



# Scouts

13th Wimbledon Scout Group & St Saviour's ESU



## 13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, January 2022

### Back to Celebrating Christmas

Having missed out on the Group Carol Service due to Covid 19 last year, the Group were determined to get back to celebrating Christmas in 2021. Despite the emergence of the Omicron variant, 157 people attended the annual Christmas celebration at St Saviour's with all those aged over 11 masked up. Carols were sung, Beavers bantered, Cubs recited their version of 'twas the Night before Christmas, the Explorers presented their version of The Crumble Song and the Scouts performed a mini-musical version of a specially written song called 'Being a Scout'. Awards were then presented, (including Chief Scout Silver Awards to six of the Cubs and 5-year service awards to leaders Tom Jones, Explorers, Anthony Chilcott, Scouts and Guy Rostron, Cubs), before the adults retired to enjoy refreshments in the church hall and the Scouts lead teams of Cubs and Beavers in Operation Sugar Rush. A good time was had by all!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to its success.



Beavers about to banter



'Twas the Night before Christmas



'Being a Scout!'



The Crumble Song

## Explorers Win Red Flare, Again

The St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit won the highly competitive Red Flare competition again this year. Since 2015 our team have won the competition three times and come second twice. It involves walking through the night from checkpoint to checkpoint normally across the Surrey or Sussex hills. This year it was particularly gruelling navigating a 13.7-mile course on a particularly cold and windy November night. Twenty-three teams started the event but only nine finished.



Well done SSESU!

## Cooking Competition Hat Trick

The Scouts won the County Cooking Competition for the third year running, the first troop to have done so in the history of the competition. Twenty-one teams competed, each producing a three-course meal with the theme of 'Continents of the World'. The 13<sup>th</sup> entered two teams both of which produced excellent meals.



The winning team

Also a great 13<sup>th</sup> performance

## Beavers Blast off

The Beaver colony received a boost of new members last term and the programme focused on teamwork, adventure and getting outdoors in the mud as much as they could!

They went international, tackling the international badge, which included a highly successful food evening.

But their adventures were not confined to planet earth, blasting off into their own Beaver Solar System, learning about black holes, Astro navigation and creating moon craters with flour and cocoa.



Thanks to Young Leaders Ruby, Maya and Luke for helping to blast the beaver programme into the stratosphere, for which they were rewarded with their Young Leader Awards.



**Beavers learn about food from around the world**



**Luke's cycling adventure talk**



**Drawing poppies for Remembrance**



**Christmas Party Fun**

## Cubs Take an International Perspective

The Cubs also had a strong international theme to their meetings last term. As part of their international badge, they had a grand howl performed in Hindi and Yoruba.

They also prepared presentations to tell the rest of the Pack about Scouting in other countries, with one Cub turning up in his grandfather's Irish Scout uniform. They had a food night where parents and Cubs brought in food from around the world for everyone to try, including dumplings from China and from Poland, which both tasted like, well dumplings, but it was the sauce that made the difference.



**Comparing uniforms**



**International delicacies**

Chil took the *Chilie Challenge* (ugh!), followed by Irish soda bread (apparently very good for dowsing the heat caused by the chillies!). The Cubs had string hoppers with jaggery (a kind of sugar cane from India/SE Asia). The north American angle was covered by Pumpkin Pie and corn bread, and borscht

(something to do with beetroots) was the submission from eastern and central Europe. Thanks to the parents who made it such a hit. All very delicious – I am glad I chose that evening to visit the Pack!

Although not strictly international, one of our cubs gave a talk on his cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats over the summer, reported on in the Autumn newsletter.

They also enjoyed a magic night and finished off the term with a game of glow in the dark croquet on Prince George's Field followed by hot chocolate and, decadently, squirty cream and marshmallows. Sweet!

## **Crossover Camp**

In September, twenty cubs and younger Scouts participated in our Crossover camp.

This has now become an annual event where the Cubs due to move up to, or having newly joined, the Scouts, along with new joiners who had not been Cubs, are able to learn some of the basic outdoor skills of Scouting.

Several of the Cubs were also able to finish their Outdoor Challenge Award.



**Scouts take a break during their hike**

## **A Return to the Mountains**

After two years without a trip to the mountains, an intrepid group of Scouts and Explorers ventured off to the Brecon Beacons at the end of October. The weather can be very unpredictable at that time of year. They travelled in heavy rain arriving in the dark and were delighted to find that Nigel and Alex Swain had arrived early and pitched all the tents. Saturday saw much improved weather and a walk virtually devoid of rain, walking from the site up to Fan Y Big and beyond.

The evening brought more rain which meant the tentage had to be shared out for drying; all part of the adventure!



