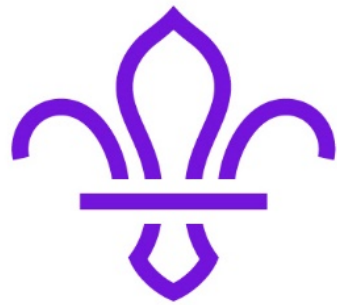


# Scouts



3rd West Wickham  
St John The Baptist



Newsletter  
June 2018

# WHO'S WHO

## GROUP SCOUT LEADER

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## SUPPORTERS EVENTS BOOKINGS

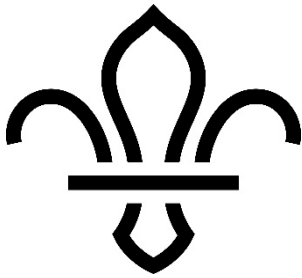
Terry Newman        020 8776 1331  
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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Keith Day            020 8658 9327  
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### *The Editor's Bit*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter. We've used the new group logo and new fleur de lys design (see left). Please join the AGM on Sunday 24 June if you can. As usual we have reports from the sections.

Have a great read!

**Keith Day, Newsletter Editor**

### *FAMILY CAMP 2019*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 28 June – Sunday 30 June 2019

Once again, we are going to Blacklands Farm for a fun packed weekend open to all families in the Group. Blacklands is a Girlguiding run site with onsite activities plus the opportunity to participate in Kayaking and Canoeing on the Weir Wood reservoir.

So, make a note in your diary, keep the weekend free and look out for the invitation email early in the New Year – limited spaces and we usually sell out quickly!!

### *Jumble Sale*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the recent jumble sale which raised a fantastic £692. There will be two more this year on Saturday 22 September and 24 November. **Please put these dates in your diaries** and do your best to help in some way. We need helpers throughout the day and on the following Mondays to clear the left-overs. Many hands make light work!

**Alys Helm**

**I VOLUNTEER  
WILL YOU?**

BEAR GRYLLS  
CHIEF SCOUT



***Our aim is to prepare young people with skills for life. Why not join the team of leaders and assistants, have fun yourself whilst helping our young people to develop into well rounded citizens of our society! Contact Alys to find out more***  
[gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk) 07702962805



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



This is my 50<sup>th</sup> and last Chairman's Corner since becoming Chairman some 17 years ago. At the Annual General Meeting in June I will be relinquishing my post in time for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. A while ago I promised my illustrious predecessor Ron Ockelford that I wouldn't beat his record breaking 21 years as Chairman and I haven't!

At our last Executive Meeting in May we spent a significant amount of time on the vexed question of GDPR. As you have probably heard from lots of organisations about what they are doing I'll keep ours brief. Parents will have had an email from Alys about the specific details we keep and how to check and confirm them, and we have set up a sub-committee of the Executive to ensure we are fully compliant with both the law and spirit of GDPR both now and in the future. We have seized the opportunity to cleanse our archives of out of date and irrelevant documentation - this has already improved the amount of physical storage space we have free! We want to keep a certain amount of historical data about the Group but this will be limited and held under improved security. On a separate subject we have decided not to increase our membership fees this year although, as I've mentioned before, they are not sufficient to cover even the fixed costs of running our HQ - heating, lighting, rates, etc. We only survive through the fund raising activities that we run so please support these activities if you can - it helps to keep your fees low.

We will be holding a "Celebration of our Scouting Year" over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the form of a Group Camp. It is at the Downe Campsite based in the Competition Field, near Bridger Lodge, Downe Activity Centre. On the Sunday we will be holding our AGM at 12noon and all are invited to attend this. As an inducement there will be a light lunch available afterwards.

In a long tradition of this column I'm afraid I once again need to appeal for help! We are always looking for new leaders so please consider whether you can help even if only on a part time basis around things like work commitments. More specifically, we are actively looking for a new treasurer as our current Treasurer has been in post even longer than me and has now moved to North Devon making some aspects of his role a little tricky. Also, after the last Jumble sale we didn't get any help with clearing up which has meant Alys and I making multiple visits to Waldo Road recycling centre, only just managing to clear the hall a week and a half after the sale. Could you take a look at the future Jumble Sale dates at the back of this newsletter and see if you are available on the Monday morning following (around 9.15 or 9.30 would be good) to help take some of the leftovers away. Tell Alys or me if you can. The first jumble sale of the autumn is usually particularly full of "stuff" which means a lot of leftovers.

