

Welcome to the final Newsletter of the calendar year and how different it is to last year with a full Scouting programme in play without COVID restrictions to protect our leaders and young people.

We are gearing up for next year, planning our various camps but for most of us now the run up to Christmas is fast becoming our main focus. That includes our Community Christmas Post Service which is featured below and which is now our main fundraiser for the year.

Yours in Scouting

David Shickle - GSL 7th Epsom Scout Group

## Community Christmas Post

Our major fundraising event for the year is approaching fast. Please use the service and let your friends and neighbours know about it.

We still need another **15 people to volunteer** typically a couple of hours of their time to deliver a post round the week before Christmas.

Please please help if you can and get in contact with **Richard Bell** by emailing [rich@richandjulia.co.uk](mailto:rich@richandjulia.co.uk)



**POSTAL STRIKE?**  
**NO PROBLEM!**

**RISING PRICES?**  
**NO PROBLEM!**

Send your cards by  
**7TH EPSOM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS POST**

Deliveries in: **KT17, KT18, KT19 & KT21**  
Epsom, Ewell and Ashted

**LAST COLLECTION 8pm Thursday 15th December**

For postbox locations: PTO or go to  
[www.7thepsom.org.uk/activities/christmas-post](http://www.7thepsom.org.uk/activities/christmas-post)

Please include your payment (in cash) with your cards & post them into a Scout postbox

**ONLY 40p PER CARD**

Every penny goes to help:



Official sponsors:



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS POST

### Postbox locations 2022



Note: all postboxes are yellow except those in the Ashley centre which are blue

#### EPSOM

|                          |                   |          |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Clarks (outside)         | The Ashley Centre | KT18 5AB |
| Hotel Chocolat (outside) |                   |          |
| Superdrug (outside)      |                   |          |
| WHSmith (outside)        |                   |          |

|                              |                  |          |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Ebbisham Centre (by library) | High Street      | KT19 8AG |
| Michael Everett              | High Street      | KT19 8DP |
| Tesco Express                | Chantilly Way    | KT19 8SP |
| Costcutter                   | Manor Green Road | KT19 8RA |
| Ajits Local                  | Sefton Road      | KT19 9HG |
| Epsom Methodist Church       | Ashley Road      | KT18 5AQ |
| Save 'n Smile                | Wells Estate     | KT18 7LG |
| Dorking Road Stores          | Dorking Road     | KT18 7JZ |
| Corner Shop 4U               | Burgh Heath Road | KT17 4LU |
| Sainsbury's                  | Kiln Lane        | KT17 1EQ |

#### EWELL / STONELEIGH / CUDDINGTON

|                       |                           |          |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Sainsbury's Local     | Cheam Road                | KT17 1SN |
| Smiths Mail Shop      | 12 Ruxley Lane            | KT19 0JA |
| Sainsbury's Local     | 65 The Broadway           | KT17 2HP |
| Vale Road Post Office | 173 Vale Road, Cuddington | KT19 0PJ |
| Bourne Hall           | Spring Street, Ewell      | KT17 1UF |

#### EPSOM DOWNS

|         |                  |          |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| McColls | Tattenham Corner | KT18 5QG |
|---------|------------------|----------|

#### ASHTED

|                      |                   |          |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Marks and Spencer    | The Street        | KT21 1AA |
| McColls              | The Street        | KT21 1AW |
| Tesco Express        | Craddocks Parade  | KT21 1QJ |
| Garry's Greengrocers | Barnett Wood Lane | KT21 2DB |

# BEAVERS

As usual beavers have had a busy and productive term. Outdoor activities have been more limited this term due to the bad weather and dark evenings but we have had the excitement of a night hike round Epsom Common and learning tracking skills at Horton Country Park. These contributed towards My Outdoor challenge badge.

Our indoors evenings have covered a range of badges to develop new skills together with themed evenings learning about our community and the world around us - and fun! These have included a Halloween monster themed evening, learning about being fit and healthy for our My Skills badge, work on our hobby badge, communicator badge (including morse code), cooking badge (pepper cars) and creative badge (autumn themed arts and crafts plus monster cups).

We have had visitors from Epsom food bank and Surrey police and an evening focusing on Remembrance Sunday and remembering our Queen.

We're very much looking forward to our end of term Xmas party.

**Eileen - Assistant Beaver Leader**

# cubs

After a lovely summer break it was great to be back together again and to welcome our new Cubs. We had another great program to deliver across the 3 packs, all of which would deliver a wide range of badges and experiences.

