

Welcome to our January 2025 Newsletter as we enter a new year and look forwards to lots of activities including a full programme of regular Camps.

We are also running another Quiz Night on Saturday March 1st following the success of last years event - see below for further details and please hold the date in your diary.

Yours in Scouting  
**The Executive Team**

## **Quiz Night 2025**

Saturday 1st March 2025 at St. Josph's Church Hall, St. Margaret Drive

Our ticket line is now open please [click this link to order tickets](#).



**SATURDAY  
1st MARCH**



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

**Invite your friends, family and neighbours!**

**WHEN:** Saturday 1st March - bar open from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

**WHERE:** St Joseph's Church Hall, St Margaret Drive

**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

Order tickets at: <https://forms.gle/VTLV8vTEbTdsVTE37>

**WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

## 2025 Diary Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> March - Quiz and Social Night at St Joseph's
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Ex Camp
  - 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
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## Community Christmas Post 2024

Thank you to all of you who got involved in the scheme this year.

We delivered approximately 100 rounds totalling ca.3200 cards and made just over £1800 for 7th Epsom funds. Card numbers were down slightly from the previous year but once again this has provided an excellent fundraising opportunity. We have now run the scheme every year since 1988 (except a short gap for COVID in 2000 and 2001).

**Kevin, Anne, Jane, Steve, Richard and the team.**

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## Transport Manager - Vacancy

The opportunities that we offer young people are only possible due to the effort, time and enthusiasm put in by a relatively small number of volunteers. This is an excellent opportunity for someone new to contribute and support the group who might feel that helping with the normal scouting activities isn't for them.

Running our minibuses is critical to the Scouting activities that the Group is able to provide. We are seeking a new role share for our Transport Manager, an activity which will take at most an hour or two each week.

On behalf of the 7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Exec, the Transport Manager manages and is responsible for the operation of the group's minibuses and two trailers. The role includes coordinating:

- Booking Management - all year, but minimal effort
- Licensing and insurance - a few interventions each year
- Managing Driver Assurance and Training - as needed, but infrequent
- Maintenance - booking annual MoT and servicing together with any remedial maintenance required through the year

A full role specification is available on request, and if we get two volunteers, one can handle the first three items with all activities associated with maintenance handled by the other.

If you are able to help or would like to understand more detail please contact Kevin Mead, Group Chairman on 07768066830 or at [meadfamilykam@btinternet.com](mailto:meadfamilykam@btinternet.com)

# AGM Awards Presentation - 2nd October 2024

We were delighted to have John Hughes District Deputy Commissioner, in attendance to present a number of Long Service Awards and Wood Badges to several of our Section Leaders.

Also, a Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service to Clare Diplacito, our retiring Beaver Leader who has been a valued member of our Leadership Team for the past eight years.

A well deserved "thank you" to all of our dedicate volunteers for your years of service to the 7th Epsom.



# BEAVERS

The Beavers had a busy term in the run up to Christmas.

The past term's outdoor activities included creating nature-inspired pictures in the autumn beauty of Nonsuch Park, making and flying kites on a windy Epsom Downs, scavenger hunts round Epsom town centre and Horton country park (where we found a bat house) and a night hike with enthusiastic use of torches on Epsom Common.



Our meetings at Scout HQ involved craft activities, games and learning about Scouts and the world around us. These meetings featured a variety of engaging activities, including an autumn themed session with crafts and leaf identification, a focus on Remembrance Sunday where participants created a memorial piece for the Remembrance Day service, a fireworks-themed gathering, and work towards earning the Communicator Badge. We also wrapped up the term with a festive Christmas party.



This term we will be spending more time indoors to avoid the dark and the damp winter weather. As well as our annual pancake making and chip shop challenge, we will be working on the International and creative badges.

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



# 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 three packs, all of which would deliver a wide range of badges and experiences. After the usual welcome meeting in week 1, we made the most of the last of the longer evenings over the next 3 weeks and got the Cubs working towards their teamwork & outdoor challenge badges as well as their backwoods cooking badge with a rather soaking trip to Boidier Hurst, we now know how to light a floating fire which is a bit of a first!!



Week 5 saw us back in the hall for a mystery cooking competition, the Cubs were given unknown ingredients from different food groups and tasked with coming up with a creative menu. They did brilliantly, there were some surprise delights and some more questionable concoctions presented to us lucky leaders to sample.