At present Liam Murphy does a wonderful job of keeping our grass cut and trimmed and the maintenance team regularly attacks the weeds around the entrance and car park. However, before the winter we will need to do some more general tidying and cutting back. I will try to fix a date shortly and give plenty of notice in case you can help.

And that is literally the last word from me. I've enjoyed my time as Chairman and I will still be helping with maintenance of the HQ and a few other things for the foreseeable future so I will see some of my readers around.

**Mike Tully** [chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk)

PS ... Keep up to date with events through our website – [www.3rdwestwickham.co.uk](http://www.3rdwestwickham.co.uk)

### *3<sup>rd</sup> WW Supporters*

Following the recent hot weather and thunderstorms, the snow of March seems a long time ago, but at the time I was one snow shovel away from cancelling an Auction for the first time in more than 30 years. During the week leading up to the Auction the snow came, settled, froze, and turned to ice – a health and safety conundrum. It seemed to be more complicated to cancel than carry on, and so with snow shovel to clear the carpark at HQ we were in business. Good fortune arrived on Saturday morning when a thaw set in. So, although we were missing some snowed-in regulars, we did have a successful Auction raising £600 for the Group. A big thank you to all who helped.

#### **Terry Newman, Chairman, Supporters Committee**

### *Joan Taylor*

A few days after the Auction in March, we heard the sad news that Joan Taylor had passed away. Joan will be much missed. Joan gave wonderful support to 3WW for more than 40 years. She helped at almost every Auction we have had during that time, served on the Executive Committee as Secretary and was a valued member of the Supporters Committee. At the Auction she was the 'check-in lady' who made forgetting peoples' names an art, and I often had a chuckle at some of the 'treasures' she put up for auction. Out and about around West Wickham Joan was easy to spot in her bright yellow car with its England flag flying high. Until the end Joan continued to think of 3WW and requested that family and friends should make donations to the Group instead of flowers for her funeral. I think it is a measure of the fondness that everyone felt for her that over £800 has been donated. We now need to decide what to do with the money that has been kindly donated, something that will remind us of Joan's legacy. If you have any ideas for what we might do please let me know.

#### **Terry Newman**

At the mature age of 85 Joan has, in scouting parlance, "Gone Home"; she probably spent more than one half of her lifetime a loyal and active member of the Group. During the many years I knew her she was an ever-present figure at most of the fund-raising activities and social events. Joan was at the Auctions, opening the H.Q. to receive the Lots, issuing numbers and recording names, then acting as a Porter, and with the clearing away at the end; at Jumble Sales she was both a sorter and seller; at Dances she and Roy helped run the Bar; they both took part in Whist Drives and participated in Quiz Nights, and Race Nights.

For many years Joan was a member of the Supporters Committee and Group Executive Committee, and was, for some time, Group Secretary. Joan could always be relied upon to help and did so with a cheerful disposition, and meaningful input. Many of us experienced her kindness, and concern for our welfare. We will remember her driving around Coney Hall and West Wickham in her small car, flying the flag of St George above its roof; a serious supporter of the England Rugby Team.

Joan will be missed by all who knew her, and I am sure will be welcomed with open arms by those members of the Group who passed away before her.

#### **Ron Ockelford**

Are you a member of the 100 club? Would you like a simple way to support our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers? Each year we raise over £350.00, which directly subsidises the vast range of activities they are offered.

The cost of a ball in the 100 club is just £12.00 for the year, and each month two cash prizes are drawn. Currently the prize money each month totals £35.00, and we have a super draw in the summer for a £50.00 prize.

If you would like to purchase a ball, or want to know more about how the 100-club works, do please contact **Nicola Tunstall**, [100club@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:100club@3rdwestwickham.co.uk)

### *Greenaches Maintenance*

Unfortunately, I missed the last working party, along with all those who would have liked to help but were otherwise occupied. I understand Terry Newman, having recently retired, has now joined us and he is a welcome addition to the team. I am also told that a young lady turned up and made the tea. Someone at Saturday's Jumble Sale commented on how good the H.Q. is looking and it was nice to have the Working Parties efforts appreciated.

