

## 13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, January 2023

### Celebrating Christmas, 13<sup>th</sup> Style

St Saviour's church was packed again this year for the Group's annual celebration of Christmas. Around 160 people sung traditional carols, listened to readings and enjoyed entertainment provided by the sections. The Beavers' Banter reminded everyone of the Christmas cracker jokes trending this year. The Cubs delivered their version of the Twelve Days of Christmas and the Scouts performed 'Cinders', a Christmas pantomime written by the patrol leaders.



**Explorers: All I want for Christmas**

The Explorers then accompanied Mariah Carey in singing 'All I Want for Christmas is You' while performing a dance routine choreographed by Explorer Scout Ruby Bodle. A joy to behold!



**Beaver Banter**



**Cubs 12 Days of Christmas**



**Scout Panto 'Cinders'**

We were honoured by the attendance of District Commissioner, Dave Bixby and District Training Manager Alison Edwards. Each presented a number of awards.

Alison presented Explorer Scouts Amy Chilcott and James Lyon with their Young Leader Awards earned through taking leadership roles in the Beaver section over the last year or so.

Dave presented Scout Patrol Leader Heidi Chilcott with her Chief Scout's Gold Award, and Beaver Scout Harris Li with his Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Both of these awards are the highest that can be achieved in their respective sections.

Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Paul Carse, was presented with his Wood Badge recognising that he has completed his basic training to be a leader with the Cub Pack.

He also presented Malcolm and Fiona Miles with their 30-year service awards. They joined as section assistants in 1992, Fiona assisting with the Beaver Colony and Malcolm with the Scouts. They are the

second longest serving leaders the Group has ever had and each have barely missed a meeting in that time.

Skip presented Chris Scott with a Thanks Badge for his support on many trips and meetings over the last 5 years and Mya Patel with the Scout of the Year Award recognising attendance and achievement across a wide range of events and activities over the past year.

Earlier in the term Steve Lyon (Owl), our Beaver Scout Leader, was presented with his 10-year service award. Steve joined as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader in 2012, moving over to lead the Cub Pack in 2015 before returning to lead the Beaver Colony in 2021. He has also been a regular helper at the Scout section meetings since the end of lockdown.

Skip was also able to present our Treasurer, Patrick Daly, with his 5-year service Award. Despite being confined to a wheelchair following a stroke 30 years ago, Patrick has provided an invaluable service to the Scout Group for the last 7 ½ years. Unfortunately, due to Covid the presentation of the Award was somewhat delayed!

Congratulations to all those receiving recognition for their outstanding achievements in, and contribution to, Scouting in the Group.



**Young Leader  
Award**



**Young Leader  
Award**



**CS Gold Award**



**CS Bronze Award**



**Woodbadge**



**30 years**



**30 years**



**Thanks Badge**



**Scout of the Year**



**5 years (+)**

## Cubs Learn the Basics and Much More

### Crossover Camp

The annual Crossover Camp provides an opportunity for the older cubs and new Scouts to learn the basics of Scout Camping. This year's location was Park Farm adjacent to Banstead Wood. They learnt how to pitch tents, collect wood, light fires, cook and use a map and compass to navigate around wild country. For some it was the first time they had been away overnight without their parents and they came through with flying colours.



#### Cubs learn the basics

The Cubs learned about photography from some real pros. Cub dads Liam Grogan and Matthew Jerram came along to give tips on how to take really great photos. The Cubs had a chance to try their hand at portrait photography, learning skills such as how to control shadow and ghosting photos.

Matthew and Liam also provided most welcome parental support at the Cubs' paintballing day at the Campaign location near Cobham. The Cubs may not have won all their trials, but they had tremendous fun getting splattered in paint and mud for several hours.

Baloo led an evening around Disability Awareness, aided by his sister, Amanda, who arrived in her electric wheelchair. The Cubs learned how to communicate with her Bliss board and were tasked with finding their names that Baloo had arranged to be printed in Braille; a great way to learn a different way of communicating.

For several years the Cubs have taken responsibility for creating a Remembrance Day display in St Saviour's church. This year the Cubs lead the making of a poppy display using salt dough. Well done to Scott for the idea and for explaining how to do it.

