

## **13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, August 025**

### **Group 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrated at Camp**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Scout Group was re-established at St Saviour's by the Reverend Eric Eyden in 1945. This was commemorated in June by a banquet on the Saturday evening at our annual Group Camp at Walton Firs. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed garden soup, Spanish chicken and sticky toffee pudding. Around 85 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts leaders and parent helpers were joined by special guests Ashley Coups, Group Chair, Stuart Macleod, Group Trustee, and Honorary Group member and St Saviour's Priest-in-Charge, Peter Kelley, for this wonderful feast. It was followed by a specially devised game, Human Donkey, involving all the young people, and a traditional campfire where a revised version of the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon song, 'We're 80 years on' was sung heartily by all!



**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**



**Traditional Camp Fire**



**The Scouts' trestle bridge**

During the camp the Cubs enjoyed archery, crate stacking, climbing, and backwoods cooking. The Scouts built a trestle bridge out of staves and a buggy out of pine spars and plastic drums.

Click here to see a short video of some of the highlights of the camp.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/es70kf145uol26agnuemt/AGsgWgISrm2HlQt2FDZKccE?dl=0&e=1&preview=Video+18-06-2025%2C+18+00+06.mp4&rlkey=pam3956w4l09awk0nofee2dfi&st=rc77x2ff>

## Fun, Fun, Fun for Explorers

Summer camp, I am told, was a cracker for the Explorers. Wimbledon & Wandle and Kingston District teamed up for the second year running to put on a joint summer camp for the Explorer Scouts in their respective districts. Camping at Lyons' Copse, near Portsmouth, they engaged in a host of activities onsite and offsite.



Watch this video to find out more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e5MoAEyoTU>

Other highlights from the summer term included a pizza night as a joint activity with ERIS Explorers at Southwood using their outdoor pizza oven, a tennis evening organised by the Explorers themselves (specifically Mya), a return of the yoga lady, and waterskiing as the final evening of term.

Upcoming activities include Theme Park Camp in September and a laser quest with ERIS in December.



So successful and popular have the W&W and Kingston District camps been that spaces for next year's camp - an international jamboree in Windsor called Wings 2026 – that the 70 spaces available were allocated within 40 minutes. Currently SSESU has 22 Explorers signed up and a few held in reserve for new members.

## Scouts

Twenty Scouts attended a four-day **summer camp** at Bragger's Wood near Bournemouth. They were blessed with fine weather with activities including navigating through the New Forest, a paradrop (volunteers are dropped off at an undisclosed location at night and have to navigate their way back to camp), laser tag, tomahawk throwing, archery, shooting and sea swimming. A competition was held throughout the camp covering morning inspections, a cooking competition and creative challenges. Eagles were the overall winners and were presented with a unique trophy to mark their achievement.



**Camp patrol trophy**



**Fun on Bournemouth Beach**



**Banquet at the end of camp**

Thanks to those parents and past Scouts who came along to help on the camp – without you it would not have been possible. 😊

The Scouts were in action again at the **St Saviour's Family Fun Day** running the (free) side shows which never fail to attract the young attendees.



**Splattered Rats and Wet Sponges**



**Discovering knots**

Thanks to John Bennett for running the BBQ again this year and the parents who assisted him throughout the afternoon and to Chil and Owl who taught Scouting skills to potential new recruits.

They also put two teams into the **District Rafting event** on the River Wandle in Ravensbury Park. Building a raft that stays intact for the 30-metre course is a real skill. One team's raft stood up to the challenge five times over, though the other team still has lessons to learn!



**Successful craft**



**Much still to learn**

### **District Sports at David Weir Leisure Centre, Sutton**

The Group performed well in the **Annual District Sports** held at the David Weir Leisure Centre in Carshalton. The Scouts missed out on winning the overall Scout competition by just 2 points and the Cubs also gained a good second place. Together the 13<sup>th</sup> won the overall Group competition as well as the Scout tug'o war event. Well done all those who entered and did so with a very fine Scout spirit. And thanks to those leaders and parents who came along to support and, in several cases, to help run the event.



**Malcom holds the line at District Sports**



**Scouts' winning Tug o' War team**



**Cubs come first in 100m sprint**

The Beavers also had fun with their own sports event in the afternoon. Following a range of novelty events, their highlight was to venture onto the running track for a 100m sprint; for most, probably their first time ever.



## **Beavers make the most of the sun!**

Summer term for the Beavers is all about getting outside as much as possible, which they certainly did in this year.

They tackled the My Adventure Challenge Award, and the Health and Fitness and Explore Activity badges. Beavers is the first step on the Scouting adventure where they are introduced to skills and ideas that they will use throughout their Scouting careers and beyond. The summer term featured navigation and camping. They learnt about maps and compasses as well as how to put up and take down a tent, with expert instruction from Skip!



**Beavers learn how to pitch a tent**

They spent time learning the Green Cross Code and Road safety, all good life skills.

