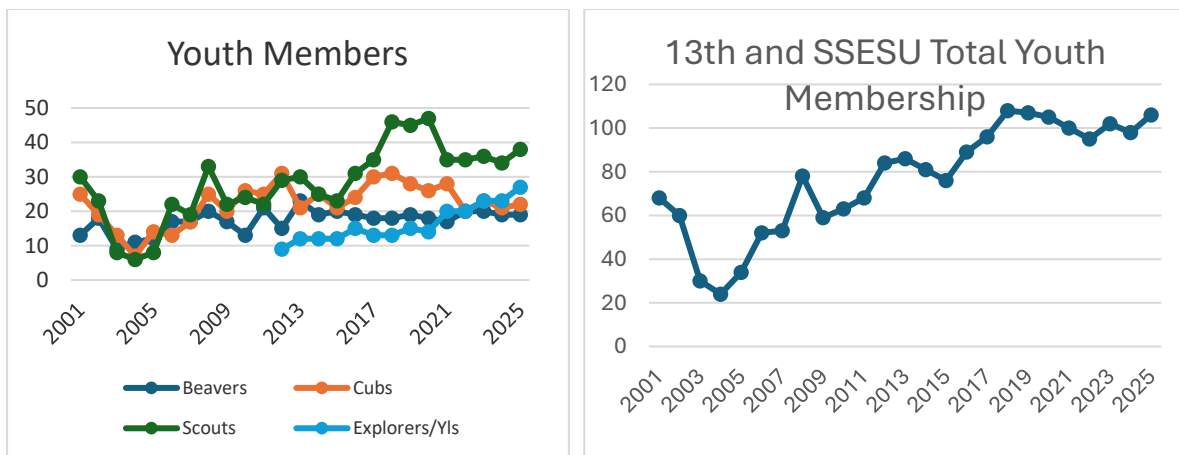




## 13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, April 2025

### Census numbers remain strong

The 2025 census showed youth members across the 13<sup>th</sup> and SSESU remain high, boosted by record numbers in the Explorer Unit. This was the highest number since 2019, the year before the covid outbreak.



This, of course, could not have been achieved without the dedication of all the leaders and adult supporters, for which we are most grateful. We still need more, though, particularly in the Explorer section. Could you fill the gap? If you think you might, please have a word with one of the leaders.

### Another Memorable Snowdonia trip

The Scouts and Explorers had a really great time in their annual trip to Snowdonia, now called Eryri National Park. The weather was fantastic for the three day we had walkers on the hills – sunny, clear skies but temperatures fairly cool, ideal for this kind of activity.

The annual Donkey Championship saw an historic win for a Scout on only his second entry into the competition. In a convincing win, Ethan Moore saw off strong competition from far more experienced leaders and Explorers. Respect!



**Iconic picture of Tryan from halfway up Carnedd Dafydd**



**Ethan receives the much-coveted Donkey Trophy**



## The Beavers

Beavers have been busy with a whole array of new experiences



**Beaver's prototype to compete with Elon Musk's Space X**



**Beavers take a breather from tracking down aliens at the Laser Park**



**Prints prepared for Mothering Sunday, or maybe Palm Sunday?**



**Beavers make waves at a going up to Cubs ceremony**



**James takes a snooze while the Beavers make bird feeders**



**Another socksuccessful evening making glove puppets**

## Cubs

The Cubs had a busy Winter term with a good mix of traditional and novel activities to keep them inspired. The district chess tournament attracted the brightest and the best players from across the borough. To everyone's delight the 13<sup>th</sup> came away with the trophy. Their secret? They trained with a human chess game which also taught the next generation of cubs what they needed to know to win again next year!



They also learnt some really useful skills around the home. Home safety taught them about the hazards of working in a kitchen, digital citizen taught them how to use digital technology in a safe and rewarding way and the chef's badge featured pancakes and their families were involved in getting their cubs to help prepare some really great meals including a Sunday roast.

They finished the term in the woods on Cannon Hill Common making the trees come alive with some simple cosmetic additions.



**The trees come alive on Cannon Hill Common!**

They were helped during the term by Scout, Ben Daniel, working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and Explorer Scout, Theo Harding, who was starting his training as a Young Leader. Well done guys!

### **The Scouts**

The troop kept up its tradition of entering just about every county and district competition they could, with mixed success. It put in an uncharacteristically poor performance in the county night exercise, taking a wrong turn at the start and never recovering! Its novice team, accompanied by a leader, however, had a great adventure and learned a lot about navigating in the dark. All good investment for the future.

The paintballers had a bit more success – at least they finished the course!

The 5-a-side teams, though, did rather well qualifying for the final rounds but just missing out on a final place.



**The night hikers**



**The paintballers**



## **Formal stuff**

Our annual group camp will be held at Walton Firs Scout Camp from June 13<sup>th</sup> (June 14<sup>th</sup> for Beavers) to June 15<sup>th</sup>. At the end of camp, we will then hold our traditional Family BBQ - a chance for the younger members and their siblings to run around and have fun, their parents to chill out and chat to other parents and the leaders, and for everyone to scoff burgers and hot dogs!

After that we have the Group Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is open to all members of the Group Scout Council the members of which include all parents of members, all leaders in the Group, all Explorer Scouts and all Patrol Leaders in the Scouts. So, young and old with lots of responsibility.

Their main responsibility is to hold the Trustee Board of the Group to account to make sure they are running things in a safe and professional way according to the rules of the Scout Association. This includes approving the Annual Report and Accounts and any appointments to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is a relatively new thing that formally replaced the Group Executive Committee last year. The idea is that we have Trustees who are largely removed from the day-to-day running of the activities of the different sections and bring skills and experience that are relevant to that role.

We are looking to appoint a few more Trustees. They would normally be appointed for three years, which can be renewed for a further two terms after that time.

If you feel you have the skills and experience to take on this role, or can recommend anyone who you believe would be suitable, please contact me, Peter Hutton at [peter@brandenergyresearch.com](mailto:peter@brandenergyresearch.com), or give me a ring on 07976362155. Trustees do not have to be parents or in any way related to the Scout Group.

We try to make the AGM as brief as possible but also informative with short reports from the section leaders. In due course we will send out a formal invitation to the Family BBQ and AGM along with some papers which you are welcome to read if you wish!

I hope as many of you will be able to attend this as possible. It makes a lot of difference to the leaders to know that parents are interested in, and appreciative of, what we are all working hard to achieve in Scouting.

## **Subs:**

The usual reminder about subs. These are now £45 per term or £125 if paid for the year in advance.

Payment should be made online to the following account:

**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**