



## 13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, August 2021

### St Saviour's Fun Day – put it in your diaries!

A chance to have fun for all the family and showcase the Scout Group. After the travails of the past year, and before winter sets in, St Saviour's are running a Family Fun Day to invigorate the local community and showcase some of the activities that take place there. The 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Scout Group has always met at St Saviours and has supported its annual Spring and Christmas Fairs for many years.

We have committed to running the side shows which usually feature at these events and the BBQ. We will be looking for a few parents to do a shift on the BBQ stall to assist John Bennett who has been the BBQ chef at the Spring Fair for many years!

We also plan to run children's games and activities on the lawn, a tug o' war competition and various displays of scouting activities PLUS a **Bake-off Competition** for those aged 10 to 14 and 15 to 17.

The Bake-offs run by the Scouts during lockdown proved very popular and were later extended to the District and County. **Anyone aged 10 to 17 in the parish, or indeed nearby but attending the Fair, may enter.** £10 prizes will be awarded for the cakes judged by an independent team of judges to be the best in the 10 to 14 and 15 to 17 age categories, and £5 to the runners up.

The themes, recipes and rules that entries must conform to can be found here. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/j6x06fzjveqo11ozsjdtz/St-Saviour-s-Summer-Fair-Bake-Off-2021-FINAL.doc?dl=0&rlkey=30nyvy5k3h3z5lymav4om4m3y>.

To enter you will need to register here: <https://forms.gle/RkLUn7cXTebd9Dm56>.

Your entry must be presented at the Fun Day between 12.00 noon and 2.30 pm where they will be allocated a number so that the judges will not know whose cakes they are judging.

Good luck and prepare to get baking!

PS: If anyone would like to donate sweets and bottles for the tombola stalls to support St saviour's in maintain the hall and grounds that we all use, there is a large box in the Narthex. The church is always open every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon and on Sundays for the said service at 11.30 as well as at other times too.

## Group gets outdoors

All four sections held their meetings outdoors last term and were generally lucky with the weather.

The **Cubs and Scouts** took part in separate district Cyclocross events at Frylands Wood Scout Campsite in May. Each were timed as they navigated separate courses over rough paths. Congratulations to those who took part and particularly Eric and Elijah who achieved joint second place in the under 9 ½ Cub competition, Thomas Murray and Lucas Jones who achieved 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places respectively in the under 12 ½ Scout competition and Jack Murray who was the overall winner in the Scout over 12 ½ category.



**Scouts' Cyclocross**



**Cubs' Cyclocross**



In June the **Scouts** held a two-day skills camp at Boidierhurst though, due to Covid restrictions, Scouts had to go home Saturday evening and return Sunday morning. Nonetheless twenty-four Scouts attended for at least one of the days to learn outdoor cooking, fire lighting, navigation and use of knives, axes and saws as well as first aid, in case of any of the other skills misfired! Thanks to the leaders of the all the sections in the Group for their support at the camp.

By July Covid restrictions had eased and the **Scouts and Explorers** were able to hold a summer camp although continued restrictions on the numbers that could be in camp together meant the week at Garner's field, near Farnham, was split in two with Scouts camping the first four days and the Explorers the last four days.

Despite often very heavy showers, spirits were high. The Scouts cooked all their breakfasts and dinners on fires, and were able to canoe and kayak on the River Wey, build rafts, participate in shooting and archery, go on hikes and visit the Spectrum leisure pool in Guildford.



**Skills camp: Patrol cooking and eating freshly grown spaghetti**



**Summer camp site**





**Kestrel patrol**



**Kayaking on the River Wey**



**Rafting**

The **Explorers** hiked to, and went swimming in, Frensham Great Pond and visited the Spectrum as well as Go Ape just a few miles away.



**Explorers at Go Ape**



**Walking the A-Frame**



**At Waverley Abbey**

By coincidence, the 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scout troop were camping at the same site for the week, led by Nick Betterley who was an ASL with the 13<sup>th</sup> from 1995 to 2005. Skip and Nick had much to catch up on and we were able to participate in joint activities including two campfires.



**Frisbee Golf**



**Bowls**



**Football training session**

The **Cubs** also took on a badge which they had never done before. Bagheera arranged for Faith in Action, a local charity, to give a talk on their work with the homeless in Merton. Cub Scout Ben Grogan took the whole idea to heart and launched a collection of clothes. By the end of term, he had collected 4 large bags of clothes and the plan is to carry on the collections in the Autumn term. So, if you have clothes suitable for homeless people to help keep them dry and warm during the autumn and winter months, please bring them along to a cub meeting. Well done Ben, the Pack's Community Impact Champion!





Maintaining the tradition of excellence in navigation, the **Explorers** boys team took first place in the County Day Flare competition hiking around the Surrey hills.

The girls' team came a creditable 10<sup>th</sup> against tough competition with a navigation error early on costing it a number of places.



**SSESU Day Flare teams**

Due to Covid restrictions, the Annual District Sports Day had to be cancelled for the second year running as was the Cubs District Football Competition. Nevertheless, the **Cubs** made up for it with a variety of sporting related activities. Members of the Raynes Park Vale FC come along and give them a training session. The pack may not have got to a final, like England, but they all had a lot of fun. They also had a go at the Athletics badge and ran a frisbee golf championship and finished the term with a session of bowls with Merton Bowling Club. The **Beavers** too had great fun frolicking around in the sun. They put up tents, played games, ran and jumped in an athletics competition, learnt about using compasses for navigation, had a water fight, and learnt first aid. Indeed, all the Beavers went home and put their parents into the recovery position!

