



7th Epsom Needs Current Parents to Step Forward to Keep the Group Running

Please please read this article, this is really urgent

We need an army of volunteers to help us if we are to be able to continue to run the program of meetings, camps and other activities that the Group offers, and more specifically we need to see a number of new

faces involved. Whilst being a leader or sleeping in a tent may not be for you, there are still plenty of ways for you to contribute to keeping the Scouts running.

Our current team consists of people doing a variety of roles with different levels of time commitment. Many have supported 7th Epsom's young people for years, but some need to move on soon.

We are **desperate** for help with some of the management roles needed to keep the Group successfully running, with the key vacancies highlighted below

1. Transport Manager - a **critical role** as **without our minibuses fully available, our activities would need to be dramatically curbed**. Current Manager James is moving away from Epsom. See more below

2. Communications - this is the **last Newsletter** that Elsje will be putting together for us, so we need someone to step up and help produce subsequent ones. See more below

3. Jumble Sale Committee - many of the current team have offspring that will be leaving the Group this year, so **we need new members**. Jumble Sales are important and significant fundraisers where we also engage with the local community. See more below

4. Parent Representatives - we have vacancies for **Windfall Beavers, Apache Cubs and Sioux Cubs**. It allows parents to engage with the leadership and have your say concerning how the Sections and Group are run. If you would like to find out more, please contact your Section Leader

These roles can mostly be done at a time to suit you and more information on the first 3 can be found below.

We have **just about** enough leaders at present, although that will change at some point. If you would like to get involved, please contact David Shickle, our Group Scout Leader, or one of the Section Leaders. Alternatively, I can put you in contact with one of the Monday Cub Leaders who started a year ago and let them tell you what a rewarding experience they have found it to be.

1. Transport Manager, an activity which will typically less than an hour each week. On behalf of the 7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Exec, the Transport Manager manages and is responsible for the operation of the group's two minibuses and two trailers. The role includes coordinating:

- Booking Management - all year, but minimal effort
- Licensing and insurance - a few interventions each year
- Managing Driver Assurance and Training - as needed, but typically one session per year

A full role specification is available on request. If you are able to help or would like to understand more detail please contact Kevin Mead, Group Chairman on 07768066830 or at meadfamilykam@btinternet.com

2. Communications. Our communications role includes coordinating contributions into a newsletter format such as this one (6 editions a year, roughly bi-monthly) that can easily be read on smartphones and online media. It would be helpful for such a person to have access to appropriate software such as Microsoft Word or Publisher and knowledge of social media to expand the role. If you are able to help or would like to understand more detail please contact current news editor Elsje on elsje@kichenbrand.com / 07940508133 or Kevin Mead, Group Chairman on 07768066830 or meadfamilykam@btinternet.com

3. Jumble Sales. Half of the existing committee have only one more sale before their youngest Scout is 18 and leaves for new challenges. Much though they love the Jumble sale it is better that the committee is drawn from the parents of existing Scouts. They have one meeting (that involves wine and cake!) before each sale and a WhatsApp group for the rest. They are there for the sale and the sorting and the rest of the not too onerous tasks are shared out. It really does take very little time. the upshot of this is that new committee members are needed; if you would like be involved please email Catherine Williams catherinemax@btinternet.com and you can come to the next wine and cake gathering to see if it is for you

Scout Execs Kevin Mead, David Shickle and Steve Barden

District Challenge Hike '20

Sunday 8th March

This year the Hike took place at Holmbury St Marys - 7th Epsom had 4 scout teams entered into the event where they navigated a course of approx. 8 miles. The route for the Scouts was over one morning and one afternoon with break for lunch at the base. The weather was particularly challenging with hail storms interspersing the sunshine. Gillian



luckily arrived back at lunchtime and missed the hail storm – I was less fortunate! At the end of the event one of our teams came second in the scout section. A great achievement as over 25 teams were entered in the competition. They had to use map

and compass to arrive at the compulsory checkpoints and made decisions about which extra checkpoints to go to for extra points whilst all the time making sure they were not back late. Well done Ben, Jamie and Oscar. A brilliant achievement for such a young team..

Paul Carpenter – Scout Leader

Great Jumble Sale!

7th March



A huge thank you very much to everyone who helped at the Jumble Sale on the preparation days and / or on the sale day. It made the event both pleasant and profitable.

Explorers were helping in force and provided great entertainment during preparations with their modelling antics.

