

Hi All,

We're heading in to the final half term of this scout year. Busy time for some sections with several camps coming up.

Thanks to all for subscription payments.

As always we have the usual requests for anyone who would like to help more with either weekly activities or some admin type activities, such as managing the mini busses.

We have a special need for parents who could join Beavers on either Tuesday or Thursday. We are open to all kinds of ways of being a leader, such as part of a rota with other leaders.

Please get in touch if you would be willing to assist with any volunteering roles.

Thank you

David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group

2022 KEY DATES

- June 11 District in challenge
- Jul 1-3 Scoutabout
- Jul 23-30 Summer Camp
- July 25-29 Pack holiday
- Sept 16-18 Water Weekend

If you require more information on the activities for the dates above please ask your relevant Section Leader.

REMINDER

We have Group Hoodies and Polos to order from our web site [here](https://www.7thepsom.org.uk) , they are available in adult and children sizes and are a great addition to the kit for camps and other activities.

BEAVERS

It has been another busy and fun term for our three Beaver colonies.

A few highlights were when we looked at traditional activities in Scotland by celebrating Burns Night and holding our own Highland Games which the Beavers loved. We marked the start of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an evening of activities based on the number 70 including building a castle out of 70 cups and guarding it whilst we guesstimated 70 seconds.

We revisited some old favourites when we learnt about Chinese New Year and spent a fun, if messy evening, making and cooking our own pancakes. Some new activities were tried as well; the Beavers made their own fossils one evening and we also started working on our Money Skills badge.

We have been out and about with a visit to Nonsuch Park on a chilly March evening to gain our Explore badge. On a hike around the park, we learnt about Henry VIII and his palace at Nonsuch whilst splashing in some great muddy puddles. On our first outing since the pandemic, we took a group of very excited Beavers to Sandown ski slope for an afternoon of sledging and donutting.

We are looking forward to the Summer term when, in addition to our usual meetings, we will be going to a County event, Beaver Bazazz, on 21 May and also joining the rest of 7th Epsom for a sleepover from 27-28 May at Spring Bank camp.

We were sad to say goodbye to Emma, who has stepped down as one of our Tuesday leaders, and are very grateful for everything she has done.

Finally, a big thank you for all the support and help from our parents/carers as we couldn't run the activities without you!

Kathy Castedine, Clearwater Beaver Leader



cubs

With Christmas behind us it was great to get back together for our Spring Term. We had a great program to deliver across the 3 packs and we were confident that the Cubs would have a great time!

It was also good to celebrate Cubs beginning to move up through the group as well as welcome young people from outside the group for the first time in a while.

After the usual welcome meeting in week 1, we set about eye bombing Epsom town centre in week 2. For those new to the idea of eye bombing, it involves the Cubs getting out and about with a pocket full of stick-on eyes to make faces out of everyday objects. There were some absolute crackers as well as some that looked a tad more Salvador Dali!!!



Week 3 brought with it Haggis, Shortbread and a bit more Haggis as the Cubs gained more understanding of Burn's Night, its traditions and its food. The black pudding was a firm favourite with the Cubs until they found out what it was made of!!!!



Weeks 4 & 5 were focused on working towards the DIY badge. The Cubs had to learn about different types of building materials, use and care of tools, tile a wall and then build a bug hotel. We were all so impressed with how every single one of them took part safely with a real focus.

In week 6 we were lucky enough to part fund an evening of shooting, run by Target Shooting School, who are based in Leatherhead and organised by Howard our new Thursday night leader. Their instructors were fantastic, and the Cubs had a brilliant time trying something they had never had the opportunity to do in the past.



After the annual pancake challenge came a visit to the Sri Raja Rajeswary Amman Hindu Temple in Stoneleigh. Our guide, Sai, who's Grandfather had help fund and build the Temple, did a brilliant job in answering the Cubs' inquisitive and respectful questions. Thanks to Jonathan for organising such a fun and informative visit.

Our Sixers took control of week 8 as they worked towards their team leader challenge badge, usually the last one to get before being awarded their Silver Chief Scout Award. They organised a fun evening of games which focused on all the cubs working as a team to complete a series of fun challenges. Great job and well done to all our Sixers.

Of course, it wouldn't be a spring term without an Easter cooking challenge. This year our Cubs attempted to make hollow chocolate rice crispy eggs on some of the warmest nights of the year so far. As you can imagine they didn't quite pull it off, but they had fun and plenty of chocolate in the process.



A huge well done to Sam S, Harry L & Rory M who all achieved their Silver Chief Scout Awards and to Rich, Paul and Leigh from Apache who have completed their Wood badge Training!!!

As well as welcoming Howard to the leadership team it was with sadness that we said goodbye to Jonathan, who after 13 years took the decision to work with charities outside of scouting. Thank you Jonathan!!!

As always, the program is only part of the engine that runs the packs, our leaders, young leaders, Cubs and parents are key to our success, and we thank them all for their continued support.

Leigh Hogarty—Cub Leaders

SCOUTS

Decision was made at the beginning of the year to still meet outside until half-term at the earliest to see where we were going with the pandemic. It was therefore a challenge to find activities to do outside in the cold and dark. However, the scouts turned up, sometimes suitably wrapped up and we kept ourselves busy. We had a wide game on Epsom Common, we did a chip shop challenge, used the climbing wall, and had an expedition out on the train to Box Hill and climbed across the stepping stones and up and down the hill.

After half-term we did a hike and navigation evening in preparation for the District Challenge Hike on the 13th March. We had 5 teams take part, and can report that one of the teams came first. Congratulations to Alex and William Foulger, Zachary Moore, and Stan Page. I can also report that it was the muddiest hike I think I have ever taken part in, so was a real challenge.

