

We NEED you. **Can you HELP?**

7th Epsom REALLY Needs You!

Our Leaders and their helpers volunteer and commit to provide the best possible Scouting experience for the Young People in all the sections. This involves taking on responsibility and giving up their personal time.

Their reward is seeing the Young People enjoy new experiences and activities and being part of a great team.

In return we are asking if you could join us and support the young people through their Scouting experience?

This can be done in many ways, for example:

- ◆ Helping out at weekly meetings via the parent rota;
- ◆ Supporting key roles that keep the Group operational such as acting as Subscriptions Secretary or Helping out in Transport Management;
- ◆ Supporting fundraising.

More importantly, we urgently need more people to join us as Assistant Leaders so we can continue to run the breath of Sections that we currently offer. This does not have to be every week but by regularly contributing to a leader team you can make a huge difference. You will be well supported and very welcome - **we really do need you!**

Please consider this and talk to your Section Leader or one of the Executive Team to find out more.

Yours in Scouting

7th Epsom Leadership Team

2023 Key Dates

- July 22nd to 29th - Summer Camp
- September 22nd to 24th - Water Weekend
- September 27th - AGM
- December - Christmas Post Sorting & Delivering

If you require more information on these activities please ask your relevant Section Leader.

Our Fundraising Conundrum

We were very disappointed to have to cancel our planned Summer Quiz and Social which was advertised in the spring newsletter and promoted across the Group and on our website. This was due to the lack of take-up for the tickets and meant, with just two weeks to go, we did not have enough participants to make it a worthwhile event.

Since COVID, our regular fundraising events have been decimated. Currently, only the Christmas Post remains in the calendar and it is insufficient to fund the extra activities and expenses that are not covered by our annual subscriptions. Activities such as supporting trips, individual challenges and special camp activities are regularly funded by our Executive Committee.

We (the Committee) need to better understand what you would prefer? A number of options to raise funds are available:

- Hold occasional events, like the Quiz, to provide a Group-wide social opportunity?
- Hold a regular social event at a particular point of the year? If so when – spring, autumn, winter?
- Run virtual fundraising like a raffle or sponsored activities that can be completed across a given time period?
- Don't do fundraising, just increase subscriptions to cover the shortfall?

Obviously, there are implications for each of these and other options. **Please let us know your views** on the above by [emailing us: 7thepsomsocial@gmail.com](mailto:7thepsomsocial@gmail.com). Even better, if you're prepared to be part of the 'Events Team', please say so in the mail.

Thank you in advance for your views!

7th Epsom Executive Committee

Team Cook Needed for Water Weekend

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Paul and Greta Carpenter are moving on to pastures new and many of you know that Greta has been organising the catering team for water weekend and spring bank camp for many years.

We now need supporters who would be willing to be part of a team running the catering for one of the camps each year. By doing this as a team, it means the task is not so onerous for any one person. And even if you can't do the whole of a camp, your help is very welcome - and importantly, it's great fun!

Jane Barden organised the catering for this year's Spring Camp, and will also be doing so for Summer Camp again this year. Jane is happy to work with a new team for this coming water weekend (22nd - 24th September) but needs others to be part of that team to help her.

Taking part in a camp is rewarding, not only are we able to see our young people take part in a wide variety of activities and experiences, but we also have fun too and laugh a lot!

Please think about joining us, talk to Tony, Gillian, or Jane if you would like to know more or email us at join7thepsom@gmail.com

Thank you!

Paul Carpenter - moving on

If you are currently in scouts, or have been in the last 10 years you will know Paul Carpenter.

He started helping with Scouts in 2008 and was the Scout Section Leader for 5 years from 2017. He was instrumental in the successful running of the Scout Section during that time, and for me has been a valued member of the Scout leader team since I took over 2 years ago. His wife Greta has also been involved running the catering team for Spring Camp and Water Weekend for many years.

We are sad that he and Greta have now retired and left Epsom at the end of June.

The 7th Epsom Scout Group would like to say a huge thank-you to them for all the years that they have given to Scouting, especially Paul.

