



Hi All,

I hope everyone had a good summer and was able to take advantage of the unusually warm and dry weather. We were pleased to be able to send a sizeable team to ScoutAbout and our subsequent summer camps were also a great success – as you can read herein.

As we return to our Autumn Term activities we are of course reflecting on not only the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II but also the awesome servitude that she provided for our country.

We send our condolences to her family and best wishes to our new King Charles III.

Our Annual Review (AGM) is coming up on October 5th (more details below). We hope you will be able to join us.

Thank you

David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group



You are warmly invited to the 2021/2022 AGM & ANNUAL REVIEW

Does your child enjoy being a:



Then come and meet the team and share the experience of last year's highlights and achievements. We are presenting a number of Awards and also our plans and activities for the coming year.

Wednesday 5th October 8:00 pm

At Epsom Methodist Church Scout HQ, Ashley Road

Refreshments are provided

Please confirm your attendance at the AGM by emailing Kevin Mead (Chairman) meadfamilykam@icloud.com

Group Polo Shirts & Hoodies

I am pleased to announce that we are introducing Group polo shirts and hoodies to complement our existing uniform. The garments will be for all young people, leaders, supporters, parents and carers. Infact, they are for anyone who would like them.

Both items will be premium cotton 'Fruit of the Loom' garments and will have the scout logo and group name embroidered on the front. On the reverse there is a large, printed scout logo and group name as shown in the pictures below. It is intended that the polo shirts and hoodies can be worn on Group activities, where uniform is not necessary, but where it would be good to have a Group identity, such as fundraising activities, camps and day trips.

The cost for all section members (beavers to explorers) for the polo shirts is £12.50 and the hoodies are £15.00. Due to VAT the cost for adults is £17.50 for polo shirts and £22 for hoodies.

The sizes are as follows

Children		Adult		
Age	Height (cm)	Chest (Inches)		Chest (Inches)
3-4	104	22"/24"	S	35"/ 37"
5-6	116	26"/28"	M	38"/40"
7-8	128	30"	L	41"/43"
9-11	140	32"	XL	44"/46"
12-13	152	34"	XXL	47"/49"
14-15	164	36"	XXXL	50"/52"



Please note that it is not compulsory to purchase these items, but we do encourage it. If you would like to purchase any of the items then please follow the link below and complete the google form. This link can also be found on the 7th Epsom website. <https://goo.gl/forms/juPHnwuZxOrehEjy1>

Once you have completed the form please can you make payment to the following account

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account: 00009254

Please note that this is the same account that you pay your annual subscriptions into. It is really important that you include the following reference on your payment "GC-Surname". This will help to match your order to your payments. We will be looking to put in an order to the suppliers at the start of October, so please could I have your orders **by Friday 2 October**.

Please note that this will not be your only chance to put in orders. At the end of each term, I will be putting in an order to the suppliers. If there is the demand, we can place orders on a more regular basis.

If you have any questions, then please contact **Simon Williams**, either by email (asw1975@gmail.com) or by phone (07789 225415).

Scout Summer Camp

Scout Summer Camp: A week of fun in the sun at a favourite camp site, Bushy Wood near Eastbourne.



Loads of activities included archery, crate stacking, water rockets and some good old orienteering and gadget-making. Add in a chariot race (and I'm pleased to say none of the square lashing came apart!), a few rounds of Wordle, a Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow, a campfire and the odd impromptu Bushy Wood loo/shower block disco and we had the makings of a great camp.

We popped into Knockhatch Adventure park for, among other things, a spot of birdwatching, some water-sliding and some rowing practice. We found time for a quick hike over the hill by Birling Gap and enjoyed ice lollies in Lidl car park (other supermarkets were available) and whopping 99s in Eastbourne.

We had a quick stop at the Lifeboat station in Hastings to hear about the role this station is playing in rescuing refugees from the Channel and also a reminder of 'float to survive'. Luckily we didn't need to practise this later in the week on our beach day!

The cooking competition produced outstanding culinary skills, Jane's Pit Stop cafe gave us great food all week (and quite a few jam sandwiches for those still with a hole to fill) and the scouts provided lots of entertainment for the leaders - Jo endured four renditions of 'God Save the Queen', Phil heard lots of awful jokes.

A final night under the stars or a tarpaulin, scout's choice, then home on the party bus for a good wash and sleep. The leaders enjoyed themselves, we think the scouts did too!

Clare Knight

BEAVERS

We have had an extremely busy and energetic summer term as the weather has been so lovely we have spent a lot of time outside.

