



Welcome to the Spring Edition of the 7th Epsom Newsletter which as ever is packed with information concerning recent activities in the Group.

At the time of writing it looks like we are heading towards a period of warmer weather. As we move into a period of Camps and other outdoor activities, let's hope that our Young People have the conditions to maximise their experiences for the remainder of this term and over the summer vacation.

Please enjoy the read.

**The Executive Team**

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## Help Needed!

### Leveraging your Skills/Expertise to Keep 7th Epsom Thriving

Our Leaders and their helpers volunteer and commit to provide the best possible Scouting experience for all our Young People. This involves taking on significant responsibility and giving up their personal time. Their reward is seeing our Young People enjoy new experiences and activities whilst being part of a great team.

In return we are asking if you could help us to support our Young People through their Scouting experience. This can be done in many ways, for example:

- Supporting key roles required to keep the Group operational such as helping out in Transport Management,
- Becoming an Instructor in a specialist activity such as Climbing or Archery,
- Helping out at weekly meetings via the parent rota,
- Supporting fundraising.

We also need more people to join us and become Assistant Leaders if we are to continue to run the breadth of Sections that we currently offer. This does not have to be every week but by regularly contributing to a leader team you will make a huge difference. You will be well supported and very welcome, we really do need you!

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

**Your Leadership Team**

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## 2025 Diary Dates

- 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May - Spring Bank Camp
- 14<sup>th</sup> June - Beaver Bazzaz
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July - Summer Camp
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Sept - Water Weekend
- 8th October – 7th Epsom Scout Council AGM

# Spring Quiz and Social

**St Joseph's Hall, 1st March 2025**

After the success of last year's event, we decided to revisit the same format for 2025 – and what a fun night it was too! We were delighted that so many of our volunteers, friends and supporters came together for a fun evening for **The Three C's** - Chat, Curry and 'Cuizzing' (sic). With meticulous planning, we managed to fill the hall with noise and fervour and as 7:30pm approached, there was an air of excited anticipation.

The table rounds soon bought a bit of hush before the early rounds of 2024 Events, Music, Sport and Geography brought a flurry of jokes from the teams as well. Then it was time for everyone to enjoy the home-cooked chicken and vegetable curries and all the accompaniments - which had been prepared by our Treasurer, Simon Williams, family and helpers who had been working hard preparing the delicious brain food that we were obviously in need of...



The evening was ably assisted by our Enthusiastic Explorers who worked hard serving the food and clearing up afterwards, as well as being runners for each table AND selling their charity raffle tickets. After supper, we drew the raffle winners for which there was an array of locally donated prizes. Phili, Explorer Leader, was delighted to announce that £595 had been raised which was for the Explorer's chosen charity of [Under One Sky](https://www.underonesky.org.uk) a UK based charity supporting people affected by homelessness.



Then it was back to the serious business of another four challenging quiz rounds that our erstwhile Explorer Leader, Tony Evans had cooked up to ensure the scoreboard kept fluctuating right up until the end. Eventually, the top two teams were just 1.5 points apart and the next six teams were separated by just 5.5 points. Meanwhile the coveted wooden spoons were contested by three teams who also ended up with just 1.5 points between them. A great result and judging by the feedback we received on the night; it was enjoyed by all!

With special thanks to Richard Wadey for supplying the technology that ensured everyone was able to hear above the background chatter, and of course, to all of our hardworking volunteer Leaders for keeping the kitchen and busy bar running smoothly, and for their diligent marking and scoring that kept the momentum through until the end of the night.

We also raised a healthy £1,500 for 7th Epsom funds for special activities – a sincere and BIG thank you to everyone for your brilliant support. Hopefully, we'll see many of you when we do it all again next year!

**Phili Coley, Simon Williams, Steve Barden**



# Easter Expedition 2025 Lake District

On the clear, sunny Sunday morning of the 6th April, 14 Scouts and Explorers assembled bleary eyed but excited for our trip to Cumbria.

We had a lovely swift run up to Hartsop, Patterdale which was to be our base for the 6 days and upon arrival, rooms were allocated, kit was readied and the Scouts prepared their first supper, then the walking routes for the next day and the all important packed lunches too.

Over the next four days those routes took us over some of the best peaks in and around Ullswater, including ; Fairfield, High Street, The Knott and best of all, Hellvelyn which included the famous scrambling ridges of Swirral Edge and Striding Edge, which was a trip highlight for many.

During the run up to the trip we had prepared all the Scouts for what the Lake District is known for ; rain! But like a lot of the UK that week, we had blue skies and warm weather, which made the trip all that more special since it's so rare in those parts.