Also a special shout out to the group of Explorers who came up with idea of distributing flyers about the sale outside the Metro bank. Several people said they had come because of finding out about the sale from that clever initiative.

Pats on the back all round everyone... Together we raised an amazing **£1,200!**

Please read our plea for new committee members



Catherine (Jumble Committee Chair)

Group Diary Dates

May 22-25 Virtual Spring Camp @home
(See Clare's article) Scouts:yes. Beavers:tbc.
Cubs/ Explorers: no

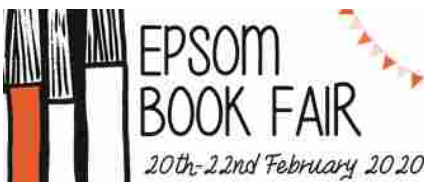
June 26-28 Scoutabout(postponed to July21)

July 18-25 Summer Camp (Scouts+Explorers)

August 8-30 Madagascar Expedition

September 25-27 Water Weekend

July'21 Scoutabout 2020 postponed



Book Fair Raises Funds

Thank you to all the Scouts & Explorers who helped move, sort and sell mountains of books for the 2020 Book Fair. Yet again we raised a record amount for charity: £44,951 up from £41,241 last year and after

expenses of about £4,000, we are able to donate £41,000 to the charities, of which £8,300 will be donated to 7th Epsom Scouts (including £3,800 specifically allocated to the Madagascar trip). Thank you again - we couldn't do it without you!

EMCs Jacqui Raggett (Epsom Book Fair organiser)



We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who attended the Madagascar Team's Quiz Night. We just got it in before the lock down started and it was a huge success.

We served a delicious meal of chilli and rice, with freshly made guacamole and nachos (with crazy amounts of thanks going to Diana and Simon Williams). And Tony Evans served up an amazingly clever quiz. (Thank you too, Tony.)

Instead of wooden spoons the losing team won a loo roll each and the winning team left with a bottle of wine each – both much needed necessities!

The raffle alone raised £420, so thank you for your wonderful generosity there. In total the quiz night raised around the £2,100 mark which is absolutely superb. All of this will go to the projects that we will, hopefully, be helping with in Madagascar in August.

Obviously, all our training is on hold at the moment and we will let you know as soon as we do what the situation is regarding our travel. However, I can absolutely guarantee that this money will be going to the good causes that we set out to support.

Thank you to the team too for their fabulous work on the night. We're getting rather good at this event organising malarkey ☺

Phili Coley Explorer Leader

Home Scouting with Explorers

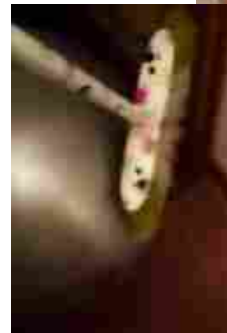
20th & 27th March

When we found out that we would have to start social distancing due to the corona virus outbreak and our planned night of 'Create your own Crazy Golf' wasn't to take place on 20th March, the Explorer leaders got

Explorers to do their own crazy golf hole at home to keep them, and us, amused!

Take up was a bit limited but those who took part did with gusto! And they took my instruction of 'it doesn't matter how big or small' literally to heart with one yoga ball and broom and one complete miniature golf course.

Crazy Golf Score: Explorers 4 Leaders 2





The next week (27th March) was helped along by Alex Horne from Taskmaster, who is setting a series of home tasking for the nation (check out Taskmaster on YouTube), and so we chose the task of 'Throw an A4 piece of paper in to a bin in the most spectacular fashion'.

Uptake was a bit more this week and included some brilliant and funny edits, from one



Did the paper make it to the bin?!



Explorer emptying his entire bin across the bedroom floor, to two hanging bravely from a tree. Others got their kids (leaders!!) and pets involved too.

Paper into Bin score was Leaders 5: Explorers 5





Yes those trousers made another appearance!



Next task is yet to be announced but I'm working on it! Come on Explorers – take part and keep me amused at the very least!!

