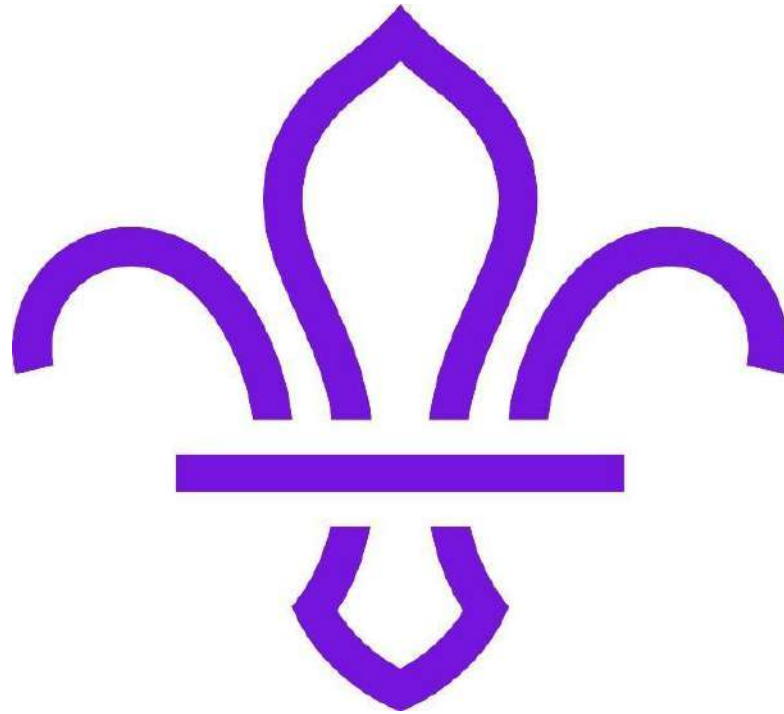




SKILLS FOR LIFE

7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

Trustees' Annual Report

Public Private Benefit

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Laws and guided by adult leadership.

Subscriptions are charged for membership to cover immediate running costs of the Group and these do not unduly restrict membership. The Group follows the principle that no one should be excluded because of their inability to pay membership subscriptions.

Two key principles demonstrate that Scouting's aims are for the public benefit are that through the Scout method young people develop towards their full potential and that there is a clear link between the benefits for young people and the purpose of Scouting. The safety of young people is taken very seriously and the benefits that Scouting activities provide far outweigh the risks. Any private benefits from Scouting are incidental, other than to those as a beneficiary.

Chairman's Report

The year ending April 2026 saw a strong Scouting programme delivered and the Group continues to thrive, albeit without a Group Lead Volunteer in place. I would like to thank all the Leaders for their extra efforts in the circumstances.

The individual sections have continued their rich offering of activities and badges and the Group remains in good overall health. Individual section reports follow.

A full programme of camps, competitions, outings and sleepovers all took place with Spring Bank Camp, Summer Camp and Water Weekend all well attended.

The Group's finances remain on a sound basis with enhanced fundraising activities. We ran Community Christmas Post as previously and also a very well supported Quiz evening early in the New Year.

Our two minibuses have been used well through the year and in spite of the associated expense provide us with programme opportunities that would otherwise not be possible.

As ever, all we achieve is only possible as a result of the volunteers who give up their time either to act as leaders/supporters of sections/activities or in support of administration, finance, etc, all of whom I thank.

Many of our volunteers are well past the age where their children were in the Group and to sustain 7th Epsom as we enter our Centenary next year we are in need of more support from current parents. As always, we are trying to recruit more leaders, and we'd welcome any interest from parents willing to join the leader team. Additionally, we're looking for people who would be willing to do the various training courses to become activity leaders for activities such as climbing. If anybody would like to lend a hand in any way, please contact myself or one of the Section Leaders.

Kevin Mead, Chairman of the Group Executive and Chairman of the Trustees



7th Epsom (Methodist) Group 2025-26 in Numbers



26%

of youth membership
is **female +1%**

67
BEAVERS
3 colonies

68
cubs
3 packs

50
SCOUTS

29



14
Young Leaders

194
young people
+4%

More than **10,000**
scouting hours
exc. camps

We had a full season
of successful
camps!