On the last evening we had our regular games and quiz night compiled by Paul, which is always a laugh and the next morning we cleaned the base top to bottom (but found no more mice!) then jumped in the buses for a slightly slower return back to HQ.

My thanks go to my fellow leaders who gave up their time and to help make it another successful trip ; Paul and Greta Carpenter, Alex Willcocks, Tom Morgan and Graham Saunders.

**Jo Chartres, Trip Leader**





# BEAVERS

This spring term at Beavers we have been busy in the scout hall, avoiding the dark and cold evenings outside and working on various badges. As always, our first meeting was spent on welcoming new Beavers and playing games to help us get to know each other. At our next meeting, we focused on local wildlife where we learnt about different animals that live in the Epsom area, their habitat, food and sleeping patterns. We then made bird feeders which were taken home to nourish the local bird population. Our next two meetings concentrated on earning the International Badge, learning a song from another country, finding out about Beaver Scouts around the world, learning different flags and also practising greetings in other languages. The highlight was tasting foods from different countries and voting for our favourite cuisine.

After half term we learnt all about the history of Scouting and Robert Baden-Powell. We then became slightly food focused (again!), with a pancake evening followed by our annual chip shop challenge, testing out various different chip shops in Epsom and voting for which had the best (colour, texture and taste) chips. We managed to fit in learning and practising the green cross code on the way! Term finished with two sessions working on the Creative Badge. In the first week we focused on superheroes, using our imagination to design our own superheroes then build them a vehicle using junk modelling. In the second week we practised drama skills by performing charades for each other, and then finished by using our artistic and craft skills - and a lot of glue - to make suncatchers as mother's day presents.

Another busy and fun packed term. Many thanks as always to all our parents that help us out.

**Kathy, Eileen, Alex and Victoria.**



# cubs

After what seemed a long winter term, we were really looking forward to one of our longer terms as we headed towards the late Easter. As always, we had another a great programme to deliver across the 3 packs, all of which would support a wide range of badges and experiences.

With the district quiz on the horizon, Week 1 saw us running the heats with the hope of finding a winning Six, our Cubs did brilliantly with the Apache six winning the District Quiz and going on to do brilliantly at the County quiz and we couldn't have been prouder!!!!!!

Week 2 was all about teaching the Cubs about budgeting with the goal of doing a shop for the local foodbank. The aim was to get as many items from the food bank's list for their £10 budget. The Cubs did a great job and were all able to navigate Lidl and get on average 15 items per Six!

At our 3rd meeting we held our annual Mastechef competition with each six tasked with making a Paella and a dessert, writing a menu and laying the table. The entries this year tasted amazing and it was great to see the Cubs all tucking in once the judging had taken place.

Onto week 4 & our Cubs tried their hand at some DIY including using different tools, learning about the different types of wood and their uses and also trying a spot of tiling. One Pack even offered to go round to one of their Leaders to help with their house renovation, the Leader very politely turned their offer down!

After the DIY badge evening came a visit from our friends at the Leatherhead Shooting Club who taught the Cubs the skill of shooting, discussed all the safety aspects and then allowed them to experience using the air rifles. The Cubs were brilliant and approached the evening with such maturity and focus. Great work Cubs!!!



As part of the World Challenge Badge we were lucky to have the opportunity to visit Shree Ghanapathy Temple in Wimbledon where the Cubs learnt about the traditions of the Temples Hindu congregation and all about the Gods that are featured in the building.

# cubs

After a week making some interestingly flavoured pancakes it was time for our first trip of the year up to Boidier Hurst to get some fires going. The weather certainly tried to put us off but these Cubs are made of tough stuff and all got fires going in the rain!!!



A very muddy night hike around Epsom Common followed with a stop at the world famous Epsom Well where the Cubs learnt about the origins of Epsom Salts and the impact that the discovery had on their town.

To make the most of the nicer evenings week 10 saw the Cubs heading up to Epsom Downs for some wide games, including the biggest game of searchlight we had ever attempted. We also got to see the Space X ship as we headed back.



So a long term closed and as always we couldn't offer such a varied program without the support of our Leaders, Parents and of course Cubs!!!!

**Leigh Hogarty - Apache Cub Leader**

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## District Quiz Triumph!

In January two Apache Cubs, William and Emma, and Orlando from Sioux represented 7th Epsom to compete against three other District Cub teams. Those teams all contained 5 or 6 members each which made for a tough competition. So we were very proud when our team took first place! The Cubs did so well in how they worked together and received high praise from all the other leaders there. The team won a trophy and certificate, and qualified to represent Epsom & Ewell District at the Surrey County Quiz in February.

