



Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of 7th Epsom News.

I hope everyone has been keeping well, and sane! It's been a strange and challenging year in all aspects of our lives, Scouting included.

The good news is the leader team has put a lot of energy into providing online Scouting for all sections and we've had good attendance at those meetings.

In other good news we have re-opened Thursday Beavers.

As we head into April 2021 the Scout Association has said that we can start face to face meetings (limited in size). This assumes the government plan continues as we all hope!

We're all looking forward to an exciting year of Scouting for all of our young people through our 2021/22 year.

Yours in Scouting!

David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group

UK Chief Commissioner Video

Please see this video message from **UK Chief Commissioner Tim Kidd** as he reflects on the power of scouting over the past year. <https://vimeo.com/512991279>

Subscriptions & Gift Aid:

There are still a few parents who have not paid our reduced subscriptions this year. If you are one of those, you should have received a reminder so please pay promptly. Despite reduced face to face meetings, we still have a number of fixed costs including insurance, and a per head levy to The Scout Association.

Thanks to all of you who completed the Gift Aid declaration when paying your subs for this year. Unfortunately, many have not, so please do so, so we can claim 25% back from the Government. This is particularly important in a year where all of our fundraising activities have been curtailed. Just go to the link at <https://forms.gle/h2qjN88it7psGwQG8>

If you are not sure if you did it, do it now - we can filter out the duplicates!

BEAVERS

Our last face to face meeting was just after half term when the Beavers went on a night hike with torches and glow sticks around Horton Country Park. Since November we have met on Zoom which has been a success in terms of numbers and enthusiasm. Our activities on Zoom have included playing games, cooking, icing biscuits, origami, learning how to change a duvet and having a Christmas party. Hannah, the Family and Children's Worker at Epsom Methodist Church also came and ran a session for us. All of these have counted towards various badges. The Beavers have also joined in the District Christmas Party on Zoom where we were entertained by a magician. The Beavers could decorate their own Christmas grotto and sleep overnight in it.

We have also held our first virtual investitures and we are also very pleased to be able to congratulate the five Beavers who have earned their **Chief Scout Bronze Award** at the end of the Autumn Term. **Well done to Max Fortune, Dexter Bostock, Isaac Maclure, Louis Phillips and Aidan Stevenson.**

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents/carers who have helped the Beavers at home with the activities we have done on Zoom.

Finally, we are pleased that Thursday Beavers is restarting this term with a new leader, Hannah de Bourcier, joining Ashleigh in the leader team.

Kathy Castledine - Clearwater Beaver leader



Beavers cheer up the residents of Appleby House

During lockdown, everyone has been aware of the risk of isolation and loneliness. This is all the more challenging for the elderly who have not been able to see their families.

As a result our Beavers stepped up to demonstrate how fantastic they are. They each created a personal card for a resident to cheer them up and as the photo shows, the quality of the drawings and messages was superb and really heartfelt.

Well done Beavers. The residents were truly grateful to receive them.





Report for Apache, Sioux and Cherokee Cub Packs

Zoom does not stop Cubs keeping Busy! This has been a fantastic few months for Cubs.

They completed the disability awareness badge and had great fun creating pictures with their feet and drawing with their eyes closed. They worked towards their personal safety badge and listened to Graham Hetherington talk about the Kent, Sussex and Surrey air ambulance, which relies on donations to keep the service running. The Cubs were fascinated to learn all about blood!

The Cubs grated, chopped, boiled, fried and baked to create a 2 course masterpiece for their Chef badge. I'll let their photos show off their skills. We explored a Harry Potter escape room and thankfully managed to get out. For Remembrance Day we learnt that there were 4 different coloured poppies- not just the red ones. Cubs then did a scavenger hunt to find something of each colour and spell out the word poppy with their finds. Finally as well as completing our challenge to race around the world, we had Christmas fun with games. The Cubs took great delight in wrapping their parents and siblings as mummies!