The whole troop met inside for the first time for many months on the 11 March, and continued with inside activities. We celebrated World Pulses day by cooking lots of different things, all composed of pulses; the bean curry, bean burgers, houmous and red lentil pancakes went down a treat. We introduced the scouts to their personal challenge badge, and introduced some rope activities in Roseberry park. So if you were walking through Roseberry Park late one night and saw a man up a tree, that could have been Tony trying to retrieve a rope that had got caught. The Summer term is jammed packed with camps, Surrey District Scoutabout where we have 43 scouts joining 5000 other scouts and guides from around Surrey, and much much more.

Big thank you to all leaders and parent helpers who have made all this possible.

Gillian Mead – Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

For the Spring term we tried to cram in a variety of activities. We started the term with a trio of an Epsom Detective Trail (from TreasureTrails.co.uk – it was pretty hard but worth looking at for family entertainment), online cooking with Jayne from Grow, Cook, Enjoy and an Escape room from the Macmillan website (we raised £133 for them over the three nights – thank you J)

The start of February saw us hiking across from the Stepping Stones back to the Downs – and Rich kept us marching at quite a pace, uphill and down! It's a great route which includes a section of the Roman Road, Stane Street.

The Explorers had a Quiz night with rounds written by the leaders; a cinema night – when we watched the action movie, Uncharted – thanks to Dafydd for booking this; a newspaper fashion show, where everyone's creativity flowed and a games night – where they learnt a few fun facts about the leaders!! We finished the term with a night at Hollywood Bowl – a report by Nathan is below. Thanks Nathan, as I know you're probably up to your ears in revision.

During the term 13 Explorers also took part in a nationwide Monopoly run in London – a fabulous report from Alex follows. And 13 intrepid individuals went on the Easter Expedition in the Brecon Beacons. It was tough with 3 full days of hill walking – those who went should all be incredibly proud of themselves.

Phili Coley - Explorer Leader

Some great results from the Pizza and tiramisu cooking night



Creativity was set free on the newspaper fashion evening – a bride and an ice cream cone!



EXPLORERS

Bowling

(written by Nathan)

For the first time in ages, we went to Hollywood bowl for an evening of strikes, spares and slip ups. We had a great time, starting slow and improving as we went on. At the end we attempted to get the highest bowling ball speed, managing to get up to a whopping 23mph, at the expense of falling over! Overall, it was a great evening, with some managing to get multiple strikes in a row!

Speed bowling effort included a long run up and a cowboy hat!



Monopoly Run 'Live' (written by Alex)

The Monopoly Run 2022 was one of the largest UK scouting events since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It saw more than 5000 people from 970 teams competing to earn the most money and be crowned victorious. Each team competed to purchase properties, earn rent and complete challenges across central London in order to earn cash and climb higher in the rankings. As there were so many teams competing, it would be difficult to purchase any of the properties, so 7 teams were placed together into a game to compete. So, winning was measured on two levels: your game and the global leader board. There were two 7th Epsom teams competing under the names Crinoids and Eccles (we didn't choose the names!)

Crinoids: Alex, Jane, Nathan, James, Leo, Monty, Zak

Eccles: Izzy, Grace, Charlotte, Finton, Oscar, Jamie

For my team, the day started off with concern and worry as we thought (due to the app crashing initially) we would lose a lot of properties and, in turn, the game by the end of the day. But with a collaborative effort to strategise, we managed to succeed.

Within our game, Crinoids placed 1st with an astonishing £8609 – £4934 ahead of second place – and Eccles placed last with £-275. In the global leader board, Crinoids placed 25th!!! (When I last participated in 2020 with 7th Epsom, we placed around 75th.) An incredible achievement and I am so proud of the team. 25th out of 970 is incredible! Unfortunately, Eccles placed 570th, but that's okay, they hadn't played before, better luck to them next year! It was an incredibly fantastic day (so, thank you to the leaders for organising our entry!) and we all enjoyed it so much. Personally, I would place it as the best day of 2022 so far!

As a team, we also filmed a video of the day to document our experience: <https://youtu.be/rv16dYmMEj8>.



One challenge was to get a picture of your team in a black cab – we came first as we managed it in 30 seconds!

Teams Eccles and Crinoids together at the start point in Jubilee Park, by the London Eye.



Easter Ex. 2022

This year 13 Explorers and 5 leaders travelled to the Brecon Beacons for 3 days of mountain walking over the Easter weekend.



Each day we split into 3 groups; walking routes that had been prepared the night before. They walked a total of 36 miles (the longest day was 14 miles) and climbed about 2,700 metres. That's the equivalent of nearly 9 times the height of the Shard !!

On Saturday we all climbed Pen Y Fan, the highest peak in the Brecon Beacons standing at 886 metres. We were rewarded with good weather over the 3 days with the only rain starting to fall as we arrived back at the minibuses on the last day.

The Explorers showed great teamwork cooking meals, planning routes and making the lunches. They learnt some useful navigational skills and put them into practice as well as learning how to plan for and enjoy walking safely in the mountains. The team showed great resilience as the bunkhouse boiler broke down just before we arrived. It was not possible to get it repaired over the bank holiday so we had to improvise a system of hot water for washing up as well as endure (enjoy) cold showers.

The highlight of the weekend was the Explorers renewing their Scout promise and investiture into Explorers on top of Picws Du on Easter Sunday. The flag was carried all the way up there for the investitures – well done.

They arrived back in Epsom on Easter Monday tired but looking forward to going to school the following day and not climbing mountains!

The leaders after a few days rest are already talking about where to go next year.



Paul Carpenter