For everything he has done for the Scout Group over the last 9 years, Steve ('Owl') was awarded the Chief Scouts' Commendation for Good Service by the new GLSW County Commissioner, Owen Purcell. Warmest congratulations to Steve and thanks for all his excellent work.



**Pitching tents**



**Being invested**



**The recovery position**



**Water lot of fun!**



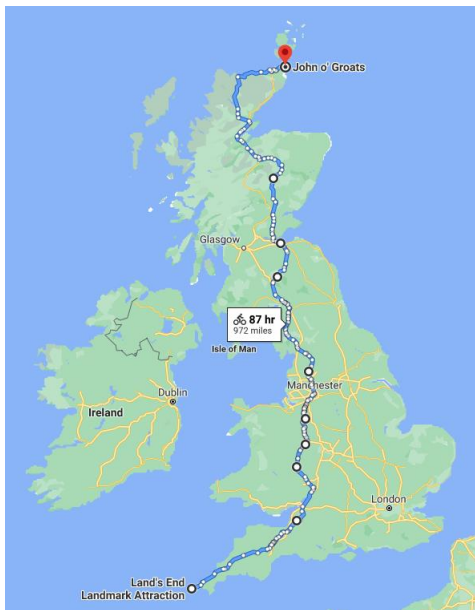
**Owl gets award**

## **Luke (Scout) and Alexander (Cub) cycle the length of Britain**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Luke and Alexander Harper set off on an adventure of a lifetime, to cycle the length of Britain from Land's End to John o' Groats. For good measure they took their parents, ASL Nick and Sue. 15 days and just under 1,000 miles later, they reached their destination. The trip was Nick's idea having missed out on the chance to do it with friends some years previously, and it seemed like just the kind of relaxing holiday the family deserved after the trials of Covid!

From reading Luke's excellent daily blog, it seems they had mostly good weather, experienced the Best of British landscape views, ate lots of pastries and learnt why you need plenty of bug repellent when you reach the Scottish Highlands. The family were sponsored to support the mental health charity, Mind. Luke and Alexander will be reporting back on their adventures to the Scouts and Cubs when they return in September.

Well done Team Harper!





## Cricket Green School Adventure day a great success

The **Explorers** were able to run their adventure day for pupils of Cricket Green School at Walton Firs in July. Both Explorers and pupils were disappointed that the event had to be cancelled last year but this year's event more than matched the original one of 2018 with archery, crate stacking, climbing, a muddy adventure course and much more besides.

Well done Explorers. A job really well done.



## AGM: Group in Good Health Despite the Pandemic

At the Group's Annual General Meeting, held online in June this year, Group chairman, Ashley Coups, thanked the leaders for keeping the momentum going despite the challenges of running meetings during the pandemic. He also thanked and Charlotta Bolton, who stepped down as Group Secretary for doing a great job over the past five years, and Patrick Daly who, as Group Treasurer, has helped to ensure our finances are in good shape.

Despite the restrictions, numbers during 2020 remained stable across the sections apart from some drop-off in the Scouts, although these are expected to recover over the coming months.

Skip, speaking as Group Scout Leader, thanked parents Tiffany Aasen and Anna Colebourne for stepping forward to become Section Assistants with the Cub pack. He praised the support given by parents that over many years and said how it had been crucial to delivering vibrant programmes and providing more opportunities for young people to be challenged and to try new activities. Over the years parents registered as Occasional Helpers or Section Assistants have allowed us to run more adventurous and successful Beaver, Cub and Scout meetings and camps, the Scouts and Explorers to run more adventurous mountain trips to Snowdonia and even to Austria, and the Group to assist in running district events such as the annual sports day and incident hikes.

He also announced various role changes. Anthony Chilcott, who has been Assistant Scout Leader since 2017, has now been appointed Scout Leader, (a role Skip officially relinquished when he took on the role of GSL in 2010). He (Skip) has also been asked to take on the role of Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts in Greater London Southwest although part of a condition of the appointment was that he should continue to be Group Scout leader and actively involved in the running of the Troop.

Alex Swain, who is currently Assistant Explorer Scout Leader in the SS Explorer Scout Unit and Assistant Cub Scout Leader in the 13<sup>th</sup>, has also taken up the position as Deputy County Commissioner responsible for communications. Alex has been crucial in our delivery of programmes under lockdown and in mastering online technologies such as Zoom and Teams and Google documents to the benefit of the Group, District and County.

### **The normal reminder about subs**

Finally, subs for the Autumn 2021 term are due by the end of September. If you have not yet paid subs, please could you do so, preferably online, and inform your section leader you have done so. Payment of £35 for the term or £95 for the year in advance should be paid to:

**Account Name: 13th Wimbledon Scout Group**

**Sort Code: 30-91-35**

**Account Number: 03230034**

**Bank: Lloyds**

**Reference -**

Please provide as a reference: 'Subs' then 'B/C/S' depending on section then surname e.g., SubsBSmith would be subs paid for a beaver surname 'Smith'.

NB bank details for Explorer subs are different.

### **Skip**