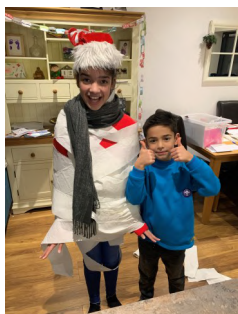
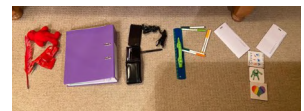
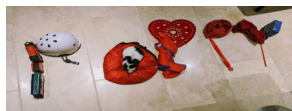
Apache, grasped the last chance to meet outside for their last meeting before we all entered lockdown. During this term, a record number of 14 Cubs worked extremely hard to gain their Silver Chief Scout Award. A massive achievement considering we weren't meeting face to face. We wish them well as they move onto Scouts.

Silver Chief Scout Award—Congratulations to

Amy Bell, Thomas Bell, William Chambers, Tamsyn Dewis, Seraphina Hastings, Jamie Hogarty, Harry Kirk, Ethan Miles, Amelia Pocock, Dylan Thackwell, Loui Todd, Ben Tombs, Ryan Waterworth and Marley Williams.

A massive thank you goes to all parents for supporting our zoom meetings and ensuring the attendance is still fantastic.

Clare DiPlacito - Cub leader





Beavers and Cubs Race around the World

#RaceRoundTheWorld



Our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, explains why we were racing to save over 500 Scout Groups hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. “Even before the pandemic struck, many of our Scout groups were struggling. They’re struggling to pay their bills, buy basic equipment and attract enough volunteers. Over 500 groups, often in our most deprived areas, are now on the brink. If they close their doors, then a generation could miss out. They’d miss out on the friendship, the skills and the opportunities we offer. We can’t let that happen. That’s why I’m calling on each and every one of you to get involved.” This led to the Race Around The World Scouting challenge to help fundraise. Together the UK Scout Association virtually travelled 150,000 miles around the world, raising over £350,000 through sponsorship and direct donations. The money raised across the whole Scout Association was matched by a generous donor taking the total to a grand sum of £650,000 towards the challenge to raise money for Scout Groups hit hardest by COVID-19.

Well the 7th Epsom Beavers and Cubs did not disappoint. We signed up straight away and did physical activities involving distance such as plane flying, but also learning about other countries and so completing the International badge.

Between them, the Beavers and Cubs played Captain’s coming in French, iced biscuits with different flags and learnt about which countries have scouting and what they are called. They looked at different uniforms and compared the similarities and differences. They noted each one had the membership badge there! We moved to America and learnt about Thanksgiving, completed a Thanksgiving tree and made paper turkeys.

The fantastic fact was that through parental support we raised a staggering £600, to keep scouting continuing. A massive thank you to all who donated. I’ll let the photos show the story.



SCOUTS

The troop have continued to meet via Zoom every Friday.

The leaders aim to provide lots of fun as well as the opportunity to complete badges.

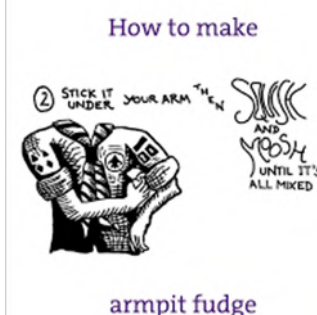
The troop have been working through the Global Issues activity badge and recently did some work looking at a worldwide health issue. No surprise that issue was Covid-19! They enjoyed the light-hearted quiz to complete that part of the badge.



The highlight of the term so far has been making Armpit Fudge.

Not quite as disgusting as it sounds. Lots of fun and they got to eat it at the end!

We are looking forward to (hopefully) meet face-to-face after Easter but in the meantime the leader team are continuing to plan a scouting programme via Zoom.



Paul Carpenter – Scout Leader



Madagascar 2020 project update

Thanks to all the generous donations and hard work by the team fundraising for Madagascar we have started to see some feedback from the projects we have supported.

The girl's refuge, AAF, has started to build some inside toilets and bathrooms for the girls (they have none so far) and complete some work on a dining room. Hanta who runs the refuge sends regular photos of the work as it progresses.

The national scout centre, Tranom-Bitsika, has also started to build the toilet block we are financing. This will allow the building to be used by visiting scout groups and provide opportunities to generate income for the Malagasy TILY scout organisation. They are also installing windows and doors in the same building which is being financed by another UK scout group. We also receive regular photos and updates of the work as it progresses.