We are very sorry to see them go, they will be missed but we wish them well for their exciting future.

Gillian Mead



Group Polo Shirts & Hoodies

A reminder we have Group polo shirts and hoodies to complement our existing uniform. The garments are 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.

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

BEAVERS

As usual for the summer term, we are spending a lot of time outdoors, making the most of the lovely weather and the opportunity to try new activities and explore new places.

This term we have been working towards out camp craft, health & fitness and explorer activity badges, as well as all of our challenge badges.

We have enjoyed making fires and eating gigantic s'mores at Boidier Hurst, and exploring Epsom Downs and the Langley Vale centenary wood. We have had splashy fun pond dipping in the Hogsmill, playing games in Court Recreation Ground, and having a go at the climbing wall at the Scout Hall.



We also took part in the spring bank camp, with beavers camping overnight in tents in the hall at the Walton Firs campsite as an introduction to sleeping under canvas. For some this was the first sleepover away from home. Activities included trying out caving and orienteering, as well as numerous wide games. The beavers really loved joining in with other units in the games organised by the Explorers, especially those involving water!

A big thank you to all the parents who came and helped run the activities and set up the tents, and especially to our cooks who kept us all going with food, drink and snacks.

Eileen Perren - Assistant Beaver Leader

cubs

Our summer term started with the promise of some exciting adventures including spring camp and SCRAM, of course with the usual focus on working towards a number of badges and building compass and pioneering skills.

Our program started with a night packed with compass based games to get the cubs used to multiple compass point readings, orientating maps, using compasses for survival and navigating without a map. It was brilliant to have great support from our parents on the night to make it a success.

A very wet end to April meant that our usual den building designs had to be adapted slightly to cope with the downpours. We were really impressed that so many cubs braved the elements and even more impressed that they were all smiling at the end of the night!!! Bank holidays caused some disruption to Apache's program however due to the fantastic teamwork that exists with the 3 leadership teams we were able to continue our program and welcomed cubs on different evenings.



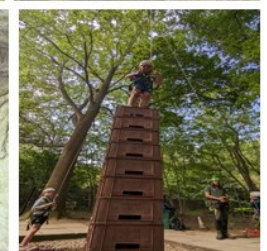
The beginning of May saw us celebrating the King's Coronation with some crafts and baking. The following week saw us back up at Headley and yet again the huge downpours didn't stop us from experiencing some orienteering along the Lizards path. Stunning views despite the weather and again the cubs made the most of some of the amazing outdoor space that we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.



The next week we were back at one of our favourite venues, Boidier Hurst, to learn different ways the light a fire. The cubs listened intently and then got cracking with their own fires. Despite the damp conditions all the cubs managed to light their own fires before taking part in making s'mores.

In preparation for spring camp we let the cubs loose in Rosebery Park to learn how to put up the large stormhaven tents that they would be staying in as well as learning new knots to help them build and race a sedan chair. We certainly got a lot of attention from passers by, and for once it didn't rain!!

The first weekend of half term saw us take 30 of our cubs away to Walton Firs Activity Centre to join the rest of the group for spring camp. We had a fantastic, action packed weekend which saw the cubs trying many new activities, pushing themselves and overcoming fears. We were blown away by their inquisitive, nurturing, supportive and caring behaviours. Despite the heat they all had a brilliant weekend. Thank you to the Leaders and Parents who put so much work in to make it a success.

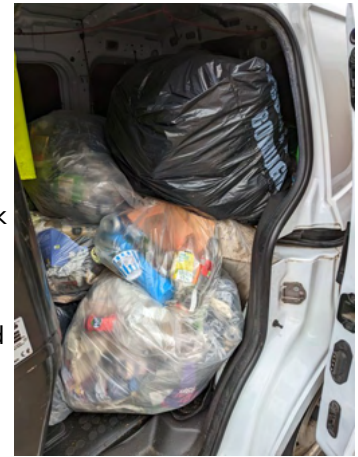


cubs

Cubs went out in the June sunshine over three days to do a great community service and work towards the Environment section of their World challenge award by litter picking around Epsom. It was great to see the Cubs enjoying the task and really throwing themselves into it – getting very competitive over who could collect the most litter! The Cubs received lots of positive comments from members of the public, some even stopping their cars as they drove to say thank you. Cubs diligently collected all sorts of litter from the town centre, parks and streets near the Scout HQ as well as walking as far as Woodcote Green pond.



