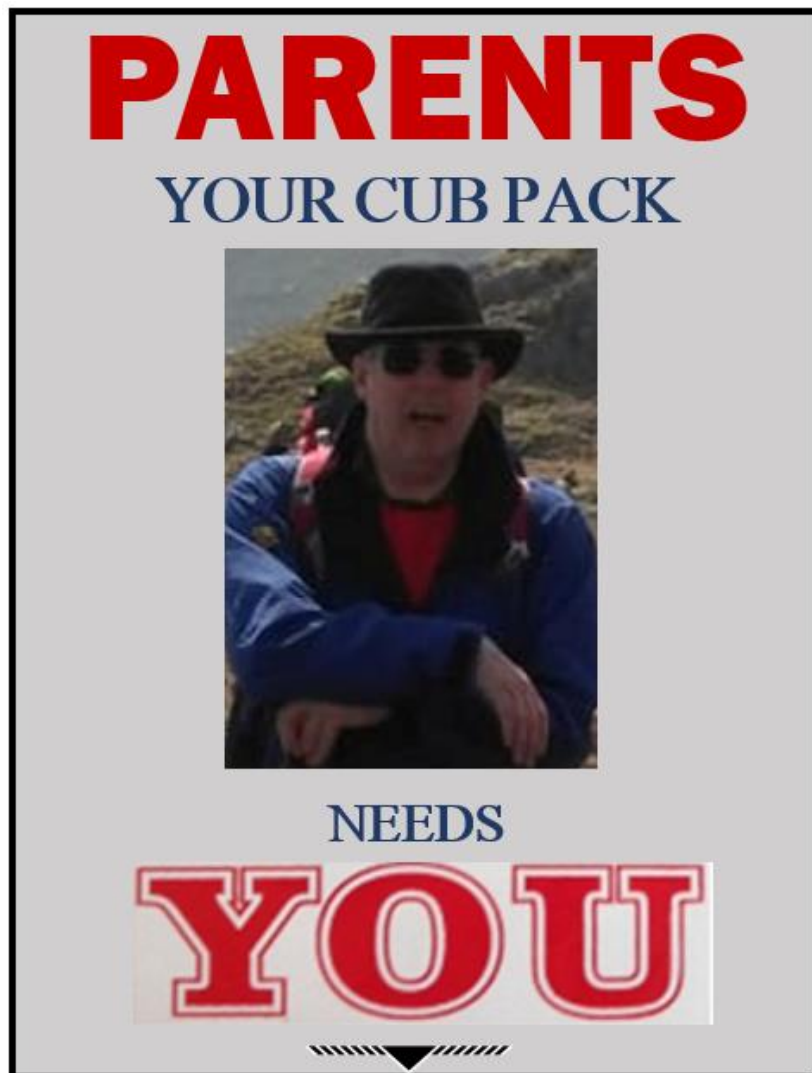




13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter

May 2021

Recent Changes Mean the 13th Needs More Leaders



The changes in the Cub and Beaver sections (see item below) mean that **we are looking for an adult assistant leader for the Beavers and at least two new adult assistant leaders for the Cubs.** In the latter case, at least one female would be desirable as we have female Cubs but no longer any female leaders in that section.

Typically, half the leaders in a Scout group are recruited from the parents of its members, the others either coming up through the ranks or from elsewhere. To try it and see how you get on (it could change your life!) please contact me or any of the section leaders.

As part of our recruitment drive an article will be appearing on The Guide, the newsletter of the Raynes Park Residents' Association. A message also appeared on the Wimbledon Scene Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/wimbledonscene/photos/a.1896389217088820/4153376831390036/?_cft_\[0\]=AZVOEq3tNjTuHlgoK26LniCbUNvscnvDbZTsHGmYnRHyC2KDOBbXGCulrre5D1K3NDgtl27jMlpS9cLtcZpbPhCGbCCn_JRjdsQbMVCxfl-KFVs-b1snoNY4byuiyKPTIOTGFWX1gYgaRa2BmzBxzjv6&_tn_ =EH-R](https://www.facebook.com/wimbledonscene/photos/a.1896389217088820/4153376831390036/?_cft_[0]=AZVOEq3tNjTuHlgoK26LniCbUNvscnvDbZTsHGmYnRHyC2KDOBbXGCulrre5D1K3NDgtl27jMlpS9cLtcZpbPhCGbCCn_JRjdsQbMVCxfl-KFVs-b1snoNY4byuiyKPTIOTGFWX1gYgaRa2BmzBxzjv6&_tn_ =EH-R)

and on its Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/WimbledonScene/status/1390768580262760454?s=20>

where it was retweeted by Wimbledon MP, Stephen Hammond!

