

As the clocks spring forward we are coming to the end of another Scouting Year.

Thankfully this year has allowed us to return to a full programme after several COVID impacted years - you will see from the Section Leader updates the variety of activities that have been undertaken. We have also grown slightly in numbers of Young People (back to pre 2020 levels or better) as well as acquiring a second minibus with all the opportunities that brings.

We are looking forwards to delivering a full and exciting programme once again in the coming year. Our biggest challenge is resources as noted below - if you are able to help in any way, please get in touch with one of us.

Yours in Scouting

7th Epsom Leadership Team

We NEED you.
Can you HELP?

7th Epsom Needs You!

Thank you for supporting weekly meetings and our future camps and events; without your support we would not be able to provide such a varied programme for everyone.

However, we really need you to give some thought to becoming an Assistant Leader or regular helper - it's good fun and you will be well supported. **We urgently need more Leaders now.** Please speak to our Section Leaders, they will gladly discuss being part of the team and how that could work for you. It doesn't have to be every week and you certainly won't be on your own. And the Leaders have as much fun as the young people!

We also need some help with roles that do not involve weekly meetings but are equally essential to keeping all Sections of 7th Epsom rolling and continuing to provide great opportunities for our young people:

Transport Manager - a couple of hours at most a week to keep our Minibuses maintained and legal and to handle bookings (about 25 a year). This would involve some emails, keeping records and making some phone calls.

Subscriptions Secretary - sending out requests and tracking and chasing payments - tasks that can mostly be done at a time that works for you.

Christmas Post - person allocation - a few hours per month from September to December, sending emails to parents to allocate roads for card delivery.

If you might be able to help with any of these, or you would like to know more, then please contact

Kevin Mead on meadfamilykam@icloud.com or call **07768066830**.

2023 KEY DATES

- April 6th Easter Ex
- May 26-29th Spring Bank Camp
- June 10th Quiz Night (To book your table please click on the link below)
<https://www.7thepsom.org.uk/midsummer-group-quiz-and-social/>
- June 17th Surrey SCRAM
- Jul 22-29th Summer Camp
- Sept 22-24th Water Weekend
- Sept 27th AGM



**SATURDAY
10th JUNE**



in aid of 7th Epsom Scout Group's funds to support special activities

Invite your friends, family and neighbours!

WHEN: Saturday 10th June - bar open from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

WHERE: St Martin's Junior School, Ashley Road

WHAT: Eight exciting Quiz rounds, Cash Bar, Raffle AND a Curry Supper (vegetarian option available), snacks and poppadoms

COST: £15 per person - up to eight people per table/team

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

BEAVERS

This term the Beavers have been learning about different countries for the International badge, and have tasted different foods from France, India, Spain and Egypt.

We have tackled problem solving challenges and junk modelling for our My Skills badge and have enjoyed making volcanos, parachutes, spinners and catapults for the Experiment badge.

Ventured out into the dark for a penny hike around Epsom and for the annual chip shop challenge, tasting and voting on the best chips in Epsom.

We enjoyed celebrating Pancake Day with some creative pancakes and toppings.



The District have run various events for beavers this term, and we joined in with the swimming gala at the Rainbow Centre and a hike on Headley Heath.

Eileen Perren - Assistant Beaver Leader

cubs

The spring term started with the promise of some outdoor adventures and a focus on working towards a number of badges.

Our term started with a historical town trail as part of our Local Knowledge badge. It was. Great to see the Cubs taking an interest in the hidden history of the town and of some of the famous people that have made Epsom their home over the years.

To celebrate Lunar New Year, the Cubs learnt about China, its traditions, food and culture. Working in their sixes they made their own dragons and took part in a traditional dance.

Problem solving then saw our Cubs working through a series of challenges as teams including code breaking and bridge building. Some of the bridges survived a huge amount of weight being applied by our eager young leader team.



Thanks to the Scout leaders we were once again able to make use of our awesome climbing wall.

A number of Cubs overcoming their fears to tackle the wall a number of times!!

Of course it wouldn't be an update on our activities if we didn't light a fire or two and this article is no different. We ventured up to a very damp Boidier Hurst for spot of backwoods cooking. Beans & egg on toast with a tasty s'more for pudding.

We took part in a number of district run activities this term with one of our sixes representing the packs at the district quiz final where they did us proud. For the first time in a number of years we sent 18 cubs to the District Swimming Gala. We were so delighted by the team spirit they showed, cheering each other on in the individual races as well as coming away with the team trophy at the end of the night. What a performance and there will be more opportunities for our cubs to take part in events in the summer term.