Phili Coley Explorer Leader

Virtual Scout Meetings

As you know, activities outside the home have stopped so we have had to suspend our regular Friday night Scout meetings. We recognise that it is important to try to maintain some normality during these strange times, for Scouts as well as their parents. Scout leaders have been working hard to come up with alternative options so that we can continue to offer an inclusive scouting programme. We've organised two virtual meetings so far. Each meeting has had a short discussion activity based on the Scout law (being kind and considerate) followed by a challenge or two for the scouts to complete. Two challenges so far have been: 1) a virtual wide game of scrabble, involving star jumps or running up and down stairs; carrying a loo roll or two around a course, on all fours and as a crab; 2) building a flagpole out of anything but incorporating at least two scout knots. Feedback has been good, including photographic evidence of some excellent square-lashing! Hopefully the activities provided some amusement for the rest of the family too. Over the next couple of weeks Scout leaders will be looking at how we can continue with a virtual programme. OSM has just added some new features which hopefully will enable a more interactive meeting so that scouts can link up digitally with each other and share their activities during the session. We hope that parents, carers and other members of the family will support their scouts to take part in these meetings and maybe get involved in the activities too 😊

Keep an eye on your emails/OSM so you know what's happening!

Hi Clare
I have done the flagpole. It was quite fun to do.
I made everyone a cake this week and helped in the garden.
Stay safe
From Harry



Clare Knight- Scout Leader

Home report by the Giovinazzo boys

Last week we discussed about the importance of needing to be especially kind whilst we are all in lockdown and spending so much time together. This week we put it into practice helping around



the house - Jamie in charge of emptying the dishwasher and recycling; Edwin helped sort out the



socks and made his top bunk bed every day; we both helped to lay and clear the table; we cleared the allotment and we made a rainbow for carers.

People did kind things for us too - our new neighbours gave us some lovely food to share. Also, we have been kind to each other (Jamie has been getting Edwin's clothes ready to wear; Edwin has been helping Jamie learn his times tables and Jamie has been teaching Edwin how to draw without losing his patience!)

Our task learning the knots was fun and the flagpole is still work in progress. As I, Jamie am a Scout, I am proud to already know some knots and enjoyed showing off. Thank you, leaders, for putting this together!

*Jamie Giovinazzo -Scout
elephants and
Edwin Giovinazzo -Beaver
Willowlake*



So, no Bentley Cope for 7th Epsom this year 😞 but the leaders of the sections are thinking about other options...

I am definitely running a virtual scout camp that weekend, with the opportunity to earn nights away badges, take part in a virtual hike and feed the family with a cooking competition (sorry in advance to their families..). I'm still working out how to do a virtual campfire...!

Best of all, the camp will be free and all activities will take place in your own home (sorry parents, no weekend without your children) So scouts, look out for the email and sign up for a weekend of fun 🎉

The leaders of the other sections are still thinking and will be in touch over the next few weeks to confirm whether there will be similar camps for beavers. For Cubs and Explorers, it's been cancelled... But for Scouts, it's definitely ON

Clare Knight, Scouts Leader

Explorer Young Leader Alex Connor takes Initiative

We are immensely impressed and proud of our young Explorer, Alex. Usually, he volunteers as a young leader at Thursday's Beavers and Cubs. But now we are in lockdown he has created a 7th Epsom at Home website for them instead, which he is updating every week with new activities, helping them to achieve different badges and to keep them Scouting

Kathy, Beaver Leader, too has been bowled over by how professional the site looks: He has really shown initiative and has set things up so we' (the leaders) 'can see anything he suggests before it goes live'. Thanks so much Alex. You're a superstar!



The screenshot shows a website header with the logo and text '7TH EPSOM @HOME'. Navigation links for 'HOME', 'BEAVERS', 'CUBS', and 'LEADERS' are visible. The main content area is titled 'Cubs' and features a video player. The video is titled 'Welcome Video' and shows a young man, Alex, speaking. Below the video player, there is a text caption: 'Hello, my name is Alex, I am a young leader at Thursday Beavers and Cubs. Because of the closure of scouting across the UK, I have set up weekly activities that you can complete at home. Each week I will post a new activity on this website for you to complete. Submit what you do by following the instructions below. To complete watch the video or read the activity brief on the activity page. I look forward to seeing what you complete over the coming weeks.'

Here's a link to Alex's brilliant website: <https://7thepsom.wordpress.com/>

(ed's note: I was SO impressed last month how Alex held the cubs completely captivated talking about climate change during the planet protector session at the shop I help run...)

Helping Child Education in Kenya: Advantage Africa

About 18 months ago we made donations to two African Charities in support of their work in Child Education. The money we donated was originally collected by fundraising before the last trip 7th Epsom made to Tanzania but could not be used while we were there or be left behind because we were concerned about local corruption. I am pleased to say that we recently had an update from one of the Charities thanking us for the money donated and providing an update of some of the work that it helped to support.