All Change!

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, all the Group's sections have been making the most of meeting face to face, for the time being, though, only outdoors.



During the Easter break, Scouts Amy and Heidi organised an Easter Fun Trail in Morden Hall Park for any members of the Group and their families who wanted to take part. Twenty-two members took up the challenge, including 3 Beavers, 6 Cubs, 13 Scouts and 2 leaders, some with their families, some with their friends. They each had to seek out items from a number of clues and most got most of them right.

Participants would have learned a lot about the local area and its history and will have encountered a wide range of wildlife including baby ducks, squirrels, alpacas, lambs, Canada and Egyptian geese and even the Gruffalo!

Thanks to Amy and Heidi for a wonderful initiative.

Beavers

The Beavers have been gnawing their way through a number of challenges. Last term they worked on creative and collector badges, learnt various knots and crafts, and ended with an Easter egg hunt involving the whole district when they decorated Easter eggs to put in their windows and go out and see how many they could find.

They have also been designing badges to celebrate 35 years of Beaver Scouts. Beaver Scouts were officially launched in April 1986, although Beaver colonies were first introduced in the UK in 1982 but only officially became part of the Scout Association in 1986. Beavers were first launched at St Saviours, for all intents and purposes as part of the 13th Wimbledon Scout Group, on November 4th, 1982 and were the first Beaver colony in the old Wimbledon and Merton Scout District.



Decorating Easter eggs, its no yoke!



Beaver commemorative badges

A strong theme of this term will be having adventures and keeping fit. So far, the Beavers have made compasses by magnetising nails and learnt basic compass skills. Over the coming weeks they will be exploring Cannon Hill Common, having a sports evening, learning about health and fitness and enjoying an array of fun games. They are also planning to take part in a District Beaver 35 Year Anniversary Party at Walton Firs in June and having a virtual sleep over.



Receiving Challenge Award badges



Making compasses



Doing what Simple Simon says



Letting off steam

Cubs



Cubs socially distancing during flag break.

Cubs launched their outdoor meetings by learning some basic scouting skills – lashing spars together so they can be the engineers of the future and reviewing their navigation skills on Prince George's Playing Fields. Some will shortly be participating in the District Cyclocross event at Frylands Wood.



Cubs receiving instruction from Chil.

Scouts

The Scouts were able to participate in a District paintball day in April, their first outdoor event since early December.



Since the Easter break, the Scouts have held three meetings in St Saviour's grounds, where they have undertaken team building skills, learnt how to pitch tents that have lain dormant for the last year, learnt micro navigation techniques and the art of lighting a Kelly Kettle. They were also able to receive a range of badges reflecting their accomplishments over the last 6 months.



Last Sunday, 14 Scouts and one cub undertook a 19-mile cycle ride from Wimbledon Windmill across Putney Heath and Putney Common to the River Thames below Hammersmith, along the Thames Tow Path to Teddington then back to the Windmill via Richmond Park. Thanks to the leaders from all our sections and the parents from the Scout section for their support in the adventure, which was great fun!



Explorers

The Explorers launched their programme of outdoor activities with a taskmaster evening. The task was to create images by tracking their movements on Cannon Hill Common, using GPS. You might recognise a tent, a dinosaur (or is it a mountain range) and Tom coming home late after a good night out.



They were also able to catchup on a backlog of investitures with ten Explorer being invested in one, rather windy, evening.



They plan to put in a couple of teams for day flare, a navigation competition for teams across the County, and to run an Activity Day for Cricket Green School, building on the very successful event the put on in 2019.

Future events

Plans are well advance for a whole series of events over the coming months. These include:

A **District Cyclocross** competition for Scouts and Explorers. This is being held at Frylands Wood, a Scout campsite south east of Croydon on **May 23rd**. Good luck to the six scouts from the 13th who have entered.

A Scout Camping Skills weekend on June 26th and 27th at Boidierhurst Scout campsite near Box hill. This will be open to all Scouts and is designed to equip them with many basic Scouting skills - tent pitching, outdoor cooking, navigation across rough country, mini pioneering and much else besides. We should know by the middle of June whether we will be allowed to camp or whether participants will need to be collected at the end of the first day and returned the following morning.



A crossover camp for older cubs and those moving to Scouts in September will also be run with similar objectives to prepare them for their time in Scouts. Similar camps have been run for a number of years until Covid appeared and been very successful. The date and location of this event will be conveyed in due course.



Cub District Football competition June 27th. This is to be held at St John Fisher school. Date to be confirmed.