After the usual welcome meeting in week 1, we were really lucky to have one of our Apache Parents, John, organise an environment evening where the cubs were able to learn about a wide variety of environmental issues, their impacts and how they could make a difference. The food miles exercise was a real eye opener!!!

Week 3 saw the return of an old favourite, for both the cubs and the adult helpers, The Chip Shop Challenge! Using what 3 words to navigate their way around Epsom, the cubs were able to sample chips at each location to crown one establishment as having Epsom's Greatest Chips!!

Weeks 4 & 9 were focused on working towards the Science Badge, our cubs learnt about how sound waves work, seeds grow, crystals form, built circuits to launch helicopters and finally built their own reaction rockets with some impressive results!!!!

We were lucky in week 5 to be able to visit the amazing team once again at Epsom Fire Station. This has always been a key activity but one we haven't been able to do for several years. The fire service were brilliant and really gave the cubs an insight into the life of a fire fighter as the pictures demonstrate



Our meeting after half term found our cubs channelling their inner "bake off" with some biscuit making, lots of mess, lots of laughs and most importantly some awesome biscuits!

November always allows us time to pause and reflect with events such as Remembrance Sunday. This year was no different. A fantastic night hike through the centenary woods in Langley Vale allowed the cubs to understand the importance of the area during the First World War and also to reflect on the sacrifices that were made. The Cubs left thoughtful messages of thanks on the memorial. It was also the first time in a number of years that Cubs have been able to take part in the Service of Remembrance and it was lovely to see such a great turn out.



The term is yet to finish and we still have First Aid, Shooting and of course the Christmas Parties to look forward to.

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. Happy Christmas from the Cub Leadership team!!

**Leigh Hogarty—Cub Leader**

# SCOUTS

The Autumn term has given all the scouts many opportunities to gain badges, have fun and show off their talents.

In addition, we have been to The Spectrum for a fun-filled evening in the leisure pool, and in December The Target Shooting School is giving all the scouts an opportunity to take part in an evening of shooting.

On the 11th November the scouts performed in the church in front of their peers, parents and leaders to tick off the performance part of their Creative Challenge badge. Not sure how much talent was shown, but a great effort was given by most. As I said to them on the night scouts is about doing things that take them out of their comfort zone, challenge them, and for many that was certainly the case.

We returned to a formal parade service on Remembrance Sunday, (the first for 3 years), and it was great to see the church packed with over 300 members from the uniformed organisations, parents, and members of the church. Thank you to those who took part.

We finish off the rest of the term with Zoe Dallen coming to tell us all about the life of a paramedic, using the climbing wall, creating lanterns, shooting and then finally the Christmas Party.

**Gillian Mead – Scout Leader**

## Water Weekend 2022

The weekend of 16-18 September saw a large contingent from 7th Epsom attend the Thames Young Mariners activity site, just outside Kingston.

On Friday evening the Scouts, Guides and Explorers attended, and then the cubs came for the day on Saturday. Activities on offer included canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, sailing, and raft building. Luckily the weather was kind to us, and the sun shone for the weekend. However, when you are getting wet several times a day, it can still feel mighty cold in the water. The following pictures should give you a flavour of what the youngsters were up to.

A huge thank you to Tony Marshall for organising the whole event, and for all the leaders and parent helpers who helped in the kitchen and on the water. It is a huge logistical challenge to get all the equipment to site, and a big commitment by all the instructors to give the scouts an amazing experience. I am sure all the young people will agree that it was a great weekend.



# EXPLORERS

The explorers have had quite a term with a number of them enjoying an eventful weekend at the water weekend camp! Many thanks to all involved there as it's always a highlight.

There have been evenings of fun building a racing A-frame with their 'pioneering' skills (yes those are suspect inverted commas), a walk around Ashted, a wide game on the Epsom Downs, sausages sizzling atop the Downs watching various fireworks displays. We also assisted at the main Epsom fireworks at Hook road arena, had some fun one evening trying to make things go bang with various things you can find at home , a newspaper fashion show and an evening of pumpkin carving! There was also a night of "Surprise" cooking where each team had a variety of unwrapped tin food—and had to come up with some interesting meals!!!

There was a good evening ice skating and we'll be finishing off with a Christmas lights walk at RHS Wisley and lastly a formal dinner at the Epsom Club for our Christmas party.

Well done everyone....

**Phili Coley - Explorer Leader**