We have the mystery of the damaged door closer that is fitted to the rear door. I understand from Mike that the connecting arm was badly bent and disconnected from the body of the closer. I cannot believe someone swung on it and it is more likely that the door was forced back 180 degrees. Maybe a person who witnessed the damage could enlighten me. The upshot is that Mike had to replace the closer.

We should now redecorate the exterior of the building; the front looks fine but the rear wall, wood and metalwork need repainting. There are some minor jobs to complete and some additional help would be appreciated, particularly as the older members of the working party can no longer work from steps or ladders.

We endeavour to meet for the morning on the second Friday in the month but do occasionally have to vary the day due to holidays. Mike and Alys usually let people know when this happens.

It would be nice to have some additional help.

**Ron Ockelford**

### **SecondHandUniform ForSale**

The second-hand uniform sales are going well and raising additional funds for the Group. Everything is clean, ironed and in good condition plus prices are, obviously, much lower than if you bought new, meaning you gain, we recycle as appropriate and any money we make is for Group funds.

Do you have anything to donate to the stall?? Has your child changed sections or grown out of anything? Please bring any uniform you no longer require to HQ and give to any leader who will make sure it is passed onto me for laundering and resale.

Please contact me with any requests uniform items you need and I will do my best to help.

**Hannah Alonso Whittaker**, [jalonso@talktalk.net](mailto:jalonso@talktalk.net)

## *DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY*

As you will be aware the rules regarding data protection have changed (GDPR) and we have been working hard to ensure we comply. Our privacy statement will be available on our website shortly.

All members details and the waiting list are held securely on Online Scout Manager (OSM) which is fully certified. Parents are asked to ensure their children's details are kept up to date by creating an account with OSM and entering any changes themselves. We are also moving our payments system using Go Cardless via OSM which will produce Gift Aid reports at the appropriate times.

### **Receiving this Newsletter**

All parents of youngsters in the Group will automatically receive our newsletter 3 times each year but I need to ask everyone else to give specific permission for address details to be kept.

If you are not a parent and wish to continue to receive our newsletters and other important Group information (and we hope you do!) please email or write to me confirming this. Your name and address will be kept on a password protected spreadsheet on my personal computer (which is also password protected). 3 times a year this information will be printed out for the purpose of organising delivery of the newsletter. This printed list will be shredded as soon as possible after distribution.

To continue receiving our newsletter and other important Group information please either email [gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk) or write to

Alys Helm  
12 Westfield Cottages  
Cudham  
Sevenoaks TN14 7QA

Your permission information will be stored electronically, and you can unsubscribe at any time by contacting the Group Scout Leader or any other member of the Group Executive Committee.

**Alys Helm**  
**Group Scout Leader**  
[gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk)

## *Group T Shirts*

3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Group T shirts are great for wearing under uniform and help leaders quickly identify our members when out and about. They cost just £6.50 and are available at HQ, just ask one of the leaders when you are at HQ.



# CELEBRATION OF OUR SCOUTING YEAR (and AGM) Sunday 24 June 2019

Arrangements have changed for our AGM this year in that we are incorporating it into our Group Camp at Downe.

Members from all age groups will be camping over the weekend 22 – 24 June culminating in a Celebration of our Year. There will be presentations from the young people celebrating what they have achieved and telling you what they have done over the past 12 months. We will also (as quickly as we can) deal with the requirements of our AGM. Finally, we will all enjoy a light lunch, help to finish packing the camp and return home.

All members and friends of the Group are invited to join us

Sunday 24 June 11.45  
Downe Activity Centre, Birdhouse Lane,  
Downe. BR6 7LJ

Access road is narrow, and parking is limited so car sharing is advised. You will be met by leaders and young people in the car park and taken to our camp site (5 minutes' walk with a fairly steep hill). The meeting will start promptly at 12.00

Please let Alys know if you are coming so we can calculate the catering!  
([gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk))

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*BEAVER BITS*  
*Brook Colony*



We have had so much fun this term at Brook Beavers. Here are some quotes from the Beavers themselves to highlight what they have enjoyed during their most recent Friday nights at Beavers:

'I enjoyed London Zoo sleepover because there were lots of animals to look at' Arthur  
'I enjoyed the circus skills visit because I really liked riding the unicycle' Elliot  
'I liked the astronomy evening because I learnt lots about space' Jonah  
'I enjoyed London Zoo because I got to sleep in a bug house' Joseph  
'I liked the camp fire because we made lots of food and cooked it on the fire' Henry  
'I liked painting our stones because it was really fun' Millie  
'I enjoyed the campfire because we roasted marshmallows, chocolate and banana in an ice-cream cone!' Toby  
'I enjoyed going to Wilberforce and playing games with the parachute' Luwen  
'I enjoyed walking the tightrope for the circus skills night' Ben  
'I liked doing the cheerio challenge' Austin  
I enjoyed winning the shoe throwing competition' Harry

Thank-you to all the parents for staying to help at Beavers over the last few weeks when we have been out and about, your time is much appreciated. Thank-you to Arthur and his family for helping out at the Jumble Sale too, great work!