A St Saviour's Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday **July 10th** in St Saviour's church grounds. For many years, nay decades, the Scout Group has supported the St Saviour's May Fair, running side shows, the BBQ and a series of tug o' war competitions for all ages. The plan is that this will be an enhanced version of this with more games and activities for the youngsters and an overall celebration of the emergence from lockdown for the Raynes Park Community. Be there for an afternoon of family fun from 12.00 to around 3.00pm – lunch from the BBQ!

The Explorers will be running an Activity Day at Walton Firs Campsite for Cricket Green School on July 10th. The day they ran two years ago was such a success they a were asked to make it an annual event.

The Wimbledon & Wandle Scout District Sports Day is booked for Saturday July 17th. This event takes place at the Wimbledon Park Sports Arena, with events for Scouts and Cubs – field events in the morning, track events in the afternoon. The Scouts and Cubs will be holding trials to find their best athletes a couple of weeks before then; so, get them into training now!

A separate event for Beavers will take place in the middle of the Arena during the afternoon consisting of lots of fun activities and competitions to delight the crowd! This is subject to restrictions being removed by then, so keep your fingers crossed.



Forget the Olympics; Can the 13th match its successes of 2019?

Scout and Explorer Summer camp, July 24th to 31st. If this goes ahead it will be held at Thorington Scout Campsite, near Colchester in North Essex. Officially the policy of the Scout Movement is that no overnight residential activities can take place this year. The rapid progress in controlling the virus makes one cautiously optimistic that by July this ban will have been lifted, but this is tempered by concerns about the new Indian mutation of the virus So, Scouts and Explorers might pencil this into their diaries and we will keep you updated!

Changes in leadership

You will be aware that Steve Lyon has moved from being the Cub Scout Leader to Beaver Scout Leader and Graham Coverdale (Chil) has taken over as the Cub Scout Leader. Both have settled in well to their new roles, as you would expect from two such experienced individuals. Due to a work commitment on Thursday evenings, Charlotte Barton has moved over from the Cubs to support Steve and Fiona

with the Beavers. Sam (Samantha) Lane has now moved away so has had to step down from being a leader with the Cubs and in September Joel will likely be leaving to go to university.

After four years as secretary of the Group Executive, Charlotta Bolton is stepping down. We are most grateful for her excellent service in this role. We expect to have a new secretary in place to be approved and take over the role from the Group AGM (date in June TBC).

Pandemic Community Support

During the pandemic, ACSL/AESL Alex Swain contacted Little A.R.K. (Acts of Random Kindness) a community group set up by Syebvonne Nguyen that took the initiative to make, initially, reusable masks then scrub hats and wash bags for those working in the NHS. Since last summer, scores of volunteers from Raynes Park and the surrounding area have stepped forward donating, washing, ironing, sewing and transporting fabrics and delivering hundreds of finished items to a range of NHS establishments throughout the Borough and beyond. The volunteers included at least three mothers of 13th Scouts, supported by their daughters (well done Isla, Mitsi, Amy and Heidi C, and their mums!)



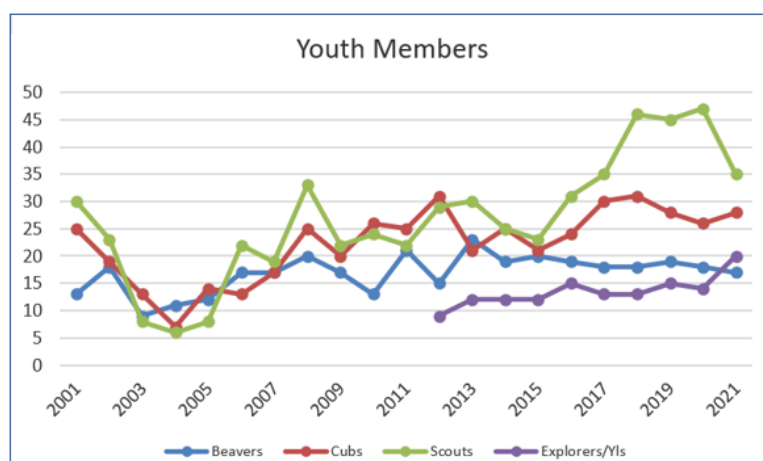
Scout volunteer



NHS recipients

Numbers

Perhaps inevitably, our numbers declined over the year but, according to the annual census, taken at the end of January, only by 3%. A sharp decline in membership of the Scout section, was largely offset by an increase in numbers in the Explorer section (which largely accounted for the decline in Scout numbers!) and the Cub section.



The normal reminder about subs

Finally, subs for the Summer 2021 term are now due. 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