



## **13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, January 2024**

### **25th World Scout Jamboree – an Unexpected Experience**

Four of our Explorer Scouts travelled to South Korea in August to participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree. They joined 40,000 other Scouts from 158 countries throughout the world carrying on a tradition that was started by Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout Movement, with a jamboree held at Olympia in 1920. This year it proved to be an unforgettable experience, not always for the right reasons. As you may have seen in the press, extreme weather and uncharacteristically poor organisation meant that conditions deteriorated to the point of threatening the health of attendees. Scouts from several countries, including the UK, evacuated the camp to accommodation in Seoul and elsewhere. This meant that attendees were unable to have as much contact with overseas Scouts as they would have liked. Nevertheless, they still had a great adventure. The Korean people were very friendly and supportive, and the leaders did a great job in turning a potential disaster into a memorable triumph.



**Explorers from the GLSW contingent**



**One of the GLSW sites**

## The Group celebrates Christmas in traditional fashion

The Group marked the end of the year with its annual Christmas celebration. 140 people of all ages gathered in St Saviour's to sing carols, receive awards and enjoy entertainments by the different sections. The Beavers did their usual banter, the Cubs gave their version of 'some enchanted evening', the Scouts gave their take on the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree and the Explorers showed an inspiring video of their trip to Snowdonia last Easter.

The evening ended with mulled wine and Christmas treats in the hall.

Thanks to the leaders who coached the performers, St Saviour's Priest-in-Charge, Peter Kelley, for overseeing our service and allowing us to use the church, those parents who provided the refreshments, Eunmee for playing the piano and to all the performers who kept us entertained and in festive mood.



**A packed church to see Beavers bantering, Scouts performing, awards presenting and much else besides**

Thanks to all those families who contributed to the Christian Care Merton Christmas appeal that we support each year. Your contributions made eight families who received hampers very happy! We are most grateful.

## A Peak Experience

The Scouts and Explorers enjoyed their annual Autumn hillwalking trip in October, this time venturing up Kinder Downfall in the Peak District. They camped at a local Scout campsite. Despite warnings to keep food firmly locked away the local badgers still managed to help themselves to bags of Doritos from Scout tents and extract food from the 'secure' cooler box in the mess tent for a midnight treat. These setbacks aside, it was a great trip with a break for a walk through the picturesque Dovedale on the way home.



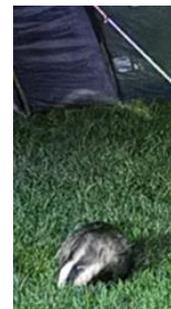
**Dovedale**



**Kinder Downfall**



**The decent**



**Night raider**

## Scouts display diverse talents

The autumn term provided plenty of opportunities for the Scouts to engage in other activities. These included a County air rifle shooting competition, the district quiz night and participation in the annual Jamboree of the Internet (JOTI) which provided the opportunities to engage with Scouts from across the world.

Three 13<sup>th</sup> teams entered the County cooking competition. All performed well in an event which never disappoints in terms of the quality of the submissions and the enthusiasm of the teams entering. Another three teams entered the District incident hike on Wimbledon Common. Although they did not win it this year, a second place means the 13<sup>th</sup> have come either 1st or 2nd in eight of the last nine years that the event has been staged.



Scout cooks performing at County Level



Incident Hike runners-up

## Cubs up-skilling

One of the purposes of Scouting is to equip youngsters with 'skills for Life' and the Cubs delivered plenty of those last term. The chef's badge showed them how to prepare and cook meals with healthy ingredients to maintain a balanced diet. Ask them about the seared salmon, rice and broccoli with a fruit salad for dessert!

A firework display enabled the Cubs to learn about fire safety and paintballing and an evening of fencing were great fun but also taught them about the importance of following rules to ensure no one gets injured when using potentially dangerous equipment.