We have played games on the Downs, built dens on Headley Heath, completed obstacle courses in Rosebery Park, cooked at Boiderhurst, pond dipped in the Hogsmill, and hiked along the Lizard trail at Headley Heath. We also had a session on growing things for our gardening badge, and went to meet the horses at Epsom Riding for the Disabled. All of these activities contributed to a variety of badges including gardening badge, outdoor challenge, camp craft and disability awareness.



We took a group of excited beavers to Beaver Bazzazz where we hurtled round a huge range of fun activities. Bazzazz is Surrey Scouts' triennial event for beavers and rainbows where all groups offer their own activities and there are a range of amazing shared activities on offer. This year it was held at Merrist Wood and involved a huge choice of things to do, ranging from climbing, caving, go-karting, bouncy obstacle courses and even bouncy lazer quest, to hook the duck and code breaking!



The highlight of the term has to be spring bank camp. Beavers camped overnight in the hall at the Polyapes camp site in Stoke D'Abernon and took part in archery and a range of other activities. We could not have run the camp without our enthusiastic parent helpers. A big thank you to Kim Collison, Clare Preedy, Manuela Nardone, Kerry Cox, Christelle Ras and Michaela Kemp. A particular thanks to the ladies who ran the kitchen – a very essential part of the team!

At the end of the term, we were very proud that of the beavers that received their bronze awards before moving up to cubs. This is the highest honour for beavers and reflects a huge commitment to attending weekly meetings and engaging in the wide range of activities offered.

Kathy, Eileen, Clare and Victoria.

cubs

The Summer Term arrived and once again we were back in the outdoors as much as possible. With our first group camp on the horizon, camp skills and pioneering were the focus as well as the art of lighting fires, backwards cooking and building shelters up at Boiderhurst and Headley.

We all enjoyed being with the rest of the group for our Pollyapes Camp. It was great to see all sections integrating and supporting each other as well as a sense of pride at hearing the Cubs drown out everyone else around the campfire, well that's how we remember it!



Towards the end of term we were also lucky enough to have an orienteering session run by the Mole Valley Orienteering club who organised a fantastic evening and it supported the work the Cubs had been doing around map skills.



As well as all that we once again worked in the community to litter pick around Epsom. This is always a great evening for both the Cubs and the public who get to see our young people out and about doing their good deeds.

Finally all of our Cubs led a skills night organised by our fantastic Sixers. The Cubs all learnt something new and great fun was had by all.

In all this year we have presented 6 Silver Chief Scout Awards and are in a great position to increase that number in the year ahead.



Leigh Hogarty—Cub Leader

SCOUTS

Wow what a busy summer we have had. We have taken the scouts away on three camps, the weather has been fantastic, and I hope all have enjoyed and learnt from the experience.

On our Friday evenings, we have taught the scouts to put up tents, built fires and done backwoods cooking, made jubilee bunting that we put up during Spring Bank camp, been to Tolworth bowling as a treat, completed the athletics badge, and most scouts have completed their personal challenge badge. For that badge they must set themselves a personal challenge (which their parents signed off), and we set them a leader challenge of learning some basic sign language, which the majority have completed.

We ended the term with a BBQ and games at Horton country park and said goodbye to 5 of our patrol leaders who are all moving up to Explorers. All of this would not be possible without the leader team, and all the parents who contribute on a rota basis.

Spring bank Camp

For 3 nights a very large crowd from the 7th Epsom group took over the Polyapes camp site at Oxshott. The weather was good, the kids had fun, all the tents were packed up in the dry – what is not to like. 32 scouts got stuck in to cooking over open fires, taking part in tomahawk throwing, doing a hike, building gadgets, decorating jubilee cakes (later consumed after judging), and generally having a fun time and making the leaders exhausted.

Aerial walkway built by Jo and the Explorers and enjoyed by all.



Some of the leaders set themselves their own task – heating and detaching a tent pole.

Scouts own attended by cubs, scouts and explorers on Sunday morning and delivered by the Group Scout Leader David Shickle.



Gillian Mead – Scout Leader

Scoutabout July 2022

On the 1st July 42 scouts and 6 leaders from 7th Epsom headed off to Ardingly showground to join over 6,000 scouts and guides. All the scouts had to do was have fun. They came back to base for food and sleep, otherwise they were on their own experiencing the hundreds of activities on offer. Words cannot express what a fantastic weekend it was for all concerned.