>75
adult volunteers

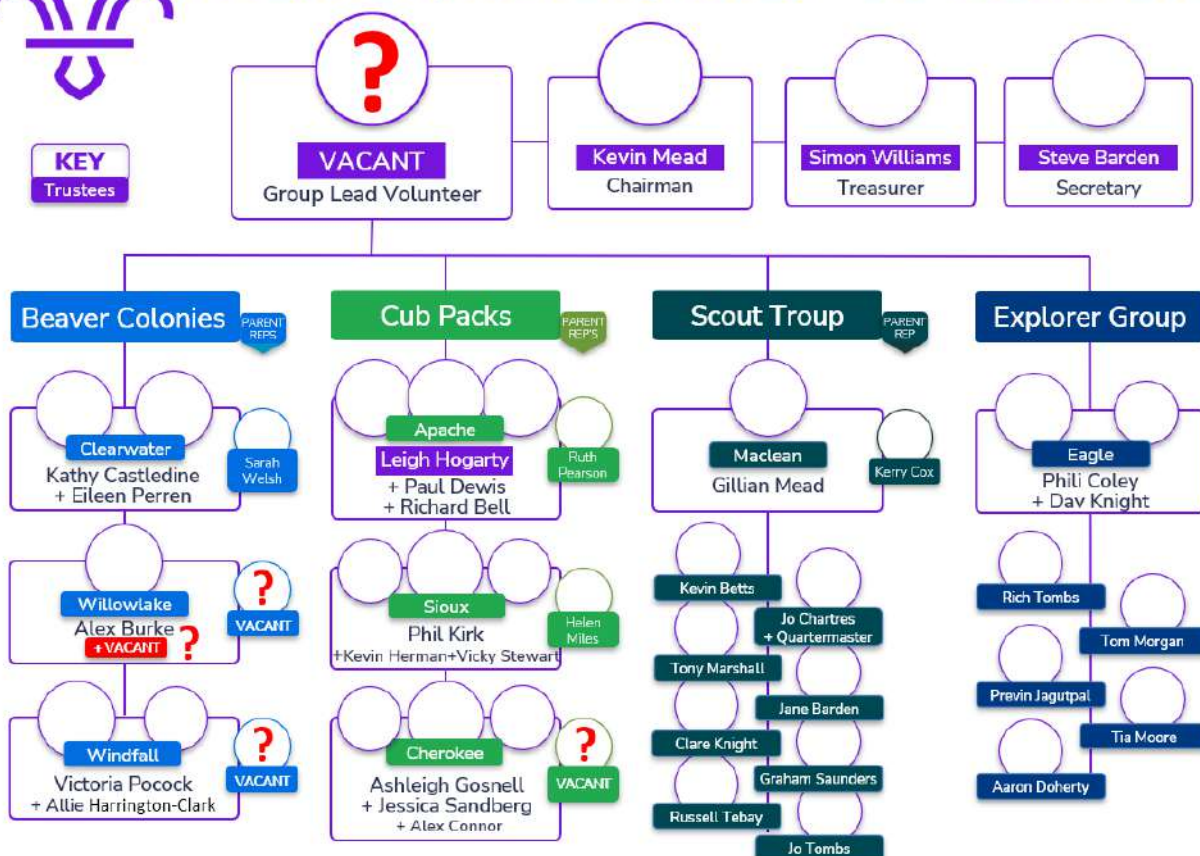
3,039 minibus miles
27 trips



34 young people
on our waiting list



7th Epsom (Methodist) Group - Our Team of 2026



Our Key Actions for the Year

#	Description	Responsible	When	Comment
1.	Secure a Group Lead Volunteer.	DLV + Group Chair	ASAP	Could be a shared role
2.	Ensure Assistant/Leader recruitment and succession planning is sound. Ask all Section Leaders to identify successor.	All section Leaders and GSL	Ongoing	Assistant Leader currently needed for Willowlake
3.	Secure Parent Reps for each Section, ensure role is understood and developed in line with needs of Section.	Section Leaders	ASAP	Willowlake & Windfall Beavers + Cherokee Cubs
4.	Streamline Leader mentoring, Training & Validation for: a) Basic training b) Specialist training c) Skills training	Mentoring: VACANT Training: LH	Ongoing	Have nominated mentors for junior & senior Sections
5.	Recruit & Train Instructors where we have few / none to ensure continuity of a widely varied programme.	All	Ongoing	Especially for climbing + archery, shooting, sailing, amateur radio, etc.
6.	Ensure we have an effective training regime for addressing special needs.	Exec	Ongoing	To meet evolving needs.
7.	Strive to increase progressive parent engagement and to identify key skills specific parents can contribute.	SLs/Exec	Ongoing	Both activity and executive management skills needed
8.	Recruit specialist Exec Team Member to handle PR and communications for local community.	SLs/Exec	ASAP	Aimed at Improving PR

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 8 & 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 (3)(a) of the 1993 act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the 1993 act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my explanation, no matter has come to my attention;

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 act, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: **Andrew**

McDonald_____

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Address: 31 Pound Lane, Epsom. KT19 8SB

Major Activities and Achievements in the year

The annual review presented to all parents and interested parties prior to the AGM highlights the activities and achievements during the year. This is a comprehensive document that details numbers of young people in each section, a report from each section, abbreviated accounts and a review of the year.

At the end of the year the income reserves amounted to £603,604 (2025 £593,747). The Group's policy on reserves is to hold an amount that will enable it to replace the motor vehicles. The HQ & Stores have been recorded as an asset within the accounts.

The trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. They have reviewed these and established systems to mitigate them.