Week 6 saw us working towards the staged music badge, all the Cubs did brilliantly, especially those that don't currently play an instrument. The Cubs learnt some music theory and then created their own instruments, forming a band and then performing either their own song or copying a classic. After half term we welcomed back Winston from Wildlife Aid where the Cubs set about building their own bug hotels out of recyclable material.

Our annual hike around the Centennial Woods in Langley Vale took place the following week. The Cubs all made items that represented their idea of thanks and remembrance for those that have fallen to protect us. They then hung them on the remembrance tree up at Langley Vale.



After delivering the leaflets for the Christmas post we ran a skills and problem solving night, asking the Cubs to solve the issues of the day such as just how tall a tower can you build that will hold one marshmallow!!!! We rounded off the term with our Christmas Parties, capping what had been a great term for all three packs.

Thank you as always to our Young Leaders and parent helpers that help us to run our programs.

**Leigh Hogarty - Apache Cub Leader**



# SCOUTS

The term started with a town trail around Ewell, followed by a hike to Boidier Hurst with a reward for walking through the mud and dark of hot chocolate and marshmallows.

On the 5/6th October, 12 PLs and APLs went along for 24 hours to Boidier Hurst for a training camp, organised by Jo, and assisted by Kevin, Graham and Jane. This included the usual camping type activities, putting up tents (blind-folded and in silence – very challenging), cooking, pioneering etc. They were asked to pre-prepare and present a skill and teach everyone else. Highlight of the presentations were Nyle Michael who taught us all how to do Origami, and Rory taught us how to create a paracord water bottle carrier.

Our Friday evenings continued with our theme for the term of completing activities on the Creative Challenge badge, and these included everybody having a chance to do pyrography, learning about how to stay safe on using the internet and social media, taking part in performing a small sketch to the rest of the troop, and designing a poster to advertise what a great time we have in Scouts. Most Scouts now just need to provide evidence that they take part in something creative outside Scouts, and that they are progressing and improving their skills.

Wouldn't be a Scout term without having an evening of cooking, and we got them to embrace vegan food. We finished the term with an evening at Guildford Spectrum ice skating, and then a traditional Christmas party with food and games. The ice-skating challenged most of them to do something that was outside their comfort zone, and for most their improvement across the evening was great to see. Unfortunately, we had one Scout who had a fall and damaged his wrist which ended up with a night in A&E with his mum and a plaster cast.

## **Gillian Mead – Scout Leader**



# EXPLORERS

The term started with a bang with the majority of the unit out on the water, taking part in the ever popular Water-Weekend! (See previous newsletter)

The term included some regular Scouting activities, such as a First Aid night, where a couple of volunteers led the session, covering key treatments and processes. They brought along some dummies to give the unit a chance to practice real-life saving skills. Other events included a night hike from Boidier Hurst and the popular Quiz and Chips night .

We also filled the term up with a variety of fun and creative activities, including a Newspaper Fashion Show, where teams designed clothing using only old newspapers and a Dragons' Den challenge, in which teams pitched innovative ideas for addressing social issues.

Other highlights included a Garage Band night, where participants created short songs using different instruments and sounds; a Halloween-themed Pumpkin Evening; a fireworks hike up to the Downs and a chance to try simple sausage cooking on Trangias. There was also a Mocktail Evening, where everyone made their own non-alcoholic drinks, and a Quiz and Chips night, featuring rounds of questions designed by the participants themselves. The ever-popular trip to London for a mini live Monopoly game was a hit, as well as an evening dedicated to making gingerbread houses. The term wrapped up with a Christmas party full of games and delicious food

Below are some comments from the Explorers:

*Edward : The newspaper night was interesting , creative and was good fun.*

*Hannah : The pumpkin evening was a lot of fun and we enjoyed a it lot. It allowed us to be creative with our designs when we were carving the pumpkins. Also the competition at the end was great and lots of fun.*

*Grady: Mock tails review - The evening was very fun as we got to try drinks that most have never tried before and use interesting drinks ingredients.*

*Ollie: The quiz was fun I wish to do this again. But I did find that there were quite a few interruptions. This slowed down the evening a lot but still completed the activity. 7/10*

*Marley : London lights review The light were very spectacular and I really enjoy spending the time in London with friends and having a great time looking at the lights. However it was interesting seeing the Palestine protests, but overall I would recommend this night again .*

*Zac: The gingerbread evening was fun to build and disassemble. Even though they broke a couple hundred times, it was overall fun and would do it again.*

## Explorers Leaders