Dr. Kevin A. Mead

6th February 2020

Dear Kevin,

I hope you and all at 7th Epsom Scouts are doing well.

I am writing to thank you again for your wonderful donation of £6,000 to Advantage Africa's work in the education of marginalised communities of East Africa. I apologise that it has been a while since we have been in touch but would like to assure you that your funds, which are now fully expended, have made a significant difference to well over 200 pupils in the three schools that have benefitted. We would also like you to know that although we originally mentioned work in both Kenya and Uganda, as it turned out our education work in Kenya proved to be in most need of your funds, and hence we focused your support on those schools.

I enclose a short report and some annotated photographs that help illustrate the tremendous difference your donation has made to vulnerable children in Kenya. I also enclose our latest newsletter, and our recently published annual report.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like any further feedback. Otherwise, on behalf of our local partners in Kenya and all the beneficiary children and their families, we thank you again, and hope you will remember us if you are ever in a position to help again in future!

All the best for a great year of scouting ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rob Aley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Rob Aley

Programme Manager

9 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire, MK46 4EB, UK. Phone +44 (0) 1234 711005

www.advantageafrica.org information@advantageafrica.org

Registered Charity 1092719. Registered Company 4388034. England

Patrons

Martyn Joseph

Jon Snow

Update to 7th Epsom Scouts from Advantage Africa
1. Special Schools at Thinu and Mitaboni

Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty
Registered Charity 1093719

Your amazing donation has supported two boarding schools which cater for over 70 pupils with learning disabilities in a rural region of Machakos County in eastern Kenya. This is an area where most families survive on subsistence farming and where infrastructure such as tarmac roads, electricity and running water are very limited. Some children walk long distances to school and unfortunately in this context, children with learning disabilities are often left out of education altogether. That is why Advantage Africa, with the help of your funds, supports the special schools at Mitaboni and Thinu, which are scarce examples of facilities where special pupils receive an appropriate education in a caring and safe environment. Your money has been central in keeping these schools running, paying for essential lorries of water to fill the water tanks during periods of drought, teaching resources and helping with salaries for the school support staff such as the cooks and the house mothers who look after the pupils out of school hours and in the dormitories at night.



Pupils and staff in a classroom at Thinu Special School



Pupils with teacher Joyce at Mitaboni Special School



Delivery of water to fill the tanks at Thinu Special School



Mary the Cook serves out lunch at Mitaboni Special School

2. Early Years School at Kalulini

Working with our local partner organisation, Rescue Team, in a remote location of eastern Kenya we have recently built a much-needed nursery school for local children who previously had no such facility. Your donation has greatly assisted with the recent development and running of the school, providing a new kitchen building, text books and contributing to salaries for teachers when the parent contributions didn't quite meet the needs. The pupils, many of whom come from incredibly poor families, have thrived at the new school. In addition to academic learning, the safe, caring and fun environment has seen them grow in confidence and self-esteem. As they leave the school to progress to primary, they are reported to be amongst the most confident and highest performers in year one!



Pupils in class at Kalulini School



Prize giving at the end of term



A group of girls having maize and beans for lunch



Happy pupils show off small toys they have made



The new school kitchen



Pupils and staff with new books!



Home Scout session results in excellent lashing

Sarah's scouts followed the instructions leader Clare sent them to create some great knots and an excellent example of a square lashing as can be seen in the top photograph.

Clearly these Scouts deserved their treat after their exemplary participation in the Stay At Home Scout session. Well done!



Grateful goodbye from me (ed)

It has been a real journey and privilege serving as 7th Epsom Newsletter Editor these past 4 years since the humble beginnings when it was still being printed in A5 leaflet form, all of 2 A4 (4 A5) pages...

I pray that we all come out of the Covid-19 pandemic stronger, wiser, healthier and with an even greater resolve to work together and build on the excellent creativity and lateral

thinking these weeks have sparked. May you be well, safe, sane and strong... So, with a huge heart full of gratitude and best wishes for the future of 7th Epsom families, this is me saying goodbye as editor.

I urge anyone, including Explorers or parents to step up to take over the role, perhaps add more interactive social media aspects to it like Alex Connor has just done! May it go from strength to strength. Thank you very much.

Elsje Kichenbrand (elsje@kichenbrand.com) 7th Epsom NL Editor

