



7th Epsom

Summer Newsletter July 2020

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have all been keeping well during this challenging time. Hopefully many of our members have been able to take advantage of the online activities that we've provided. Some have been well attended and others less so in the older Explorer section, the challenges of youth!

The future of scouting as we know it has been put under a great deal of pressure and the impact on 7th Epsom as a group has been a proper challenge. We are bound by the rules set by the Scout Association, and up until this week we have been in full lockdown.

The Scout Association (TSA) has recently moved to the '**amber**' state meaning we can have small groups of scouts/leaders up to 15 people (including leaders), socially distanced and outdoors. When we move to the '**yellow**' state larger groups will be able to meet, although we will not be able to return to full Scouting activities like camping until we get to '**green**' state. We cannot yet predict when that might be.

It's fair to say that no one knows exactly what the timing of any complete return will be and what additional protection will be needed. Clearly face masks are high on the list of potential requirements for future meetings. It's all going to be interesting and challenging, but we're planning to have an autumn programme across our group and hope to see the majority of our young people taking part in some form from September.

We have missed running our normal program including regular items like 'Spring bank camp' (although the virtual version was very popular) but we hope that this time next year it will all be possible. Sadly that has meant some hard decisions have had to be taken, such as the cancellation of the Madagascar trip next month.

Our normal fundraising activities have also had to stop until further notice but in many ways this is a small price to pay considering the potential risk to everyone involved. However, we are looking forward to returning to Scouting, although it is likely to be a mix of outdoor activities along with virtual meetings.

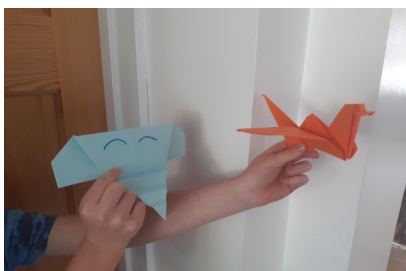
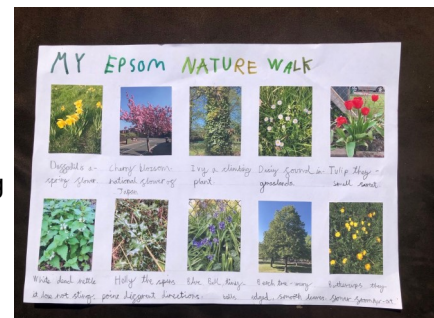
Yours in Scouting

David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group

BEAVERS

We have continued our activities online during lockdown using the 7th Epsom at Home website and we have had quite a good uptake. A big thank you to Alex Connor for all his hard work on the website, brilliant ideas and for organising some of the activities. Each week we have set a different activity or badge to be completed and then the Beavers can email to let us know that they have completed the activity and send us photos of what they have done. It has been possible to tailor the activity to include everyone whether families are self-isolating or not.

We have done the photographer badge, builder badge and this half term we are working towards the Great Indoors Badge. Some of our activities have included cooking, a coin trail, nature walk, origami, making art using fruit or household items, planning a hike, making a drum, trying to navigate using the sun and learning some knots which were tested in a tug of war!



We had a sleepover at home on the weekend when we should have been at Spring Bank Camp where the Beavers could cook a meal and wash up, make smore's, have a camp fire at home and go on a hike with their family. Some Beavers slept outside in their tents!

We have also taken part in the Great Indoors Weekender (see separate article) which was great fun.

Congratulations to the following Beavers who have earned their **Chief Scout Bronze Award**.

- ◇ George Wright
- ◇ Bertie Ray
- ◇ Harry Collinson
- ◇ Zachary Brown
- ◇ Myles Hogarty



All of the Beaver leaders are looking forward to the Autumn Term where we can hopefully meet in person again.

Kathy Castledine - Clearwater Beaver leader



Report for Apache, Sioux and Cherokee Cub Packs

Lockdown came pretty quickly which put an end to our forth coming Sixer and Seconder camp in March and subsequently our Cub Summer Camp in July. However, that did not stop our fun.

Thanks to Alex Connor, Explorer Scout and young leader for Windfalls, who created the website 7th Epsom at home. Cubs were able to follow a Cub activity badge each week, as well as working towards the new Great Indoors Badge.

As the weeks of lockdown turned to months, so zoom meetings started for some Packs. Cubs enjoyed learning knots, playing Boggle and Pictionary, running around on scavenger hunts and finally had fun in the kitchen making arm pit fudge and butter from cream.

Challenge badges were completed which meant a fantastic 9 Cubs managed to obtain their **Silver Chief Scout Award**- a huge achievement.

