

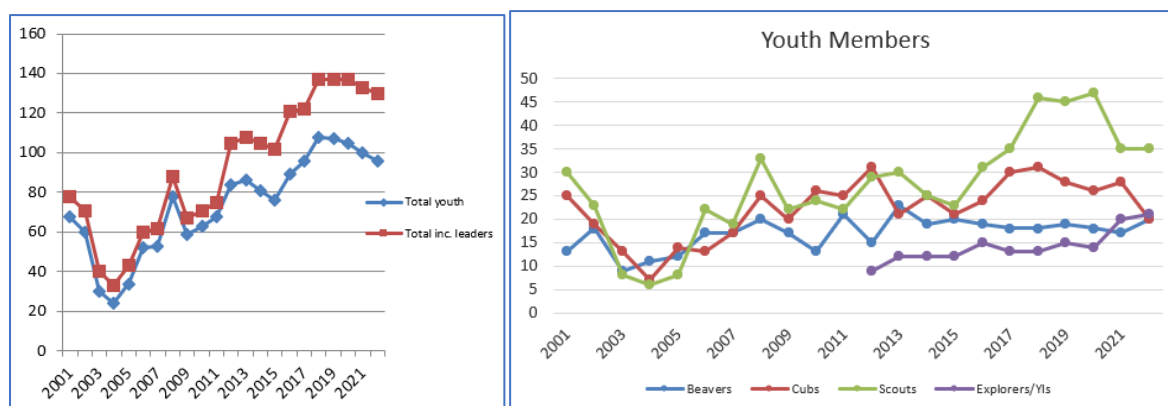


## **13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, May 2022**

### **Group Numbers hit by Pandemic**

Like most Scout groups, the 13<sup>th</sup> lost members during the pandemic. In January 2020, before the pandemic, total youth membership was 105. By January 2021 it had fallen to 100 and by January 2022 to 96.

However, it could have been a lot worse and our thanks to all the leaders who responded to the challenge of making Scouting virtual for the best part of 16 months before we could start to get back normal. Beaver and Explorer numbers kept up particularly well during this period, though the Cubs and Scouts both suffered marked losses. It may take a few years to get back to our pre-covid peak.



### **Scouts and Explorers Return to Snowdon**

The Scouts and Explorers enjoyed a magnificent trip to Snowdonia at the beginning of April with three days of activities staying in the Clogwyn base in Bangor. Covid mean that for most of the Scouts this was their first adventure on mountainous terrain. The forecast had suggested three days of rain but, as is common in the region, the reality turned out quite different. Saturday saw almost all the Scouts reaching the summit of Snowdon, with the late start being compensated for by a clearing of the clouds to reveal the best views Snowdon can provide from the summit.

On Sunday the Scouts visited Penrhyn Castle and the adjacent nature reserve overlooking the Menai Straits while the Explorers tackled a cracking scramble passing the Idwal Slabs to Senior's Ridge then on to Glyder Fawr.

Day three saw the Scouts take a low-level walk around Llyn Idwal from Ogwen then a drive down to Beddgelert to discover the heart-rending legend of Prince Llywelyn and his faithful dog, Gelert, followed by a walk alongside the picturesque river to the viewpoint at Pont Aberglaslyn.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Scouts have been making annual trips to Snowdonia for over 40 years. It was great to be back!



**New kids on the block setting out**



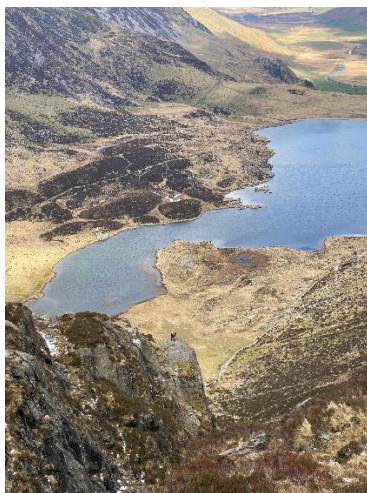
**The summit!**



**Explorers on the Glyders**



**Sausage stew**



**View of Lynn Igwâl**



**Team BenJoel**



**2022 Donkey Champ**





**River below Beddgelert**



**Stop off at Iron Bridge on the way home**

## **Explorers Honoured at Westminster Abbey**

The St Saviour's Explorers were honoured to be invited to represent the County at the Founder's Day service in Westminster Abbey. The service is held each year on a date close to February 22nd to commemorate Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement, who was born on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1857.