The objectives of the Group are to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Groups.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. They are well acquainted over a number of years in local Scouting.

The accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis, which is consistent with the previous year.

Approved by the Trustees on the 7th October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Kevin Mead – Chairman

Anthony S Williams - Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2026

	Unrestricted	2025/26 Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	Total	2024/25
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Annual Subscriptions	29,034	0	29,034	27,035
Income from Fundraising	8,749	0	8,749	8,644
Income from Camps & Activities	20,609	3,612	24,221	25,899
Section Income	0	0	0	0
Minibus Hire	300	0	300	515
Group Clothing	0	0	0	22
Donations	275	0	275	415
Gift Aid	3,370	0	3,370	4,748
Interest Received	1,213	0	1,213	1,299
Other Income	0	0	0	0
Total Income	63,550	3,612	67,162	68,577
Outgoing Resources				
Capitation Fees and Subscription Refunds	11,062	0	11,062	9,955
Costs of Fundraising	1,741	0	1,741	2,631
Expenditure from Camps & Activities	23,046	2,186	25,232	23,586
Section Costs	4,290	0	4,290	4,544
Minibus Costs	5,785	0	5,785	8,121
HQ Rental, Insurance and Equipment Costs	4,499	0	4,499	4,436
Group Clothing	0	0	0	151
Scout Shop	1,250	0	1,250	2,000
Bank Charges	129	0	129	120
Other Expenditure	651	0	651	3005
Total Expenditure	52,453	2,186	54,639	58,549
Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers	11,097	1,426	12,523	10,028
Opening Funds				
			125,010	114,982
Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers			12,523	10,028
Less: Capital Expenditure			0	0
			12,523	10,028
Total Funds Carried Forward			137,533	125,010

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

7TH EPSOM (METHODIST) SCOUT GROUP			
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026			
2025		2026	
£		£	£
	FIXED ASSETS		
442,255	Headquarters	442,255	
26,481	Minibus	23,833	
468,736		466,088	
	CURRENT ASSETS		
125,010	Cash at Bank	137,533	
-	Debtors	-	
-	Creditors falling due within one year		
125,010	Net Current Assets	137,533	
593,746	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	603,621	
468,736	Designated Reserves	466,088	
	General Reserves:		
114,982	Opening Balance	125,010	
10,028	Movement in Year	12,523	
125,010	Net Incoming/Outgoing resources	137,533	
593,746		603,621	

Leaders' Report

Our three Beaver colonies have had another busy year. We all share the same programme and began the year by celebrating VE Day and ended by celebrating the 40th anniversary of the setting up of Beaver scouts.

