Claygate Scouts had an amazing week of truly memorable experiences. Another expedition is planned for 2026.





Our Band - time to join?

Last year was another very successful year for the band. Highlights included our amazing trip to (and performance at) Disneyland Paris, taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show in central London and our annual concert performance attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. Looking ahead to this term, we have once again been selected to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show and we will also lead a parade at the Brookwood Military Cemetery, in addition to a range of events in Claygate for Remembrance Sunday and in support of the Village's Christmas celebrations. So we have lots to do to ensure we're prepared for this wide range of events and to ensure every single band member can play their part.

Another highlight from last year was welcoming a number of new members to the band - some entirely new to music and others who had been playing an instrument for just a few weeks or months. We are now wanting to grow the band even further to ensure we can continue to be successful for many many years to come.

Here are a few of the questions I'm often asked about the band:

Do I need to play an instrument before I can join?

Absolutely not. We're very experienced at helping people new to music to take up a new instrument and thrive in the band. We can also signpost you to a number of tutors for lessons should you want to do so.

I don't have an instrument. How do I get one?

The band has many instruments in store which can be loaned out free of charge.

What about if I've played an instrument for a number of years - will the band also be enjoyable for me and stretch me musically?

Yes! Definitely. We run a training, junior and senior band with music to suit the full range of abilities - from the very beginner to those studying for their grade 8.





What instruments are in the band?

All woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. But if you currently play the piano or string instrument please get in touch and I can talk to you about options that may be available.

When does the band rehearse?

Every Friday evening, from 7pm

How do I find out more?

Please contact me, Robin Wilkinson (Band Leader) on 07986 575614 / robinwilkinson149@gmail.com

Young Leaders and Adult Leaders

We are also looking to attract more young leaders and adult leaders to support the band. We have a very friendly leadership team and we make sure Friday rehearsals are enjoyable for all. So if you play an instrument - or know someone locally who does - and you are interested in getting involved, I would love to hear from you. Supporting this great group of local young musicians is very rewarding and by getting involved you'll play an important part in supporting the band's long term success.

Very few Scout Groups across the country have a Scout Band so we are very lucky here in Claygate to have a band and one that is thriving and fully supported by the Group. I hope many of you - young people and adults - will consider joining as band members or leaders. I look forward to hearing from you

Robin Wilkinson

Band Leader



Paddlesports 2023



Finally, a year that has felt more 'normal' for being able to provide paddlesport within Claygate Scouts. This year the team has been working hard to open more opportunities for our young people.

Following our success running taster sessions for the scout troop in the summer term of 2022, we carried that on into 2023 with over 40 of the scout troop attending the taster sessions in 2023.

We also managed to fit in both a Paddle Discover and Paddle Explore course throughout the summer term. The Paddle discover course is focused on beginner paddlers and getting them onto the water to learn the basics of boat control, stability, and the core fundamentals of paddling. The Paddle Explore course is then designed to further the learning process and introduce more skills towards the intermediate paddler.

The explore course is on-going and in September we are going on our annual Symonds Yat trip. This trip introduces white water to the paddlers and requires the learning of complex paddle strokes and furthers development towards the White-Water Award, which we plan to get back up and running over the winter.

Alongside the paddling courses, the leaders also ran a couple of taster sessions for the Explorer unit, including a fun games session and, on a very rainy evening, a trip along the Wey canal from Pyrford to Addlestone.



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

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.

Fundraising: Beer Festival

The 5th Beer festival took place on the first weekend of September and has quickly become a regular fixture in the Claygate Community. Over 1,000 adults enjoyed over 40 beers, 6 ciders, 6 gins and 3 wines, and on the Saturday family afternoon over 150 children enjoyed playing in our extensive grounds and sliding down our free bouncy slide.

The atmosphere throughout was terrific, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves - helped once again by dry, warm weather, and further heat was generated on Saturday night when the local band Retrosonic entertained the biggest crowd of the two days.

The Festival would not be possible without the significant amount of preparation undertaken by the core team - this year David, John, Nigel, Kathryn and Rhid. And on the Festival days by the amazing kitchen teams led by Debbie, Ed, Robin and Rachel, the crepe-making led by Lydia and Isla and of course to all of the parent helpers who came along to serve beer, cider, gin and wine and to manage the entrance and the cash desk.

Our grateful thanks to them all!

Other fundraising events coming up:

This is a busy term for our fundraising. Having started with the Beer Festival, we next hold the Jumble Sale at the Scout Centre on 30th September followed by Group Fireworks for Scouting families on 4th November.

Then our Christmas activities start with avengance: helping put up Christmas trees around the village on 18th November; running the Scouts' stall at the Christmas Lights switch-on on 25th November; sorting then delivering 500 Christmas trees to addresses around Claygate on 2nd, 9th and 16th December; and supporting the sorting and delivery of the Christmas Post and singing carols with the band around the Village (dates TBC).

We need as much help from parents as we can get for all these activities, so please do volunteer on the help rotas online as soon as you are advised of the sign-up codes.



Cubs GAW



GAW this year was held at Polyapes. We've not camped as a group at Polyapes since before Covid-19 so it was nice to be back in our usual camping space on a site known so well by the leaders and older members of the group. Yes, it held challenges, but the weekend was a great success. Cubs had several first-time campers this year who met these new experiences head on! Well done everyone! We also welcomed a large number of Cub day visitors to join us for the Saturday activities.

Our theme this year was mini beast. Tents were named after either a butterfly or moth and cubs got to search out what other creatures were sharing the space with us. Along with some traditional scouting skill activities, the Cubs were able to complete the majority of the Naturalist Activity Badge. We have been working on the remaining elements of the badge during the summer and into the first couple of weeks of this term.

During our Sunday Scouts Own we awarded several silver awards and said goodbye to Cubs now Scouts. Their challenge to move up was tackled in different ways.

It was great to see so many members on site for a fun filled weekend. Thank you to all the leaders and adult supporters for giving up their time to help over the weekend, whether to help with the setup, cooking, activities or pack down.

Akela
Lion Pack





Beaver Leadership Help Needed



The Beaver Colonies have vacancies in the Leader Teams. Beaver parents have been great at stepping forward to attend weekly meetings as Section Assistants but after 2 years when their children move to cubs they often have to step down. We are now looking for people whose children are older and would be prepared to make a longer commitment to Scouting in the Group of say 3-5 years as part of the Leadership Team

There are currently 6 in the team but we will be losing an experienced leader at Christmas and would like a Lead and Deputy for each colony, ie 8 in total as a minimum.

It's a lot of fun and you will get lots of support from the existing team and from our Section Assistants and Young Leaders.

If you would like to give something back to the Group please contact Hugh

gsl@claygatescouts.org



Scouts 
1st Claygate