Chefs in the making



Learning to be Masters at Arms



The annual crossover camp saw the older Cubs learning more about camping and what is expected when they go up to Scouts, putting their own tents up and taking them down and cooking their own meals. One Cub was so inspired he went home and cooked Chicken Fajitas for his family!

Thanks to Baloo for organising all the food. The Scout patrol leaders came along to pass on the knowledge they had acquired over the past three years to their younger colleagues. This included

tent pitching, fire lighting, cooking, the use of knives and saws and how to use a map and compass to navigate their way round the local woodlands.

Thanks to the Cub leaders for organising this very successful weekend.



**Tent pitching and cooking at Crossover camp**

The annual Remembrance Day is the one time when, as a nation, we reflect on the sacrifices made by our armed forces over many generations. The Cubs prepared a display of paper mâché poppies which has become an annual tradition of the Group. They joined the Beavers, Scouts and members of the local community around the war memorial in the grounds of St Saviours on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



**Remembering the fallen**

The Halloween trek through the dark woods on Cannon Hill common, populated by ghosts, Zombies, and creatures most horrific, (courtesy of the Explorers) taught the Cubs that fear is all in the mind and to 'have courage in all difficulties!

The international badge involved the Cubs researching how Scouting operates in 22 other countries. Their presentations were really quite outstanding. The international flavour continued with an evening where they could sample foods from a variety of countries ranging from Brazil to Latvia.



The term ended with a magic evening featuring Trevor Thairs, a Scout leader from Croydon. However, on that night the Cubs did not learn anything as Trevor refused to tell them how his tricks were done!

## Beavers Explore the World and Beyond!

Last term the Beavers got stuck into the Space and International Activity Badges. Owl took them through a trip to the planets constructing their own solar system and designing a base on Mars – (Elon Musk watch out!). More down to Earth, Eeyore (Lukasz) opened their eyes to the world by making Scouting passports and playing international games. A most enjoyable evening was had tasting foods from throughout the world. Thanks to all the parents who prepared and shared foods from across the globe, showing off the diversity of backgrounds we have in our Beaver Colony.

For Remembrance Day the Beavers made poppy posters and, coming up to Christmas, they designed some very special decorations for their Christmas trees.

Toughening them up for when they move on to Cubs then Scouts, they braved the cold and rain and dark evenings on more than one occasion. Thanks to all the parents who brought along the hot chocolate and biscuits. They all had a great time!



Learning about food from across the world



Christmas decorations



Hallowe'en or 1<sup>st</sup> Aid gone wrong?

## Honorary Member

The 13th Wimbledon Scout Group has always met at St Saviour's church. After existing, with various breaks, since before the First World War, it was reestablished in 1945 by the then vicar of St Saviour's, the Revd. Eric Eyden. The church has always been supportive of the Scout Group and particularly over the past eight years since the Revd. Peter Kelley was appointed Priest-in-Charge. In recognition of this, we invited him to be an honorary member of the Group and presented him with a 13th Wimbledon Scarf.

Thanks Peter, for all you have done and all the support you have given us.



## Could you be a Scouting volunteer?

At the Group Carol Service, it was announced that Nigel Swain, our joint Explorer Scout Leader would be stepping down next Summer after 18 years of service as a helper then leader in the Group. Fortunately, parent of two Scouts, Will Busuttill, has volunteered to assist with the section from the new year. Thanks Will!

However, we could do with more leaders across the sections, especially female leaders. Although it is not mandatory to have female leaders, since our members are of both genders we feel we should, wherever possible, have both male and female leaders. At present this is not the case in either the Scout or Explorer sections.



**Nigel in Snowdonia with the Explorers**

Volunteering has been shown to improve mental health, resilience and overall happiness. It provides opportunities to try new activities, make new friends, learn new skills and improve the work/life balance. And it is very rewarding!

If you would like to help make a difference, please talk to Skip or any of the other leaders

## The normal reminder about subs

Finally, subs for the Winter 2024 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.

**Skip**