They also ventured onto Cannon Hill Common as much as they could, visited Beverley Brook to sail boats and had the traditional summer water fight which coincided with one of the summer's heatwaves. All in all, a great term!



**Beavers fully prepared for a water fight**



**Beavers line up with the rest of the Group for St George's day parade**

## **Cubs**

One Explorer Scout, Theo Harding, and Scout, Ben Daniel, have been helping the Cubs to engage with a wide range of activities as part of their Young Leader and DofE Bronze awards, respectively.

Apart from the District Sports the Cubs also turned out for the district football competition, with a very young team that played with great enthusiasm and commitment. Thanks to those parents who helped with the refereeing and general support.

Several Cubs joined a district hike around Morden Hall Park which counted towards their Chief Scout's Silver Award. Thanks to Skip, and his dog, Milo, for accompanying them on this adventure.



**Cubs on the District Hike in Morden Hall Park, the heron was one of the highlights.**

**Can you spot the dog?**

Badgework saw them adventuring onto Cannon Hill Common looking at the trees, insects and birds and using AI to produce a cryptic nature scavenger hunt for the naturalist badge.

### **Trustee Board Changes at the AGM**

Following the camp, the Explorers arrived to cook a fine BBQ for those on camp and parents who arrived to pick them up. This was followed by the Group's Annual General Meeting. This included appointment of Stuart MacLeod as a Trustee who takes over as Group Chair. Our grateful thanks to Ashley Coups who has held this position for the last 7 years.

Under the new Trustee Board structure, Groups are required to recruit widely to attract suitable people who would make good Trustees. Their role is not to deliver the weekly programmes but to oversee the long-term development of the Group and ensure we deliver Scouting safely and within Scout Association rules. We are encouraged to appoint up to two Under-25-year-old Trustees. Having communicated this need we were delighted that two previous members of the group, Matthew Coverdale and Veronica Zachiteanu stepped forward and were duly approved as Trustees.



Following the AGM, Cub parent, Barrie Brown, expressed an interest in being a Trustee. His professional background brings good relevant experience and expertise and we are delighted to welcome him onto the Board as a co-opted Trustee.



**Beavers, Cubs Scouts and Members of the Group Council before the AGM**

### **A new badge for a new decade**

On display at the camp was the new 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Group badge. It depicts traditional Scout camping with the backdrop of Mount Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), which our Scouts have been visiting for the past 45+ years, and the Wimbledon Common windmill that features on the Wimbledon & Wandle district badge.

The badge will replace the one worn since our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and should be sewn onto the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Scarf. The badges will be issued to all Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders at the beginning of this term. Be sure to get yours!



### **13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon History update**

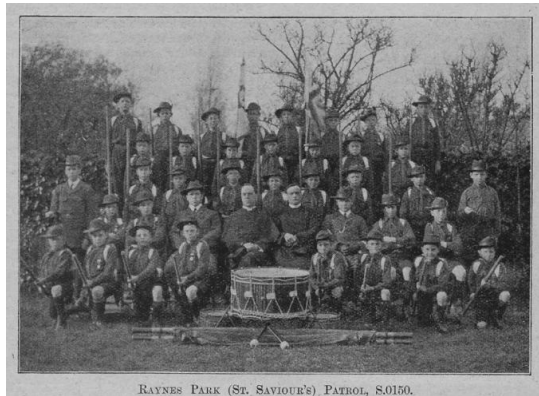
To mark our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the history of the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Scout Group has been updated. With the aid of AI its length has been reduced from 14,500 words to around half that. It now includes the story of its very early beginnings in 1910 which was only unearthed last year.

The full history from 1910 to 2025 can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sc/lfo/ijrypxjip0xpj3kgd7pqm/ANTcSdmnpUKJvBT1mlbWmvE?rlkey=beitybm632mywmr7fzau6ccvf&st=ttrwszdf&dl=0>

An expanded history of the period from March 1910, when Scouting first appeared at St Saviour's, to 1914 when it probably terminated at the beginning of WW1, can be download here.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qp4vn9sn2e2kr1g0du1lf/13th-Wim-The-Beginnings-PH-DRAFT-260724-r.pdf?rlkey=abyp2ijkil0ee310lwe4ijex6&st=d4uh0kqu&dl=0>



1914



1926



2023

## 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.



## Have you got what it takes to be a leader?



### **Brecon Beacons 2024**

Do you spend too much time watching TV and engaging with social media? Would you like to make a real difference and build resilience, responsibility and a sense of adventure in young people? Do you like the outdoors and learning and imparting new skills? If so, would you like to be a leader in one of our Scout sections? (It would be particularly good to have one or two female leaders in the Explorer and Scout sections.)

Studies have shown how Scouting has a positive impact not only on young people but also on adult volunteers, building confidence, resilience and overall mental wellbeing:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1457257828777320>

If you are interested in getting involved, please have a chat with one of our leaders.

*Scouting: Skills for life*

**Skip**