Massive congratulations go to:

- ◇ Isla Barton,
- ◇ Finlay Cantwell
- ◇ Jack DiPlacito
- ◇ Austin Dolbear,
- ◇ Dylan Maw
- ◇ Rosie McDonald
- ◇ Ethan Miles
- ◇ Isaac Newby
- ◇ Kiran Tyer



Clare DiPlacito - Cub leader

Great Indoors Weekender

11th - 12th July 2020

55 Beavers and Cubs, one Scout and one sister on the waiting list, all took part in the Scout Associations Great Indoors Weekender.

The Scout Association put on this Global digital event as they have recognised the impact that COVID-19 has had on young people's lives. The weekend was superb and 7th Epsom families did not disappoint in their enthusiasm to take part. Helped by the weather, which allowed some of the indoor activities to be outdoors.



The event was opened by Chief Scout, Bear Grylls and then the fun began - from building dens, to huge excitement waiting for the home made rockets to shoot into the air. (We won't mention Baloo's ended up next door!)

The Beavers and Cubs then made whirly birds and dropped them from a height. One Cub even dared to suggest getting onto the roof to get really high. Next came building balance and improving core control and perfect posture. There wasn't a book on their heads in sight! Nope, this was a much more fun activity involving rope and a twister mat. Two Cubs decided to undertake the origami challenge and created a new scouting uniform. I think you'll see from the photos (on the next page) that it was a very good effort.

We then moved swiftly onto compass coding, training the future computer programmers, before relaxing into swing braiding, cooking calzones on a fire and then joining the other participants from around the world for the virtual camp fire. Finally, the Beavers and Cubs were able to snuggle down listening to Sam Sedgman narrate a chapter from his new book. Those who were daring, went on a night hike or relaxed to gaze at the stars.

Sunday morning at 8am brought lots of pancake making, followed by yoga, tower building and some fantastic noise, err I mean music, being played on homemade instruments. At 11.30am Bear Grylls then closed the weekend.

Harry C from Clearwater, said he liked the den building because it had a secret compartment, whilst Loui from Sioux said he enjoyed developing skills and learning how things worked. He enjoyed the rockets and balancing activities the most. I wish I could share all the photos, but the next page is just a taster of this amazing weekend.

A massive thank you to the Scout Association for creating this wonderful weekend and a huge thumbs up for all the parents and children of 7th Epsom for making this such a success.

Clare DiPlacito - Cub leader

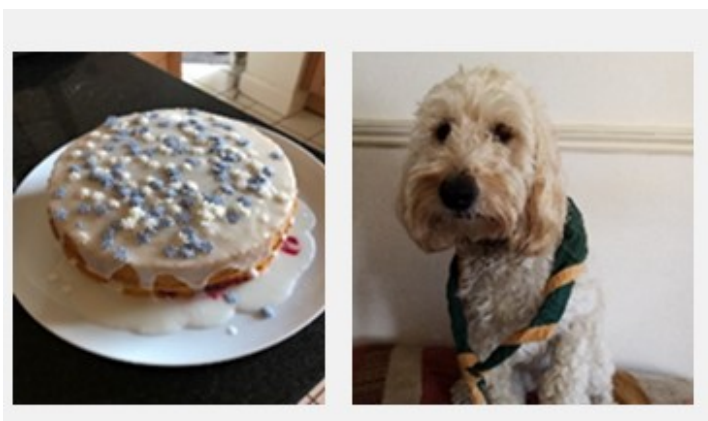
A large collage of 25 photographs showing children engaged in various outdoor activities and crafts. The photos depict children building a tent, playing games, making a campfire, and creating art projects. The collage is arranged in a grid-like fashion with some photos overlapping.

SCOUTS

Scouts have continued to have our regular Friday night meetings, either virtually through OSM or by Zoom meetings. The virtual meetings offer a number of activities the scouts can undertake at home and upload a photo or video of themselves. The leaders are available to 'chat' during the meeting and give live feedback to those joining in.

The scouts were also able to complete badges during the virtual meetings – they completed the Writer badge and Digital Maker badge designing a computer program to produce graphics.

They have been working through the Scout Law and thinking about how that is so relevant to the difficult time when there is no regular schooling and not being able to see their friends and family.



On VE Day they were baking cakes and decorating homes and pets!

We have had 4 Zoom troop meetings. It's been great to be able to see the troop and have more interactive meetings and we can break out into patrols for some of the evening.

There was a 'trip' to Hogwarts where the patrols had to work out how to escape from a locked room, some spy puzzles to solve and some traditional scout games (such as Kim's Game) adapted for the internet.

The scouts had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed getting to see some of the other scouts. We are hoping to be able to get together for face-to-face scouting in September. The leaders are working through the steps we need to take to keep all the scouts safe whilst still offering a worthwhile scouting evening.