## **Scouts**

Apart from tramping up the mountains, the Scouts undertook many challenges and adventures over the last term. The annual District Paintballing event was great fun, though they could have done with better strategic planning to prevent being wiped out. The Jack Petchey Award financed their visit to the Mitcham Saints BMX track which was enormous fun for the scouts as well as the leaders and some of the dads.

Three county and district competitions yielded excellent results for the 13<sup>th</sup>. The district bake-off in January saw Heidi Chilcott's submission winning the Wimbledon and Wandle competition then going on to seize the top prize in the County.

The district 5-side competition, saw the troop's best performance ever with the A team, captained by Rahul, losing by goal difference having drawn with the overall winners and won all its other matches.

In the County Night Exercise, the troop seized 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places out of a field of 43 teams from across the county. Margins were tight. Three teams tied for first place with 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon B team one point behind and the 13<sup>th</sup> A team one point behind them.



13<sup>th</sup> Paintballing Squad



*13<sup>th</sup> Bake-off entries*





**Scouts & dads line up**



**Guess who?**



**13<sup>th</sup> County Night Exercise entrants**

## **Jamboree successes**

Five 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Scouts/Explorers have been accepted for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. The names of those who put themselves forward from across the county were put into a hat and drawn out after attending an activity to get a taster of what they might encounter. Well done to Explorers Emily C and Mitsi and Scouts Hugo and Pranav. They now have to raise funds to pay for it, so please support them if you can.

## **Beavers**

The Beavers got stuck into various badges last term - My World Challenge badge and the Faith and the Experiment activity badges. They made bird feeders, played bird bingo and took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. You may have heard about it on Twitter. (Sorry.)

Young Leaders Amy and James ran a fantastic experiment night, where the Beavers played with prisms, lasers, magnets and made moebius loops. (Google it!). Other highlights from the term were a visit from the Police, learning about Chinese New Year with Wendy Zhang and having a picnic in the church where they asked Peter Kelley, Priest-in-Charge at St Saviours, some classic Beaver questions: How old is God? What do you do for your job? How many Bibles do you own?

A great term capped off with wide games on the Cannon Hill Common, with more outside meetings planned for this term.

A big thank you to mums Lisa and Elizabeth for their help this term; it really made a difference.

However, the Beavers are still looking for one or two adults to become regular leaders. As you can see, it is a lot of fun, but having someone who can commit to most, if not necessarily all, of the weekly meetings, would make a lot of difference.



## Cubs

The cubs welcomed a new leader, Paul Carse, now known in the Pack as Baloo, who has already made a strong impact. With numbers up to 20, they started the term working towards a new Scout 'YouShape' Award. This is to encourage the members to come up with programme ideas then put them into practice. Felix and Hannah came up with the idea of making cakes though they may have overdone the sugar a bit as they ended up more like brandy snaps, though delicious nonetheless.

A commitment to tidy up the area along the north side of the church and a litter pick on Cannon Hill Common, suggested by Esther, will help them towards gaining their environmental and global issues and the gardening badges.

A dozen of the cubs were able to take part in a Wobstacle event organised by Kingston District at New Malden swimming baths.

A human chess competition, with each cub playing a different piece, prepared them for the district chess competition while in the run up to Mothering Sunday they made keepsake boxes for their mums. They then rounded off the action-packed term with an evening of fencing, (with swords, not planks!).



**Baloo joins the leadership team**



**A piece of cake, or is it biscuit?**



**Wobstacle fun**



**A good knight playing chess**



**Boxes of treats for Mums' Day**



**No of-fence meant**

## Personal Information Forms

When youngsters enter the Group, we ask parents to fill out a personal information form. This includes name, address, date of birth, contact numbers etc. but it also includes information we need for the safety and wellbeing of the individuals, such as medical information, diet and any issues such as dyslexia, ADHD and autism which affect how they respond to different situations. Having this information allows us to be sensitive to their individual needs and accommodate them better into the program. If this information has not been provided, or needs to be updated, I would be grateful if you would let your section leader me know.

Many thanks for your support.

## The normal reminder about subs

Finally, subs for the Summer 2022 term are due now. 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.