Over the last year we have spent as much time as possible outside, finding out about the local area and developing outdoor skills. The Beavers have explored Langley Vale Centenary Wood, built dens on Headley Heath, tried out pond dipping in the Hogsmill, trekked around Epsom Downs, and hiked in the twilight around Epsom Common near The Wells, as well as taking part in our annual chip shop challenge around Epsom town centre!

We have also had a go at bouldering using the climbing wall at Scout HQ. Work on the Disability Awareness Badge included a visit to Epsom Riding for the Disabled. As part of the Health and Fitness Badge we played games and measured our heart rates in Rosebery Park, as well as trying a session with a karate instructor. For the Cyclist Badge, we had an exciting session whizzing around Rosebery Park again, but this time on wheels.

When the weather and the dark have kept us inside, we have worked on our team skills, playing games and finding out about ourselves and the world around us while working through activity badges. These have included Emergency Aid Stage 1, learning when to get help and how to ask for it, and the Faith badge, visiting the Methodist church and reflecting on how to do your best. Work on the Creative Badge was based on the theme of autumn and winter and included making paper plate hedgehogs as well as performing poems. For the Space Badge, we learnt about what makes Earth special, as well as finding out about the International Space Station and our solar system. The Gardener Badge involved planting seeds to learn what plants need to grow, while the Experiment Badge saw us trying out experiments of our own, including one involving diet coke and a packet of mentos in the car park!

We have also joined in with activities organised by the wider scouting community. Many Beavers and their families attended the spring bank camp in May with all the other sections in 7th Epsom. For some Beavers, this was their very first experience in sleeping away from home. A group of Beavers attended Bazzaz which is a triennial activity day for Beavers and Rainbows across the county organised by Surrey Scouts. Some Beavers also took part in 'Reach for the Stars', a virtual weekend camp organised by Surrey Scouts held every February. They - and their families - got to practice their camping skills at home and in their own gardens.

All of these activities have also contributed to the skills and actions required for the Beaver challenge badges: My Adventure, My Outdoors, My Teamwork, My Skills and My World. Several Beavers have gone the extra mile and have achieved the Chief Scouts Bronze Award before moving up to Cubs, demonstrating excellent levels of attendance, enthusiasm and commitment.

As always, we are very grateful to our supportive parents and our Young Leaders. For this age range, we have to meet certain ratios for meetings and for going out and about, and also need a lot of support when we're meeting in the hall playing games and putting together activities. All of our Beaver Colonies are looking for adults to support the Beaver Leaders, spread the load and share in the fun! **Please talk to any of us if you are interested in getting involved.** Many hands make light work!

Kathy Castledine, Clearwater Beaver Leader, Eileen Perren, Clearwater Assistant

Alex Burke, Willowlake Beaver Leader

Victoria Pocock, Windfall Beaver Leader, Allie Harrington-Clark, Assistant

cubs Leaders' Report

In the 12 months covered by this report, the three packs from 7th Epsom created and ran a fun filled program for the young people. This included lots of time outdoors, learning new skills, pushing themselves to try something new and also making sure that we represented the Group at as many District events as we were able to.

Summer Term 25

As always, the start of the summer term is all about getting the Cubs ready for spring camp, for many, the first time they have stayed away from home under the big green storm havens. After some practice in Rosebery Park, we took 46 cubs to Frylands with the rest of the Group for our pirate themed camp.



After camp, we continued to make the most of the great weather which saw us cooking on open fires at Boidier Hurst, taking part in a pioneering challenge where the Cubs were tasked with escaping from a plane crash using only wooden poles and ropes to fashion ladders and other objects, climbing and building shelters that would protect them from a massive storm (over excited Cub Leaders with water pistols!!). A massive thank you to Kevin & Tony for supporting us with running the climbing sessions!!! The Badges earned this term included Athletics, Athletics Plus, Pioneering, Backwoods cooking and Cyclist as well as a number of nights away and hikes staged badges. Term finished with water Olympics - and yes more overexcited Cub Leaders with water pistols!!!





