

Hi Everyone,

We're coming to the end of the scouting year, and its had its challenges for all of us.

We've moved steadily forward opening up and enabling more activities. Sadly we've not been able to camp as of yet, however, summer is upon us and we are running our first camp in 18 months with the Scout Summer Camp in the New Forest (Hurrah!). Unfortunately due to leader availability and limitations placed on us by Covid restrictions, we've had to cancel the Explorer Summer Camp (Boooo).

We've also not been able to run any of our usual fundraising activities this past 18 months. However, we were asked to loan some of our large Scout tents to a local school, who used them camping in their playing fields. They donated £300 to the group. It was a huge success and we received a fantastic card made and signed by the school children.

All sections have been active these last few months as restrictions have allowed, which is great for all concerned and overall, it's been a successful term. We've been working on improving the climbing wall facilities at the scout hut, which you can see in this newsletter.

We will need to see what changes the Scout Association have for us in the coming weeks, once the government sets out its new set of rules.

Onwards and Upwards, have a great summer and we'll see you back in September.



David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group

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BEAVERS

Wow, what a busy term the Beavers have had. Despite the challenges of the summer weather, leaving the leaders obsessing over different weather apps, the Beavers have done 7th Epsom proud.

We started the term navigating around Epsom, which was followed by a hike on the Downs. Next the Beavers tackled an obstacle course. Much fun was had cheering on the young leaders as they bravely tackled it first. Some colonies managed den building on Headley, whilst for others, thunder and lightning turned up instead.

The Beavers learnt how to pump up a tyre for their cyclist badge and cycled round Rosebery park with gusto.



More traditional scouting followed at Boidierhurst with the cooking of cheesy garlic bread and s'mores. The Beavers sung their hearts out to campfire's burning. Pond dipping provided Clearwater a glimpse of the effects of global warming and so the other colonies dipped their nets into the Hogsmill river. 3 cheers goes to Windfalls for actually catching several fish. Next, as if the Beavers hadn't already had enough of water, more excitement was had with our annual water Olympics.



The Beavers also celebrated 35 years of Beaver scouts by having a picnic- yep, in the pouring rain - but it meant much more fun was had crossing the turbulent river over the stepping stones!

As ever- a massive thank you to our parent helpers and parent reps. I'll let the photos continue to tell the story.

Clare DiPlacito - Willowlake Beaver Leader

cubs

Report for Apache, Sioux and Cherokee Cub Packs

Wow, what a relief to finally get back to face to face meetings with the young people across our three packs. Who knew that there were legs attached to the torso's we had known so well through Zoom!! It was great to see them all get back into the swing of things so quickly and despite the typical British Summer doing its best to dampen our resolve, we were able to put together a great program.



At last we were able to get into the great outdoors and teach the Cubs how to light fires with flints, cook on embers. But first we had to show them how to build proper fires!!!



More outdoor activities included making sustainable rafts to float down the Hogsmill while clearing up the stream for the local wildlife and building shelters up on Headley Heath.

Picking up litter throughout Epsom town centre, which the Cubs thoroughly enjoyed despite the rain. So many positive comments made by passers-by as well which really spurred them on to collect even more rubbish than last year. They collected a large amount of litter - ranging from small items, such as batteries and paper waste, to larger items such as rubber tiles and polystyrene packing - making a real difference to the local area. The Cubs enjoyed the activity immensely and the competition to gather as much litter as possible was surprisingly intense at times. Cub leaders hope those high levels of enthusiasm are seen at home when tidying their bedrooms! With thanks to Epsom Council for providing the litterpicking equipment and PPE.



And of course the annual Chip Shop Challenge which used the What 3 Words app to guide our Cubs to the best fried potato products Epsom has to offer!!!!

We couldn't do what we do without the fantastic leadership team who work so hard to put on the program and to the parents who support us. Thank you and have a great Summer Holiday.

SCOUTS

As we come to the end (hopefully) of the Scout Association restrictions due to the pandemic, the scouts have enjoyed a mixed programme this term and all activities have been outside and we have been lucky with the weather.



As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are going on summer camp this year so we designed this term's programme to remind the scouts of basic camping skills, pioneering and camp cooking along with some navigation exercises.

It was not all hard work as they have been playing Adventure Golf and a games evening at Horton Country Park.

The leaders are looking forward to the new term in September when we can get back to our usual programme, whereby the scouts will have the opportunity over their time in Scouts to attain the Chief Scout Gold Award.



Paul Carpenter – Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

Cycling Evening

One of the highlights of this term was our explorer cycling evening. It was raining very heavily on the night but we persevered and met up at Christchurch to begin the ride. We followed most of the 'Round The Borough' cycle, which is a 20 mile route around Epsom and Ewell. We discovered lots of new cycle paths and bridleways, also finding out more about our local area. We passed the horse fields in Horton Country Park and rode through Nonsuch Park, before finishing in Alexandra Recreation Park.

We thoroughly enjoyed it but came home a bit muddy and wet.

Litter picking

Litter picking was one of the many activities we took part in this term to benefit our community. We started at Screwfix and made our way to Bourne Hall while stopping to pick up any litter we came across. It was quickly discovered that the most successful way to complete this task was to work in pairs, one holding the bin bag and the other using the litter picker, further developing our teamwork skills.

Trekking through pavements, streams, fields and woods, our shoes got a little muddy, though we didn't mind due to the fun we were having. It was quite surprising and shocking to see all the different types of litter we picked up, including lots of food packaging, especially plastic which can be harmful to the environment when not disposed of properly, consequently endangering the natural species that live in these polluted habitats. Overall, it felt rewarding once litter was picked up because our local community looked a lot cleaner and inviting to all residents.

Congratulations

Edwin (Explorers) and Samson (Scouts) had great success in the Topper National Inland Championships in June.

Out of 99 boats from across the UK they came 2nd (Edwin) and 4th (Samson). Edwin had joint points with the winner but because he came second in the last race and the winner came first, Edwin lost on 'count back'. So near and yet so far! They both did so well and are hoping for 1st and 2nd in the next race!

Phili Coley - Explorer Leader



New Climbing Wall construction

On Saturday 10th July, 14 willing hands met early at HQ, to build and erect the framework, on which the new climbing holds would ultimately be fitted to. Buoyed by a hot drink and a bacon sarnie, we set to drilling 18 sheets of plywood then screwed 1300 threaded T-nuts into the holes. Meanwhile the other team were busy screwing 130 metres of softwood batten to both walls in readiness for the plywood. Everyone worked really well and a good system meant that we had already got some of the 'Traversing' wall ply sheets fitted by late morning.

After lunch, the progress was more measured as we had to start getting the ply sheets up to a greater height on the 'Belay' wall. But by late afternoon, they were in place and all that remained was a good tidy up and tools away.

This now means we have a very versatile framework onto which many different climbing holds can be fixed to, and moved around periodically, to give all our Young People a taste of sport climbing, throughout the year whatever the weather!

I anticipate both walls will be ready to use in time for the return in September.

Many thanks must be passed onto the few parents who responded to my request for help and to Mark and Richard, the parents who actually joined in on the day. To Rich Tombs and his skills, and to all the Usual Suspects for stepping up as per. A good, fun day was had by all.

You never know, one day, a future climbing World Champion might have caught the bug as a young Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer at 7th Epsom!

Jo Chartres, Asst. Scout Leader and Quartermaster