**Exploring the Brecon Beacons**



## Fun Day a lot of Fun

St Saviours ran a Family Fun Day in September to invigorate the community after the travails of the previous year. The Scouts ran free side shows which awarded points for performance towards a chocolatey reward. They also taught Scouting skills and organised a bake-off for 10-14 and 15-17 year olds. The Guides set up a crazy golf course and some of the other hall users put on drama and ballet displays. A tug o'war saw the girls beating the boys and the mums beating the dads. All a great deal of fun and deemed a great success. It also raised much needed funds for the upkeep of the church which has been hard hit by the pandemic.

Thanks to all those members and families from across the Group who helped to make it such a success.



Fun in the stocks



The girls show how to win the tug o'war



Chil and Owl showing how to handle poisonous snakes



Some of the bake-off entries

## 13<sup>th</sup> Hopes High for World Jamboree

Every four years a different country hosts a World Scout Jamboree. The last such event was held in North America and Mexico, and the one before that in Japan, with members from our Scout group attending each one. The next one is to be held in South Korea in 2023.

18 places have been allocated to the Wimbledon & Wandle Scout district, of which we are a part, and 14 of our Scouts/Explorers have applied to go.



**25 World Scout Jamboree**

Tuesday 1 – Saturday 12 August 2023 - Korea

Along with those who have applied from other groups in the district, they will attend an event in January where they will be introduced to the kinds of activities they would be taking part in at the jamboree. After that, the lucky ones will be selected at random. They then have 18 months of team building and fund raising before flying off for the 2-week adventure.

We wish them all the best of luck.

## The Group Remembers

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers attended and presented flags and planted crosses at the Annual Remembrance Day Service at St Saviour's this year. The Explorers attended the service in Wimbledon Village along with other Explorer Scout units and representatives of the armed forces.



**The sections presented flags on Remembrance Day**



**Malcolm lays a wreath on behalf of the Group**



**Cubs created decorations for the church**

The following week, on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Raynes Park War memorial, erected in St Saviour's grounds, was rededicated after its restoration, exactly 100 years after it was originally dedicated in 1921. Guests included relatives of some of the 97 men whose names are inscribed on the memorial. To add to the sense of occasion, Skip gave two talks before the event. The first told the story of the restoration that took place during 2018 to 2021, and the exhibition and fundraising launch that the Scout group was heavily involved with in. The second focused on Wing Commander Frank Brock who lived in Raynes Park and is commemorated on the memorial. He was a member of the family that owned the Brock Fireworks Company and invented a number of pyrotechnic devices that undoubtedly changed the course of WW1. He was killed in action during the April 1918 raid on Zeebrugge harbour.



**Scouts and Explorers attend the memorial rededication**



**Frank Brock**

## Supporting local charities

The Scout Group have been supporting the local Charity, Christian Care Merton, since 2016 through collections at Harvest Festival time and coming up to Christmas. The charity supports local families who have fallen through the cracks of the social services. Thanks to all parents who supported these two initiatives again this term. The collections for the Christmas appeal mean that forty families had hampers full of scrumptious items to help to give them an especially merry Christmas.



In addition, the Cubs have continued their support for the local Faith in Action group. Following a talk in the summer term about its work with the homeless in Merton, the Cubs and their families started collecting clothes. This continued through the Autumn term and Chil and Bagheera were able to deliver 10 more bags of clothes. The collections will continue so, if you are having an after- Christmas clear out, please bring any unwanted items in good condition, especially those that provide protection from the cold, to the Cub meeting or leave them in St Saviour's narthex with a label so they can be directed to the Cubs.



**Chil and Bagheera deliver much needed warm clothing**

Thanks for your support.

## Help!



Despite the challenges of Covid our numbers across the group have changed little over the last two years.

This is largely down to the input of a great team of volunteer adult leaders; but they need help.

Each year circumstances change and some of these leaders leave and need to be replaced.

At present Owl (Steve Lyon) and Chil (Graham Coverdale) need help to deliver their programmes in the Beaver and Cub sections respectively. Could this be you? It is a lot of fun and very rewarding.

The amount of commitment is largely up to you. The minimum would be to attend most of the weekly meetings during term time as a (non-uniformed) section assistant with the just the basic training; the intermediate level would be to take out a warrant as an assistant section leader; the top level is as much as you want to give for as long as you enjoy doing it! 😊

To find out more about what would be involved please talk to Owl, Chil or me (Skip).

(And if anyone fancies maintaining our website, please let me know!)

## **The normal reminder about subs**

Finally, subs for the Spring 2022 term are due by the end of January. If you have not yet paid, 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.

**Wishing you all a Happy New Year, Skip**