Autumn/Winter 25

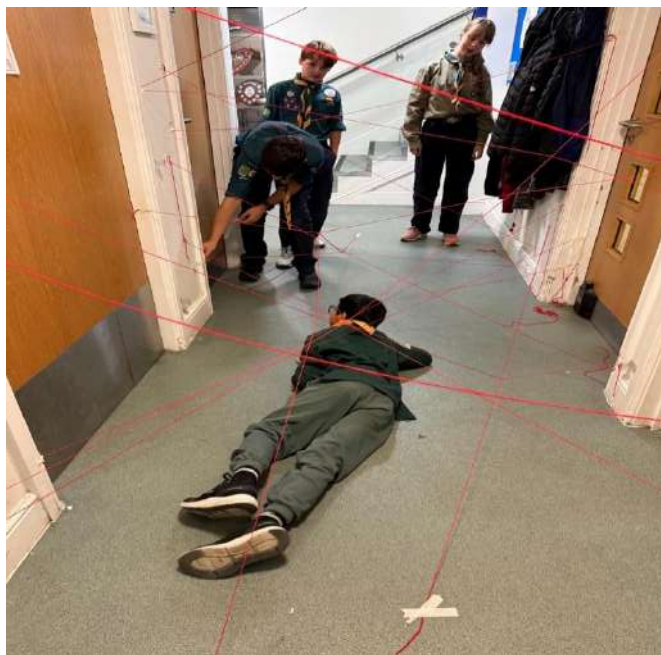
After the summer break we made the most of the last of the nice weather with a wide game across Epsom Downs and then the ever-popular chip shop challenge, where the Cubs use What3Words to navigate between many of Epsom's finest chip shops. Emergency Aid 1 & 2 followed and then our last trip up to Boidier Hurst for a fire lighting challenge. Cubs were taught all the ways to light a fire and the different builds they could use. They then had a timed challenge to prepare and light a fire big enough to melt a marshmallow on a tripod. This was about small controlled fires rather than the larger ones they were used to building for cooking on.



The Space Badge followed with the Cubs learning what it takes to go into space or use technology in orbit. So many funny things were discovered on Google Earth and the astronaut training was a sight to behold.

The Road Safety Badge straddled half term then we visited the Centenary Woods for our annual night hike to mark Armistice Day. It also saw representatives from each Pack attend the Service of Remembrance at EMC.

Before term finished, we held a crime & punishment evening where the Cubs had to escape from HMP Epsom using codes, dexterity, cunning and giggles!!! The laser maze was a particular favourite!



The Christmas party closed off a very busy term.

Spring 26

A very short term meant lots of opportunities to cram in some fun packed nights for the Cubs. After the welcome back meeting, we went into two weeks of model making with the Cubs creating and painting their very own Spitfires. We were so impressed with the concentration,



artistic flair and teamwork that the young people showed.



This time of year is also great because we get to make pancakes in the hall, it still amazes me that Marmite on a pancake works, no it really does, give it a go!

It gave us great pleasure to welcome our friends at Leatherhead Shooting Club down to teach the Cubs how to shoot. There was fantastic effort shown by all the Cubs. When they weren't shooting, they were taking part in the early rounds of the Cub District Quiz, and in which a team from Apache (Monday) went onto gain 3rd place and the chance to represent the District at the County competition, we were all very proud of them!!

With soft archery and a wide game across Headley Heath under our belt, we closed the term off with the Entertainer Activity Badge and Teamwork Challenge Badge. The Cubs were tasked with developing, practicing and then performing a social media style dance, where the only thing that could be seen were the glow sticks. All of the dances were fantastic and every Cub got involved.



We really enjoy seeing the Cubs grow and develop and we love being able to offer the program we do, however this is only possible due to the dedication of the leadership team and support of our amazing parents, so a huge thank you to everyone that makes the three 7th Epsom packs such great places for us all to be.

Leigh Hogarty, Apache Akela Paul Dewis & Richard Bell, Apache Assistant Leaders Phil Kirk, Sioux Akela Ashleigh Gonsall, Cherokee Akela Jessica Sandberg, Alex Connor: Cherokee Assistant Leaders

SCOUTS Maclean Leader's Report.

