

# 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom News



August 2017

[www.7thepsom.org.uk](http://www.7thepsom.org.uk)



## we push the bath out for



9th July

The Explorers decided to support WaterAid as their chosen charity this year, so in February we had a



representative of WaterAid give us a presentation, telling us all about their charity and the projects they run. We set up a small committee to organise the fundraising: they decided to try doing something different



in order to raise money. So last Sunday, 9th July, we held a WaterAid Bath Push and had a bottle and chocolate tombola in the market square.

After much planning; collecting and labelling of chocolate and bottles; folding of raffle tickets; decorating and mobilising of the bath - we were ready. It was a very hot day and, sadly, our bath was too heavy for its wheels, so it only made a minor tour of Epsom town centre! But, we managed to raise a **whooping £400** with our buckets, bottles and melting chocolate.

A huge thank you to the Beavers and Cubs for the donations of chocolate and the Scouts and Explorers for the bottles.



Well done to all the Explorers who got involved, whether on the committee or on the day - you were amazing!  
Please **Save the Date** for **7th October** as we are hoping to organise an evening's entertainment to raise even more money! See you there :D

*By Phila Coley, Explorer Leader*

**Need Volunteer Leaders!**  
Would you like to spend a couple of hours on Friday

evening having fun being an Explorer leader? We are looking for volunteers to help run Explorers as our numbers are growing. Join our happy team and help us to continue to offer our 14-18yr olds a diverse and entertaining programme! Please email: [david@shickle.com](mailto:david@shickle.com) for details. Thank you.



*From 7th  
Epsom Group  
Executive  
Chair  
Kevin Mead*

## Jumble Sale and AGM



### Jumble Sale - 30th September

You should by now have seen an email from Catherine Williams ([catherinemax@btinternet.com](mailto:catherinemax@btinternet.com))

requesting help on Friday 29th September and Saturday 30th September to run the next sale. We need about 40 people to fill the various slots, so please volunteer to help if you can and get the date in your diary.



### Annual Review (AGM) Wednesday 20th September

The Annual Review will take place at Scout HQ at 8pm. Please join us for this important meeting where we will share the Annual Report and Accounts and elect Executive Committee Members for the coming year. Tea, Coffee and cake will be provided and you are also welcome to join the leadership team in the Rising Sun for an informal drink following the meeting.

*Thanks for your support,*

*Kevin Mead, Group Executive Chairmain*

## Diary Dates

### **August**

31<sup>st</sup> (July)- Sweden Camp  
12<sup>th</sup> (Explorers/Scouts)

### **September**

15-17<sup>th</sup> Water Weekend (nr Kingston)  
20<sup>th</sup> AGM@EMC  
30<sup>th</sup> Jumble Sale (EMC)  
email Catherine to help

### **October**

7<sup>th</sup> Explorer Entertainment  
(WaterAid fundraiser)

# Unforgettable ScoutAbout2017

## Amazing Weekend



Friday afternoon 7 July, 29 Scouts had no idea (well I didn't!) what amount of FUN FUN FUN lay in store on the horizon. Jane's mouthwatering meals, electric vibe gig concert, awesome adventurous activities, camping & cricketing capers, Kub masterclass, autonomy.... The list can go on and on, it was truly, eyewateringly, a-may-zing!! As a novice parent helper, I had a tiny insight to the discussions and inner workings of the leaders and was humbled by their complete commitment to the wellbeing of our scouts. Where a situation needed gentle touch, it was given;



firm guidance called for – done so too with absolute dedication and lashings of good humour. What an infectious effervescent event!



Rewarded with reasonable, wonderful weather, stunning sunset and a full moon,



we're all set for sleeping – Scouts under green canvas and leaders in smaller modern tents...

But of course the most important 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom communal space for nourishment...: Jane's Greasy Spoon Café!! Jonathan toasts Jane's fabulous culinary skills



Off to the arena-atmosphere at the gig concert both evenings just incredible- infectious and electric!!

As 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom had to manage some games, the leaders gave scouts a Kub (Swedish) lesson – no

doubt will be played on many an occasion with the new gaily decorated king! Slow starter, it was a hit which was very heartwarming, considering the choices everyone had.

Meals... I NEVER expected to be quite so well and truly “well fed” on a camp. Thanks to Jane’s meticulous attention to detail, organising and planning, we continued receiving King (Kub!) style nourishment.



A happy buzz and camaraderie was the order of satisfied stomachs! (Even those with specific dietary needs broke serious into smiles) The entire weekend the

children had immense freedom – they could go wherever they wanted, do whatever they chose, as long as they were within the grounds, back for meals and never alone. As there was always a leader at our “base” camp, they had the comfort and safety of knowing there’s ready support if needed. The first morning only 2 opted for the offered leader guidance which was quickly dismissed as excited engagement in activity overtook initial nerves. What incredible resilience skills learnt combined with fun decision making. Deluxe confidence building



I don’t know where to start with the breadth of choice – a raft of activities available... from abseiling, archery and art to soapy slides, wall/rock climbing, zipwire and zorbing,

active or creative, adrenalin or ambling, wet or dry, classic or modern, there was ample to do for all tastes and moods. We can but only highlight a few. Next time I would recommend coming a tad prepared to avoid missing out on lesser known excellent activities versus waiting time in long queues except where your enthusiasm dictates. Such as some eager scouts who got up early to queue at 6am for the sought after water activities tickets (Apologies-no pics, rest assured they had a lot of fun!).

Here are a few jawdropping choice examples – driving a Ka car (YES!), paragliding (needed pre-arrangement but still!), high ropes, scuba diving, obstacle (assault) course, black hole caving, chariot making and racing, drone remote control, science activities, astronomy,



entire hall full of incredible crafts (from etching to wood burning to



blacksmithing (in this heat!)

papermaking, keyrings to sawdust faces or authentic fake wounds or fantastic facepainting), various cooking options like onion bhajis mmmm smelled delicious, fun stocks, dunking or buckaroo balloon bumping... even



Eek!

Our Kub game proved very popular with both boys and girls



## Various inflatables



^^^ firm favourite Ka driving

## Baloon bashing buckaroos



←High ropes, zorbing and paragliding in the distance



Total focus -> to fly a drone. Help at hand (even to untangle crashed ones)



And yet our amazing 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom bunch kept levitating back for quiet time, chats, food or ingenious home made cricket matches (using mallet bats, bucket wickets and tennis cricket balls!) with tremendous team spirit.



Finally, all good things come to an end...



Parades to the slightly longer than expected closing ceremony where we all felt the heat intensely... especially those in long sleeves uniforms.

Water butt brought welcome relief wetting scarves for overheated heads before returning home in the coaches and cars we came in.

Thank you to all who came to help set up and decamp.



Leaders Gillian, Clare\* and Jane jump for joy & wave farewell...

\*Clare Knight's comments on the weekend: Hot hot hot, excellent group of scouts, can all play Kub like pros now, fantastic food and great company. Even proximity to the loos didn't adversely affect the great time 😊

*By Elsje Kichenbrand  
(parent helper)*