Emma, William, and Orlando then attended the County Quiz and were brilliant ambassadors for 7th Epsom and Epsom & Ewell District. While they didn't win the County quiz this time, they weren't far behind in the points considering there were only 3 of them and all other teams had 6 members. They were of the opinion that if they'd played their Joker on a more favourable round then they could have been amongst the top teams.

They did bring home a win, being the team that won most mini-games held between quiz rounds, for which the prize each time was sweets for the team! Congratulations to our three quizzers who competed so brilliantly.

# SCOUTS

We didn't have a particular theme this term, and were not working on a particular badge, but each Friday we worked through a variety of activities, some new and some our normal favourites.

We had a wide game on Epsom Common when the Scouts had to locate a number of scientists (leaders) who had escaped from their top secret research station and return them to the base for interrogation. Jo hid rather too well and was never found by any of the Groups (he was up a tree!).

We had a science evening, where the Scouts worked through understanding pulleys and ropes, looking at how water is displaced with various objects, and constructing and deconstructing our 7th Epsom trek cart. We also ran a cooking evening, where the Scouts had chosen their own menus.

We booked the services of Epsom Fencing Club, so all Scouts had an introduction session to the sport. I hope that they all took something from it. I thought it was certainly harder and more technical than I imagined.

On the 23rd March we took part in the District Challenge Hike. We put in 5 teams, and in total there were 24 teams from across the Epsom & Ewell District. Well done to everybody who took part. I am delighted to report that our all girl team, made up of Robyn Pratt, Rin Bradley and Eliza Gray came first. They got all the necessary checkpoints correctly and finished in the quickest time. Well done girls.

The Scout Association are very keen for us to ensure that everything that we do is 'youth led'. In March they were looking to get some feedback from Scouts across the country on how Scouts should be shaped in the future. We therefore ran an evening, produced by The Scout Association, looking at several problem-solving exercises, quizzes, and what we can do with some of the challenges that adults and young people face within Scouting. It was a very enlightening evening. Their feedback was sent through to the Scout Association.

A massive thank you to all the leaders and parents who make this all possible.

**Gillian Mead – Scout Leader**





# EXPLORERS

The late winter spring term for the Epsom Explorers was punctuated with various evenings of team games, ice skating, taskmaster games, pancake making, night hiking and the much anticipated Spring Ball. Along with this were auxiliary events like the Quiz evening and the Easter Ex hike weekend.

Below are some comments and feedback from the various explorers!

## **Hannah Easter Ex:**

*As a whole we really enjoyed the Easter Ex, although very tiring, the long walks allowed us to experience great views. We made long lasting memories as we climbed famous mountains such as Helvelynn and Fairfield*

## **Will - Movie night:**

*We were glad that we got to do something very different to what we usually do. It was amusing and fun for everyone to come all together and watch the movie. Because we got to decide the movie ourselves, it allowed us to be able to have a more enjoyable experience.*

## **Kaushik - Spring Ball**

*The Ball, the music and vibrant atmosphere, brought us together as a unit through celebration and having a great time.*

## **Ben - Wide games:**

*We enjoyed the wide games as they were really good at involving everyone. Some of the games we played: man hunt and capture the flag which were very competitive and also very amusing. We also think the games were well organised and everyone had lots of fun.*

## **Hannah - Mocktails:**

*We found the mocktail evening very fun. This is because it was both creative and entertaining. Also we got to drink delicious mocktails*

## **Explorers Leaders**



# Foreign Exchange Students Seeking Host Families in Epsom

We have been contacted by LEC Séjours Linguistique, a Paris based language school that organises study trips throughout Europe, Canada and Australia. They are looking for local host families, ideally matching the French students to a family with kids of a similar age. The students will be in Epsom from the 5th-18th July, having French lessons each weekday morning, followed by afternoon activities.

More information is given in the posters below



**GOOD RATES OF PAY**

**LEC**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1972

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN YOUR AREA**

Students are out all day on weekdays, at lessons and afternoon activities.

£ Earn up to **£700 per stay** by offering your spare room to a French student this summer (depending on region, number of students hosted and duration of stay).

24/7 assistance available from the local coordinator.

You don't need to speak French!

**Charlotte**  
Local Organiser  
Ewell & Epsom  
Phone: 07834233926  
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**LEC**  
www.lec.info



**EPSOM HOST FAMILIES WANTED**

5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July '25

**Make money from your spare room!**

- Good rates of pay £350+ for one student and £700+ for two students.
- Students are out each weekday for morning lessons and afternoon activities.
- Lessons will be held at Church House, St Martin's Church, Epsom.

For more info contact Charlotte:  
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