For this year, we had approximately 45 Scouts attending each term. The Scout Leader team are doing their best to provide a varied scouting programme during each term, focusing on core scouting activities, as well as allowing all scouts to gain challenge and activity badges, if they attend regularly.

During the summer term 2025, we did camp skills up at Boidier Hurst, learned all about money, completed the Athletics Badge and lots of games and a BBQ evening to end the year. The 7th Epsom Group Spring Camp, where all sections attend, was at Frylands scout campsite near Croydon. The scouts took part in loads of activities, including air rifles, climbing, assault course, and team building skills.

We were lucky with weather and a very successful camp was had by all.

Summer Camp was held at Bushy Wood, in Sussex. We had a mixed bag of weather. Our town trail day in Eastbourne resulted in a massive downpour (which I am sure the scouts will all remember, as they were out and about and got soaked), and then on the Friday we were sunning ourselves on the beach, which allowed us to come back with mostly dry canvas; always a bonus.

Autumn term 2025 included night hikes, cooking, troop discussions, games, pioneering, bowling, first aid, wide games and much more. We also completed the Local Activity Knowledge Badge, looked at the area that they live in, and at the wider area around Surrey. Jo Chartres ran another small PL/APL camp for all those who had taken up their new roles, plus those who were old hands

The Autumn term always starts in September with our annual water weekend at Thames Young Mariners in Richmond, brilliantly organised by Tony Marshall, along with 30 adult leaders and helpers and instructors. 50 scouts and explorers took part, with 30 cubs attending on the Saturday. In the Autumn, with the darker evenings, we are generally inside a lot more. We set the scouts the task of completing their Personal Challenge Badge, which most of them have now completed. This involves being set a challenge by a Leader, and then setting themselves a challenge, with the agreement of the leaders. Jo also set the Scouts on cleaning the minibuses in preparation for sign writing. On a cold Friday night there was a lot of water and soap around, plus pressure hoses, which were not always directed at the buses!



In March we took part in the District Challenge Hike. We had six teams taking part with 22 scouts, the largest contingent we have ever entered. All teams completed the course and returned safely, and I am delighted to report that our all-girl team, (only three, as one had to drop out because of illness), won the overall event for the second year in a row! Well done to Robyn Pratt, Rin Bradley and Eliza Gray. Our over 13s team came joint second. Well done to Isaac Maclure, Luca Miles, Max Fortune and Otto Molyneaux. They were presented with their certificates and trophies by John Hughes, Deputy District Lead Volunteer on a Friday evening.

So, all in all another successful year for 7th Epsom Scout Troop. The Scout programme could not happen without each of our leader's dedication and commitment. Jo Chartres, Jane Barden, Kevin Betts, Tony Marshall, Graham Saunders and Russell Tebay. In addition, Clare Knight, Paul and Greta Carpenter continue to help at some of our meetings and our camps during the year. Also, we have a rota of parent helpers each week, and certainly on many occasions could not run our programme without them. A big thank you to all parents who come along willing to take part in whatever we throw at them.

2025 Camp	Location	No. of Scouts	Leader in charge
Spring Camp	Frylands Scout Campsite, Croydon	31	Gillian Mead
Summer Camp	Bushy Wood, Hailsham, Sussex	20	Clare Knight
Water Weekend	Thames Young Mariners, Kingston	50 Scouts & Explorers	Tony Marshall
PL/APL Camp	Boidier Hurst, Box Hill	9	Jo Chartres

As I write this in June 2026, I am delighted that Jo Tombs has joined us on the Leader Team, plus one other parent has expressed an interest, which we are very thankful for. **I have indicated that I shall be stepping down from running the Troop in the summer of 2027** and we are therefore looking for more keen, dedicated adults to join the Team.



As I have said many times, **you don't have to commit for every week**, but offering to be part of the Scout Team would make a massive difference to our planning going forwards and in addition I can honestly say that you will have an amazing experience as well. Working around young people will always be entertaining and rewarding, if challenging, at times.

Gillian Mead, Maclean Scout Section Leader

EXPLORERS Leader's Report

Summer Term 2025 started with a film night. We had great fun doing some traditional activities such as cycling, backwoods cooking and hiking, but also some fun evenings creating and flying our own kites on the Downs and playing crazy golf down at Horton. We also went further afield to Hampton to go open air swimming in the Lido there.