In November, fireworks were enjoyed by all and tied in with the personal safety badge and, after all that has gone on in the last couple of years, a way to celebrate with noise and colour.

Sewing is a skill widely overlooked in school and most Scouts join the troop clueless about how to sew on their badges (along, sadly, with many of their parents!). So, it was great to see Young Leader, Emily Coups, leading Cub Sewing Bees, ably supported by Rikki and Ikki. The result was lavender bags that they could give as Christmas gifts.

Other useful skills the Cubs learnt from the leaders were how to change a light bulb, wiring a plug and laying out cutlery for a five-course meal.

The book readers badge was a more sedate evening. David Walliams and Roald Dahl were the most read authors and each six had to mime their favourite or most interesting book.





**Learning to be professional photographers**



**Amanda helps the Cubs learn about disability**



**Cubs make loads of dough**

The term was rounded off with a trip to the theatre for some of the Cubs. A trip to the theatre without seeing the show might seem a disappointment but this was the Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End, with a guided tour behind the scenes of Mary Poppins kindly lead by Chris Boone, Technical Director of Delfont Mackintosh Theatres. They got to see the pre-performance sound and lighting checks and the scenery being moved around, and to experience the special effects, both visual and audial. They were able to walk around the stage and (literally) behind the scenes and under the stage where the performers dressed and were made up and the lighting and scene changes were executed.

After the visit they walked through some of the popular sites of London, along Piccadilly for a look at the Fortnum & Mason's Christmas window displays, they were given free sweets from Fortnum & Mason staff as they proceeded down Jermyn Street, then proceeded across Horseguards' Parade, along Whitehall, past the Houses of Parliament, along the South Bank, past the London Eye and on to Waterloo for the journey home. Thanks to Chil for organizing a most memorable Christmas adventure!



**Cubs Poppin to explore the Theatre**



**On stage in Prince Edward's**



**Guarding the Horseguard**

## Scouts Triumphant

The Scouts had a very eventful term starting with entries into the County shooting competition. Although no trophies were won, those who entered performed well building on their experience on Summer Camp.

However, they came away winning the trophy for the District Quiz and came equal 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams in the County Cooking competition, a fine performance for a team three out of four of whom were aged under 12 and only one of whom had ever participated in the competition before.



**13<sup>th</sup> Quiz Teams**



**BMXing**



**Cooking Excellence**

The troop also maintained its preeminent position in the District Incident Hike winning for the fourth successive time and also clinching the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places, with each patrol leader leading a team.

In place of the normal Autumn Mountain trip, the Scouts and Explorers undertook a Surrey Three Peaks Challenge. Although not the official event, it followed the same route. The idea is to start at Box Hill then walk to Leith Hill and on to Holmbury Hill. The Scouts were tasked with completing this challenge – a total distance of around 11 miles – and the Explorers to complete the circuit by returning to their starting point at Box Hill.

12 scouts took part along with 11 leaders and parents and one Cub undertaking the 11-mile route while five Explorers (including three from another unit) completed the full 22 miles.

The weather was great, the views terrific and a great time was had by all!



**Incident Hike Champions**



**The Scouts ending their adventure on  
Holmbury Hill**



## Beavers go incognito

Winter term can be long, dark and cold – but Beavers love that, especially if there is a mug of hot chocolate at the end!

The highlight of the term was perhaps the Personal Challenge badge involving each Beaver standing up in front of the Colony to give a talk. Each one chatted for about 5 minutes on a topic of their choosing. Some brought props, some brought Power Point presentations, but everyone stepped up and did it, which was amazing, and much more of a challenge than a task undertaken at home. Quite an achievement for a 6- or 7-year-old. So well done everyone!



**Beavers prepare for Remembrance Day**

In between the outdoor meetings the Beavers tackled the Air Activities and Communicator badges and started the Personal Challenge badge.

The Communicator badge was a lot of fun as heavily disguised Beavers turned up in a super array of costumes for the Super Spy night, everyone as totally inconspicuous as the next one! They then played spy games and learnt about spying techniques.