As usual, the Borough Council supported the activity by providing the equipment, and disposing of the collected litter. As you'll see from the photo, the Cubs managed to fill the back of a council van with their efforts and the park rangers were extremely complimentary about their achievement! Litter picking has become a yearly activity for Cubs and one of their favourites, so we'll certainly do it again in the future. Thank you to all the parent helpers who supported the activities to enable it to go ahead.



After a disrupted program thanks to the good old weather we looked forward to taking part in SCRAM 2023. This is a biannual event held at Hook Road Arena for all of the Cubs and Brownies in Surrey. The event was attended by over 4000 young people and our cubs had a fantastic day, many trying activities that really pushed them out of their comfort zone. Again the cubs did us proud with their willingness to try new things, their resilience when it didn't go to plan for them but they tried again and their overall behaviour.

Raft building on the Hogsmill River followed with cubs working in teams to build mini rafts that would not only float but would float with some style!!!! There were some brilliant designs and some that stuck to the tried and tested look of two sticks tied together!!! Staying outdoors, the next week saw us taking part in wide games across various parts of Epsom Downs & Headley. These are always great for developing teamwork as well as letting off steam!!

All term we have been teaching cubs knots, this was to help them with the challenges presented at this term's penultimate meeting. A survival challenge was set to the cubs who, working in their sixes had to use the poles, ropes and buckets provided to build a bridge to rescue their stranded teammates, build a ladder to scale a cliff to reach safety and a flag pole to signal rescuers. A brilliant evening and some fantastic teamwork saw all cubs completing the challenge! Term finished with a games night and allowed us to say goodbye to those Cubs that leave us to join Scouts in September.



Well done to Luca M, Felix T & Aiden S for achieving your Silver Chief Scout Award, the highest award in Cubs and well done to the first of the cub leadership team to be presented with their Wood Badges following the completion of their training last year.

As always a huge thanks to the leaders, young leaders and parents who helped make this term so brilliant. Have a great Summer!

Leigh Hogarty - Cub Leader



SCOUTS

Summer 2023

So far this term we have had an active programme, being outside as much as possible. We started off with two camp preparation evenings up at Boidier Hurst campsite, in preparation for Spring Camp. We built fires, did some backwoods cooking, practiced putting up tents, and learnt how to use the saw and axe so that firewood could be prepared at camp.

Due to scout leaders' holidays we were rather short of leaders during May. We ran an Emergency Aid Badge evening with help from Clare Knight and Zoe Dallen who is a paramedic, and at the end of the evening everybody gained their badge. We joined together with the Explorers for a games evening at Court Recreation ground where parents, scouts, explorers, and leaders all helped to make it a fun filled, and active evening.

We have helped with two community projects, the first group went to the Riding for the Disabled site in Hook Road, and cleared weeds and grass, and the second project was helping to clear bracken on Epsom Common accompanied by the Epsom Common Rangers. We will finish the term with a BBQ and games evening at Horton Country Park.

A huge thanks go to all the leaders who put themselves out every Friday evening to deliver an exciting and varied programme, and to all the parents who come along and help. Without the parent rota in operation, we would not be able to provide the programme that we do.

We desperately need more helpers, so please do contact me if you can help on a more regular basis, even if only once a month.

Gillian Mead – Scout Leader

SCOUTS

Spring Camp 2023

Spring Camp saw 30 scouts head off to Walton Firs campsite in Cobham. We were joined by the Beavers, Cubs and Explorers. The weather was very kind to us, long sunny days, and no rain, we couldn't have asked for more.