### **Bev (Bee), Brook Beaver Scout Leader**



#### *River Colony*

The Beaver team has been hard at work ensuring that all of the children have the best experience of Scouting possible. We have all been working hard to find fun, safe activities for our keen Beavers to do this term. We are trying to make the activities as interesting and varied as we possibly can, to keep our enthusiastic Beavers active.

One of the main ceremonies in the Scouting calendar took place at the beginning of the summer term, our annual St. Georges Day parade. The parade took place in Petts Wood this year. The Beavers proudly walked through the high street and all of the Beavers did really well. A short ceremony took place after, which was attended by lots of different scouting groups from the district, we were very proud of our Beavers who attended as they did so well.

We have just returned from a Camping trip at London Zoo where we camped with the 2 Cub sections and the Brook Beavers, the Beavers had lots of fun and were impeccably behaved. The Beavers were lucky enough to sleep in the Bug House and the bugs were actually as noisy as the children during the night! but we all had a wonderful time. The children were taken on a late night walk around the Zoo once it had closed to the general public and were able to view the animals at night which was really exciting. At 5:15 the children were already stirring and once they were up and ready to go we had another walk around the Zoo before it opened, and then we went off to breakfast, which the children devoured!

### **9**

Here are a few of the other activities that the Beavers will be taking part in this term:

Pond Dipping at Keston Ponds

Crazy Golf at Sparrows Den

Our final evening of the term will be at HQ for the annual Beaver Water Fight the kids love it (leaders not so much!!) so get the water guns ready! We will be asking for parent helpers for the Water Fight as we get totally soaked!

A few of our Beavers have swum up to Cubs at the beginning of the term, we hope they have lots of fun on their new adventures. We have welcomed one new Beaver to the section. We hope he makes lots of new friends and experiences lots of new activities and enjoys his time at Beavers.

Finally, many thanks to all the parents for your continuing support. All parents' help at least once a term on our rota, and I would like to thank everyone for all they do and all the support you give us.

### **Ash (Ant), River Beaver Scout Leader**



### ***CUB PACK CAPERS***

#### *Seeonee Cubs*

The Summer term started with a big goodbye and good luck to Samuel & George who have moved on to Scouts. Both have been in Seeonee Cubs for 2.5 years and gained their Silver Awards – well done Cubs.

Next came the Sixer & Seconder promotions within the Cub packs as we like all Cubs, in their time with us, to take a responsible role in their packs!

Congratulations to new Sixers – Dylan & Ronit

Congratulations to new Seconders – Nell

So, what have we done since the last exciting instalment of the adventures at the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Seeonee Cub Pack? We have

undertaken the following:

- The St Georges Day Parade in Petts Wood as part of Bromley District
- Games Night to build up good team building within the Sixes
- Cub Scout Challenge at Downe Scout Camp
- Night Hike from HQ to Well Woods
- Rounders in the Park with Wontolla Cub Pack
- Prepare for Bug Camp activity
- London Zoo Bugs Night's Away Camp
- Visit to High Elms Country Park for the Country Code

We opened the Summer term with the annual St Georges Day Parade which took place in Petts Wood this year and terminated in Crofton School with speeches from the mayor of Bromley & District Commissioner.

### **10**

Our first Monday night activity was a Games Evening at HQ with special emphasis to build good teamwork in their Sixes.

Good Teamwork and basic skills was the next challenge for a team of Five Cubs who entered the District Cub Scout Challenge at Down Scout Camp. We did not win but is the learning and participation that counts and gaining new experiences with varying challenges.

The Night Hike took us from HQ to the Lime Tree Entrance of Well Woods in Coney Hall around the back lanes & paths on a long walk with a few wide games in the Well Woods field. A good healthy exercise for all and showed the Cubs their local area.