Leigh Hogarty - Cub Leader

SCOUTS

I hope we continue to offer a varied programme for the Scouts, even though it has been cold, dark, and wet.

One of the tasks as part of the Teamwork Challenge badge is that the Scouts must take part in several patrol forums (basically discussions about a particular subject). In January we had an evening looking at the impact of people around the world buying millions of new phones, and then debated the Scouts' use of mobile phones and whether they should have any restrictions. An interesting discussion was had with many varying views.

In February for two evenings, we focused our attention on South Korea. Ben Williams, who is off to the World Scout Jamboree in the summer gave a presentation on what he has been up to and how he is preparing for the Jamboree in South Korea. Jane also found some Korean recipes which the Scouts cooked and tasted.



We had a great night hike from Headley to Epsom Downs on a very dark, clear, and frosty night. The Scouts were shown some of the star constellations by our resident expert leader Tony Marshall. We spent an evening refreshing our navigation skills in preparation for the District Challenge Hike on 12th March (see separate article), and have taken up Bear Gryll's Bridge Building Challenge during British Science Week.

We plan to finish the term with a Wide Game and then look forward to the summer term as we prepare for Spring Bank camp and make the most of the long summer evenings.

Gillian Mead – Scout Leader



Air Rifle Shooting organised by Target Shooting

Challenge Hike 2023

Approaching this year's Challenge Hike the weather was not looking too good however we were fortunate on the day.

15 of our Scouts in 4 teams competed against other teams from Epsom & Ewell District starting from Boidier Hurst . They had to identify the location of checkpoints from grid references, mark them onto their laminated OS map and navigate to them via map and compass – all against a cut-off time for each session. They walked (at least) 10 miles over the morning and afternoon sessions and whilst very tired still had smiles on their faces at the end of the day.



Unfortunately, we were unable to retain our trophy from last year but they all had great fun and learnt something about themselves and orienteering techniques.

Many thanks to those parents who helped by shadowing some of the younger teams or manned a checkpoint.

Paul Carpenter



EXPLORERS

Herewith a few articles of our recent activities, enjoy. **Phili Coley - Explorer Leader**

Explorers Apprentice Evening - Ewan

For this meeting we had our entrepreneurial skills challenged with a fun 'Apprentice' styled task. Each group were assigned a topic to base their new business proposition on - my group were given the topic of 'non-contact boxing'. Hence, we came up with the genius proposal of 'Bluetooth Boxing' - a way of conveying the skill of boxing, but without the harm involved that can drive many away from the sport. Each group then had to present their ideas to the leaders, who would decide which business opportunity they would invest in, and who would be 'fired'; based on the quality of the product, and the quality of the presentation. Overall it was a very fun task and I'm sure most would enjoy doing it again.

Monopoly Run 2023 - Nathan & Grace

On the 4th of March we embarked on the annual scouts Monopoly Run, and with over 1000 teams we had big competition. We decided as a team to capture the most valuable locations (such as Mayfair and Park Lane), whilst getting as many locations on the way as possible. Whilst getting to all the check points we went to places such as: King's Cross Station, Pall Mall, Regent Street, Marylebone Station and Trafalgar Square which was exciting to see as most of the group haven't seen most of the places. It was also cool to see how many other groups, from all around, were there doing the monopoly run as well. Along the way we had a few challenges to complete with our group, one of which was to hug a tree and another was to find a large mail box and after these challenges we were given money. We used London's buses and tubes to our advantage, saving enough time to get to every location on the board by the end of the day! After all was finished we achieved an incredible 8th, with the other 7th Epsom team beating over half of all teams! It was a fun and exciting day, one of the great events on the scouting calendar.

British Sign Language - An evening of discovery

The evening was presented by Jane who is one of our Scout leaders and was also a special needs teacher. First she went through the challenges for deaf people and how we take for granted our senses. Then we watched some amazing short clips of the Sign Language Interpreter who did the half time show at the Superbowl.

Next we tried some lip reading in pairs which with different accents is quite surprisingly difficult. In general it's pretty hard and where as we as normal people who can just get distracted in class or at work, deaf people have to pay 110% attention all the time and even then if the teacher isn't talking to them directly or properly they can miss important bits and pieces of a lesson.

At the end we played a game where each person in turn was blind folded and had to try and draw a word they were given on a card, so Pictionary but blindfolded. A great evening and a big eye opener for some of us.