All the scouts got involved in cooking over open fires, doing onsite activities, including a blindfolded assault course, doing group games with the beavers, cubs and explorers, having a Group campfire and then challenging themselves on the leap of faith. This involved each scout scaling a 20ft pole to a platform and then making the leap to catch the swing. In addition, they enjoyed the huge ravine beside our site, where our intrepid quartermaster built a rope bridge which they all scaled across.

On the Sunday the scouts set off on a 6 mile hike, mostly along the Wey Navigation. They were given instructions, maps, and leader phone numbers and told to enjoy the day. The leaders were looking forward to a few hours of peace. How Clare and I ended up having lunch with all 6 patrols on the river I will never know!

Would like to say a big thank you to all the scout leaders and parent helpers who did a sterling job making this camp such a success and to Jane Barden who kept all the adults well fed. So thanks go to: Jo Chartres, Jane Barden, Graham Saunders, Clare Knight, Kevin Betts, Mark Brady, Tim Chilton, Andy Mackay, Trish Carswell, Caragh Dewis, Liz Rowlands, Sara Saunders, Anne Stevens, Kirsty Rickwood, Natalie & Matt Cantwell – we were quite a team.

Gillian Mead – Scout Leader



EXPLORERS

Summer Term is always a term of apologies due to revision, Uni visits, holidays and parties. So many of the Explorers are taking exams – and we wish them all the best of luck in these and on the two results days in August. They are all fabulous kids and whatever results they get now; we know they will achieve their goals.

This term we have been blessed with some fantastic weather! We started the term with the Crazy Golf evening that was cancelled due to torrential rain in April. On Friday 5th May we hiked from Boidier Hurst across to the Downs through the fields of trees in the Centenary Wood. Before the hike we stood in a horseshoe and renewed our Scout Vows to our new King in honour of his coronation the next day.

We ran an orienteering evening round Horton and Tom ran a games night for approximately 30 Scouts and 20 Explorers on Alexandra Park!



Spring Bank Camp was a scorcher at Walton Firs activity centre – apart from the chilly May evenings. The 18 Explorers got stuck in on a full programme of activities, hikes, cooking and games. Alex ran a joint games event for the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers – quite a mean feat to keep nearly 100 kids entertained for an hour – a future Explorer leader in the making there!! Thank you Alex. Special mentions also go to Matilda for conquering her fears and doing the balance beam high ropes challenge and Daniel for cooking us a delicious meal on the Sunday evening and teaching kitchen knife skills to his team of sous chefs. Buggy making and racing was an absolute whitewash by one team and a warm hike was finished off with a welcome ice lolly. Thanks to Dav, Aaron and Rich for your help over this weekend.



EXPLORERS

Since half term we have done backwoods cooking where we cooked sausages inside banana skins to stop them from burning, litter picking from Horton to Christchurch, a cycle ride to the Downs and back, kite making and kayaking in Godalming. All made the more fabulous by the wonderful balmy evenings.

Our plan ahead: to keep exploring, learning new skills and enjoying the outside!!



Phili Coley - Explorer Leader

Easter Ex. 2023

This year 17 Explorers and 6 leaders travelled to Dartmoor for 3 days of mountain walking and 1 day mountain biking 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 30 miles and climbed about 1,550 metres. That's almost 1 mile high !!

On Easter Sunday we hired some bikes from Moretonhampstead as a rest (for the leaders) from the walking and spent a leisurely ride down to Bovey Tracey. Some of the group took a less leisurely route back – I admit the 50-year age gap between me and the Explorers was showing on the very steep uphill sections. We were rewarded with good weather over the 4 days with the only rain starting to fall as we arrived back at the base 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.

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



On a personal note, this year was the last Easter Ex I will be organising as I am retiring and moving away from Epsom.

Over the past 10 years or so I have enjoyed taking the Explorers to different parts of England & Wales to experience hill walking and give them the opportunity to challenge themselves in that environment. 2023 was the best trip with a fantastic group of people and a great one to finish on.

Paul Carpenter