Photographs from both these projects, as well as a WaterAid project update we donated towards, are available to view online at :

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c04llxdw33su1xa/AACEdLfDqkedXZgTzhOr5nPca?dl=0>

Paul Carpenter

EXPLORERS

We've been back to our online sessions with the Explorers now since the beginning of November and it's been such a success! Please see the Explorers great summary of our activities over the past few months.

Credit absolutely goes to the leader team who have been inspirational at thinking up things for us to do - they are a fantastic team. And of course it wouldn't all be possible without the attendance of the Explorers who, although they've been stuck online all week for school, have turned up regularly and take part in any of the madness we've thrown at them. We also managed to raise £147.50 (including gift aid) for Macmillan Cancer Support with our Murder Mystery night.

Phili Coley - Explorer Leader

Quiz - On the 20th of November, group A attended quiz night, to see who was the quiz star of the group. We played multiple rounds, each very different from the other. One of the most hilarious and unusual rounds consisted with guessing whether the names, on the screen, were IKEA chairs or swear words in another language - we were shocked at some of the answers! Another round reminded us of much loved films we have all watched, however the aim was to name the characters, which was quite challenging. It was a fun night with lots of laughs and a great way to start our zoom sessions, thanks to the leaders. - **Roisin**

Cooking night on the 20th November, we logged onto Zoom and made Singapore noodles and muffins with custard. At the start of the meeting all we had to do was set up an appropriate work station and prepare all our ingredients ready to make things extra quicker and make the evening extra fun for others. We had to prepare our vegetables and boil them in hot water as well as boil our noodles. We had to follow a recipe card printed out for us and work from there. With the custard muffins it was a lot more straight forward you just had to roll out some freshly brought puff pastry and once we rolled out our pastry we just had to shape it and cut it. Once our pastry was in the muffin tin we just had to cook them in the oven. However our noodles were extremely tasty. I just wanted to say a massive thank you to the leaders for organising this evening, I loved it so much so glad were doing another cooking session soon - **Daniel**

On the 27th of November, Group A did **Art night** which was run by Dav. We were told to bring along various paints and pens as well as unconventional art supplies such as spices and condiments and a creative mindset. We started by drawing a portrait of someone else on the zoom call with our eyes closed, proving very tricky. This was followed by drawing objects around us, as well as attempting to recreate our favourite masterpieces. Finally, things began to get messy as we used our food items such as ketchup and mustard to create self portraits. Altogether a very entertaining night with museum worthy art to show for it! - **Stanley and Jane**

Murder mystery - In December last year, we logged into Zoom and took part in a real life Cluedo game aboard a boat. We were each assigned a character that we would then become for the rest of the night. Then one of the characters was found dead on the top deck and we had to play out the scenes from a script and ask a series of questions to then attempt to figure out whodunnit!! Each character had a clue that they could give, whether it was a conversation or a piece of incriminating evidence that they found. A game where people are keeping secrets and where you must keep a close eye on everyone. I thought that it was very fun and something a little different to our normal activities. It was also interesting to see who different people accused at the end. :) - **Amy Lewis**

Taskmaster - on the 29th of January group A were doing the taskmaster activity. We logged onto zoom and all we knew was that we needed random items: A pen/ pencil, piece of paper, a cup, teabag, a biscuit, some coins and a slice of bread. The aim of the game was to win points and to compete against each other which made it fun. We had to use our balance rolling a biscuit down our face, our hand eye coordination throwing coins, our art skills using the bread and our mouth and speed when seeing how many items of clothing we could get on in a short time. As always, the evening would have been nowhere near as good without our amazing leaders. - **Kyla P**

Explorer Family Fortunes - on a night a few months ago, the group was asked to fill out a survey, and to get their family members to do the same. This survey had questions such as "Name a place you could sleep" and "Name a type of vegetable". Upon joining the zoom call that evening, we were told that group A would be doing "Explorer Family Fortunes", a fun take on the original gameshow. We split into two teams and were asked to answer the same questions as had been asked earlier in the survey, this time to try to guess the most popular answer. After a tight back and forth in the scores, my team emerged victorious, calling the end to an exciting gameshow night! - **Luke**