We had an exceptionally successful Spring Camp in Frylands Wood Campsite, Croydon, in the half term holiday with beautiful weather which included activities such as Sumo Wrestling, going down the local golf range, barrel crate making and racing, pizza making and a lovely sunny hike where several of the Explorers were invested. We enjoyed coming together on the Saturday afternoon to play games together across all the sections, from Beavers to Explorers and adults alike.



Over the Summer holidays, Dav organised our Summer Camp at Bushy Wood Activity Centre, East Sussex. There were 15 Explorers attending and we managed to see so much as well as having some wonderful experiences such as feeding some alpacas, paddle boarding down the River Frome. Thanks so much to Dav for all the hard work organising such a fab camp and Aaron, Tia and Alex for taking time out of work to help lead the event.



Autumn 2025:

Helping the Explorers to write their own programme was the plan for the first night back – interspersed by some classic team building games



They came up trumps with some fabulous standards such as Pumpkin Carving and a Newspaper Fashion Night alongside an evening of life skills, a What3Words hike and a Science Night where we melted and burned our way

through a series of experiments.



The Explorers enjoyed a fantastic Water Weekend run by Tony Marshall and attended and took part in the Remembrance Sunday

Service at the Epsom Methodist Church. We were also asked to do our usual volunteering to help manage a gate at the local Epsom Firework show and we kindly given a very generous donation in return. We also got to watch the absolutely stunning display too when the hard work was done.



We were so proud to be visited by the Deputy Lieutenant Martin Gerrard in October, who nominated and awarded our oldest Explorer, Daniel, with the Scouts Commendation Award "for his exceptional service to the Crown in the best traditions of the Scout movement". The award was presented to Daniel in recognition of his work as a Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for Surrey, a role that allowed Daniel to represent both the Crown and the Scout movement at civic events, ceremonies, and community engagements across the county. Such a credit to 7th Epsom Scouts.

For our Christmas treat this year, we were able to rent out a screen at the Epsom Picture House and hold a private viewing of Home Alone – an absolute classic!



Spring 2026

The planning meeting this term bought out some fun evenings. We started with a TikTok Take Away evening where the Explorers had to create short snappy social media style reviews of local takeaways. Then we had a trio of evenings, with a creative art night, an Alphabet hunt and an online cooking class.



Later in the term we spent one evening in March prepping all the food for our Annual Fundraising Quiz Night. We had a great night the next evening, laying tables, welcoming the quizzers, serving them food and drink and selling tickets to our extremely successful raffle. The Explorer parents were extremely generous, donating fantastic prizes for our raffle hampers and the businesses of Epsom that we approached for prizes came up trumps too. In total we raised over £850 and donated £600 to CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young – a local charity helping to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research, and supporting affected families. We used the remainder of the money to support two of our Explorers who are attending two international Jamborees over the next year.

In March we also raised £176.20 for Red Nose Day and spent the evening playing loads of games. One task was to recreate a Red Nose Day press release photo – and the winning team did a smashing job! Really proud of the money we raised for charity this term – well done everyone!

Unfortunately, the Spring Term also brought to us the devastating news of the passing of our 7th Epsom colleague, Dafydd Jones, after a tragic cycling accident.

Dafydd was a life-long Scout. After his childhood in Scouting in Zimbabwe, Dafydd then joined 7th Epsom Explorers as our fellow leader at the beginning of May 2019. Dafydd helped us negotiate online scouting through the Covid lockdowns and then getting back to face-to-face scouting in 2020. He was passionate about traditional Scouting skills and providing more of these in our programme.

Dafydd also wanted to inspire the Explorers to pay back to the Epsom Community and was happy to organise a yearly litter pick and also support our fundraisers and Quiz Nights.

Dafydd is survived by his wife, Marion, and his children Claramae and Tyler. We extend our heartfelt respect and love to them.

Dafydd will be sorely missed by all at 7th Epsom, but mostly by his fellow Explorer Leaders – Rich, Dav, Aaron, Tom, Tia and me. Rest in peace, Daf.



Phili Coley, April 2026