So head over to the Surrey Scouts website and watch the 2 min video to get a flavour of the weekend : <https://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/news/article/scoutabout-2022-what-a-return>



Scout uniform was required for the closing ceremony. They were just about able to gather together their uniforms. Hannah Dewis from 7th Epsom participated in the closing ceremony.



Summer Camp

On the 23rd July, another bright and hot day, 20 scouts, 20 Explorers and a team of leaders headed off to Bushy Wood campsite near Eastbourne for a week. Apart from the mishaps with the hired mini-bus, all was good. No trips to A&E and not too many cuts and bruises. The weather was good all week, and again we came back with dry tents and equipment, so a big improvement on last year.

The biggest challenge for the week was that there was no wood to burn for cooking. The campsite had not been coppicing, so we had to purchase wood in the end. So no wood collecting, which

generally the scouts enjoy, and it also fills time! There are lots of trees around, so thankfully it provided some much needed shade at times, but thank goodness the temperature wasn't in the late 30s.

The scouts took part in crate stacking and archery onsite, attended an adventure theme park, took part in a cooking competition, did a town trail in Hastings, held an antiques road show, hiked over the downs, swam in the sea at Eastbourne. As well as that they cooked their breakfasts and dinners over open fires, took part in a cooking competition, had wide games and water fights. The fun just never stopped. A big thank you to Clare Knight who organised the overall camp for both scouts and explorers and then to all the leaders who either stayed all week, or came and went. Big thank you also to Jo Long (parent), who came for the whole week and did an amazing job in the kitchen with Jane. Without everybody taking part it would not run smoothly as it did.



Scouts built chariots and then were let loose with the face paints before completing the course on the field. Not quite sure the thinking behind the face paints, but it got them to wash after.

EXPLORERS

We have had a fantastic Summer 2022 at Explorers, with loads of different activities and our first Summer Camp since 2019. And what a Summer Camp it was! Here's a few of the summer activities in the Explorers' own words:

One evening we all took part in kayaking in small groups. We began the evening by kayaking downstream in small groups before playing a variety of games. As we kayaked through the evening the sun begun to set and it was a very scenic trip. Finally, after lots of splashing and games we all ended up capsizing each other and swimming for the shore. It was a great evening and very energetic making it a lovely way to get to know one and another. **Alice**



One of the halves after Kayaking

The chip survey was so much fun. We divided into smaller groups and journeyed our way through Epsom, stopping at various chip shops. Personally, I really enjoyed Mannings due to the large portions and perfectly seasoned potatoes. After visiting each shop, we rated the chips on multiple categories such as fluffiness, saltiness and crispness. Overall, we had a great time. **Jane**



One week we did backwards cooking, which meant making wood fires and cooking dinner on them. The fires burnt well and high due to the high temperatures at the time, meaning that our burgers were cooked to perfection. Overall, a fun evening in Boidier Hurst! **Nathan**

Up on the downs, we were tasked with sending and receiving messages in semaphore and morse code. We split into 4 groups. Each group was then split again into two sections, one sending morse code message and the other sending semaphore messages. Equipped with torches we sent morse code messages and sent semaphore using flags we had made earlier. Semaphore was the confusing part. At first we weren't even sure which group we were talking to and then when actually reading the messages it looked like a sort of dance with the way we waved the flags about. Eventually we got the hang of it and once we had finished we played a quick game of rounders to end the night. **Monty**

The definition of cycling is the activity of riding a bicycle, of which it has two main forms. Long distance and cycling over rough, open country. Well, Dafydd definitely made both groups have a very long, steep and bumpy ride. There was a slight collision with a ditch, but luckily all brought helmets, so everyone was still intact. Everyone had an incredible time which was topped off with a lovely pit stop to have ice creams. **Charlotte**

EXPLORERS

Summer camp started by setting up our tents and hammocks. During the week we did a range of activities like, crate stacking, archery, shooting, sailing, wet rounders, climbing. We also visited Eastbourne a few times where we had a BBQ, explored the area and went in the sea. We also had a lot of down time which allowed us to relax. During this free time, we played cricket several times and we also did capture the flag with the scouts which was really fun. On the Thursday we went on a 16km hike from Brighton Pier to Firl. On this hike there were amazing countryside views however, on this day it was extremely hot, so we made sure to use lots of sun cream. Near the end of the hike there was a massive hill that took us all forever to trek up, but at the top an incredible view was provided for us. Ben



Bench races got competitive



Sailing on the sea at Eastbourne

A few 'sensible' purchases for camping!



Crate staking at Summer Camp



Slippy rounders at Summer camp

EXPLORERS

Explorers Investments at Summer Camp