**Beaver spies all looking totally inconspicuous**

## Explorers at Home and Abroad

### Trip to Texel

Members of the Unit were privileged to be invited to represent Greater London South West (GLSW) at a service of remembrance for ten members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mortlake Sea Scout Troop who lost their lives when the Whaler they were sailing in capsized off the coast of Holland in 1950. The bodies of six of those Scouts washed up on the Dutch Island of Texel and their graves have been tended by the local Scouts ever since. After the service the GLSW contingent, including the SSESU members, travelled to Texel stopping in Amsterdam and Paris on the way with all expenses covered by a sponsor.



**The Explorers in Paris**

It was great that they were able to remember fellow Scouts in this way while building international bridges with Scouts in Europe while experiencing a great European travel adventure.

### **Laying out their stall for the Jamboree**

Four members of our Explorer Unit will be attending the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea this summer and have been busy fund raising. This included a cake stall at this year's St Saviour's Christmas Fair. If you failed to buy any cakes, you missed a treat!



### **Another International Opportunity**

Plans are afoot for an Explorer Trip to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland in the Summer of 2024. It is being organised by Wimbledon and Wandle and Kingston Districts and several of our Explorer Scouts have put their names forward. The Centre was opened by Robert Baden-Powell in 1923 and the vision of establishing a permanent Scout jamboree is still very much in evidence. <https://www.kisc.ch/>

### **Red Flare**

The Explorer Unit again performed magnificently in the annual Red Flare competition. The team of Max Husaini, Jack Murray, Ruby Bodle, Maya Delaney and Amy Chilcott came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall out of 32 teams that entered. The challenge was to hike 23 km during the night visiting checkpoints and undertaking tasks en route. The weather was ideal - chilly with rain!

Over the last six annual Red Flare events (interrupted by covid) the SSESU have achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in three and first or second in all of them. A remarkable performance. Well done guys!

### **Souwest County Gang Show**



Each year our Scout County, GLSW, puts on a variety show involving Scouts, Cubs, Explorer Scouts, Guides and Brownies. <https://www.souwest.net/> Performances will run during next half term,

February 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> , at Sutton High School. We have one Scout and one Explorer Scout from our Group performing. If you would like to come along to support them and have an enjoyable evening for the whole family click here to order your tickets! <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/souwest-gang-show>



## Remembrance Day

There was a good turnout of the Group for the Annual Service of Remembrance at St Saviour's in November. The Cubs made poppy decorations and set up a display of poppies at the back of St Saviour's church and all attending were invited to plant one of the crosses prepared by the Scouts, each bearing the name of one of the men of Raynes Park who died as a consequence of the First World War. As a former sailor in the Royal Navy, Malcolm laid a wreath on behalf of the Scout Group.

The St Saviours Explorers attended the Act of Remembrance in Wimbledon Village along with members from other Wimbledon Explorer Units and representatives of the Armed Services.



Remembrance Day at St Saviour's & Explorers in Wimbledon Village

## St Saviour's News

A **defibrillator** has been installed on the outside wall of St Saviour's church. Thanks to those in the Scout Group who helped to make it possible by filling Smartie tubes with money. It was greatly appreciated.

Thanks too to those families who contributed towards our Harvest Festival and Christmas appeals for food items in support of the Christian Care Merton work in the local community. They, too, were greatly appreciated.



St Saviour's has a **new website**. You can check it out here. <https://www.stsaviour.net/>



## Bank Deposit Request

Thankfully nearly all our financial transactions are made online these days. However, they still have to be allocated to categories for our accounts which means our treasurer has to scrutinise and allocate each one. Can you therefore please ensure you make it clear in the reference what each payment is for. Often, as with subs and crossover camp, the leaders will say what the reference should be. If not, please make it clear. Many thanks

## Uniforms down in Price

If you are buying a new uniform, there is good news. As from this month uniforms bought through the District Store will be cheaper than other suppliers. Previously the profits from the store were distributed to the local Scout groups according to how many uniforms their members bought. Now these profits will be used to reduce the cost to parents.

Details on where to buy uniforms can be found here.

<https://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/store>

## The normal reminder about subs

Finally, subs for the Spring 2023 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 £37 for the term or £100 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.