Paul Carpenter – Scout Leader


Scout Virtual Spring Camp

The Scout virtual Spring camp was a great success, with 28 scouts joining in for a mad weekend of 'whatever'. The array of activities saw the scouts running round parks, cycling miles, building newspaper bridges to carry tins of beans, dressing up and generally having fun. Their families endured their cooking skills, hopefully with the washing up done too. Sleep was in a variety of tents and dens, anywhere so long as it wasn't their bed!

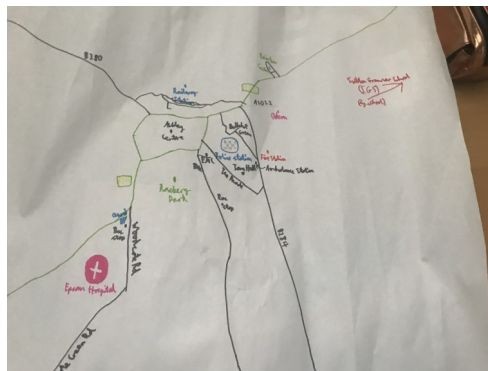
Sunday was a hike around Epsom, following their own hand-drawn maps to various sites including the hospital, EMC, their local shop and bus stops which were all part of the requirements for a scout activity badge.

Several new and older members of scouts were dragged, kicking and laughing/screaming into the activities so it really became a family affair, helping to showcase a typical camp to parents/carers who usually drop and run to the hills when offered a child-free weekend . We even had one scout include his Italian grandparents in the final activity, a virtual and individual campfire. You may have heard us all singing 'everywhere we go' in our own back gardens?

So, real summer camp is cancelled too. We had been planning a virtual camp over the weekend of 25th/26th July but we currently only have 4 scouts signed up for camp and we've just heard that there is a virtual **Scoutabout** called **Roar 2020**, organised by Surrey Scouts, happening on the 14th - 16th August. Therefore we have decided to abandon any summer camp this year, real or virtual, and urge you instead to sign up for Roar 2020! Roar 2020 promises to have lots of activities and campfires too so many far please look out for the email about **ROAR 2020** and sign up for a fun weekend. Hopefully next year we'll be back to proper camping with you all!


The logo is circular with a grey border. Inside, there's a purple silhouette of a roaring lion's head on the right. On the left, there's a rainbow arc with a white star. Above the lion, the text 'SURREY' is in small letters, 'ROAR!' is in large bold letters, and '2020' is in smaller letters below it. There are also two small purple stars at the top.

Clare Knight and the Virtual Camp Crew



EXPLORERS

Unfortunately, after our initial flurry of online activities, after Easter we decided to call it a day for the Explorers online because take-up had declined as they all had the much more pressing issue of schoolwork to be done. We sent out an email in early June to let the section know that we are planning the next term, beginning 11th September.

We all know how to look out for ourselves physically, but do we know how to look after our mental health? So also with that email was a list of helpful resources for this strange time and are all detailed below.

There is an amazing initiative promoted by The Scout Association called “Three for 3” which is designed to help young people find the positives in their lives at the moment and is something that can be done individually or together with the rest of the family

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/scouts-helping-others/mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

If people would like more help or information about how to cope with life in lockdown or any other mental health concerns we would like to point you towards this large array of websites, downloads and apps which can be found on CYP Haven’s website which is part of Surrey CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

<https://www.cyphaven.net/other-support-and-information/>

The charity YoungMinds has useful information for parents as well as young people which can be found here

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Surrey County Council has also created a page with links to sites that may offer help during the Coronavirus crisis [coronavirus-covid-19-resources-and-helpful-information](#)

I have so missed being an Explorer leader over the last few months, from the camaraderie of my fellow leaders to the fantastic sense of humour of teenagers. I will be pleased to be back with everyone in September, however distanced we have to be. Enjoy your Summer.

Phili Coley - Explorers Leader

Madagascar 2020 Expedition



Unfortunately, the Madagascar 2020 expedition is not able to take place. The worldwide pandemic has made it impossible to travel this year.

All international flights to and from Madagascar are suspended until further notice, there is a State of Emergency on the island and the UK Scout Association is not allowing overnight trips at present.

Once we are able to get together the whole team will decide how we will distribute the funds raised through their fantastic efforts over the past 18 months.

We have kept in contact with our Malagasy scouting friends and the young women's refuge we were to visit and work with. Even more so in the pandemic they are in need of our support as well as are the other environmental projects we had in mind. We will share, as soon as we can, our next steps.

The team are very grateful for all the support shown by the Group, Epsom Methodist Church and parents and supporters, we could not have achieved so much over the last 18 months without it.

I am sure you all share with us the immense disappointment of not being able to bring this project to a conclusion. However, the team have some good memories of the preparations, learnt a lot about themselves and cemented great friendships.

Paul Carpenter – Expedition Leader

If you would like to add anything to the next newsletter or have any feedback then please to get in touch by email mjonesepsomscouts@gmail.com

Marion Jones - 7th Epsom Newsletter Editor