The lovely Bank Holiday Monday allowed us to meet that week on a Wednesday evening at Coney Hall REC to join our sister Wontolla Cub Pack for some environmental clean up and then "Rounders in the Park".

Next up we prepared for our novelty camp at the London Zoo Bug House by challenging the Cubs with what they need to take to this type of camp. Most got the basics of a pillow & sleeping bag but forgot things like a suitable carry bag and tooth brush.

The London Zoo Bug Camp was attended by a limited amount of our Cubs who filled the available spaces with Wontolla Cubs, River & Brook Beavers within hours of the camp announcement. The Bug house was a great sleep over venue amongst all the bugs big and small, especially when a handler brings out a few to show the Cubs & Beavers at close hand. The Bug Camp was a very enjoyable experience allowing all to see the animals in a different light with no crowds. We were able to view lions, lamas, flamingos, tortoises & parrots in their cages at a time when some animals come out for the night to hunt etc. After breakfast the next morning we had a private tour of Otters, Meer cats, the Rainforest enclosure and ended up with the Penguins. We then gathered our equipment and hiked through Regent Park back to the underground in the glorious sun shine that helped make the camp on route home to Hayes Railway station. Watch out for the next novelty camp!

We finished off half term with a walk around High Elms Country Park hopefully learning all about the Country Code. The Cubs now know the majority of how to act in a country environment. Unfortunately, they still have not learned to be quiet so as to not disturb & scare off the wildlife around them during their walk. Still an ongoing mix of let's have fun & Scouting!

Other things planned this term:

- Kelsey Park Nature Walk
- Keston Ponds for Pond Dipping
- Prepare for Tent Camp
- Group Camp at Downe Scout Camp
- Group Camp at Downe with AGM
- Skills Challenge with Wontolla
- Cycling at Sparrows Den
- Wilberforce Backwoods Cooking
- Archery & Air Rifle Shooting at Frylands Wood Scout Camp

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Just a reminder to say that our Cub pack has reduced to 20 Cubs this term; it is very important to have an effective parent Rota to maintain the correct safety ratios for all our activities. This is usually achieved by all parents undertaking their duty on the roster once per term. When we are out and about, or if a leader is not available, I may sometimes have to ask parents to stay to cover the activities to help out.

By end of this Summer term (July) our Hathi (Sue) will retire from Cubs after 10 years as a Section Leader and we are actively looking for another Cub leader for Seeonee Cubs. So, if you know someone, please forward their name to Alys or myself. Thanks for all your help at Cubs Sue.

Once again, our Cub Packs can only survive with your continued help and support. I would like to personally thank all the Cub Team and the parents who support our pack on a regular basis, as we could not do all this without you. Many Thanks.

### **Kevin (Hawk), Seeonee Cub Scout Leader**



#### *Wontolla Cubs*

The Wontolla Cubs have had a busy time since the last newsletter, with a great mix of indoor and outdoor activities. As part of the process of our cubs growing up and starting to make decisions for themselves we, the leaders, regularly ask our Cubs what activities they would like us to try and arrange for them in upcoming term. Whilst some of these ideas are more achievable than others, a popular choice is always trampolining. We therefore ended the last term with a Wontolla trip to Orpington Air Jump which we were lucky enough to almost have completely to ourselves, please see our website for some pictures of the cubs.

Since then our cubs have made pancakes, taken part in a joint Wontolla / Seeonee Easter Egg hunt and wide games at Wilberforce where, in total they found over 300 hidden eggs. We have taken part in an amazing St Georges Day Parade, the Cubs Scout Challenge and worked towards their My World Badge litter picking in Coney Hall Park where we also playing a fun game of rounders. As some of you may know I passed a climbing instructors course in November and have been keen to take the cubs to a climbing wall which we did for the first time a few weeks ago. All the leaders were really impressed with how well the Cubs climbed. Each Cub set their own goal, for some this was reaching the top, for other it was just climbing the wall at all. Whatever the case all the leaders were really impressed with how much effort the Cubs put into it, especially those who were scared of heights.

The Cubs Scout Challenge was a really good fun morning and a great turn out for the Wontolla Cubs submitting 14 cubs in three teams. We were named PlayStation, Xbox and Nintendo, whilst we didn't come in the top places our teams had a respectable score of 191, 99 and 241. The Team who came 4<sup>th</sup> scored 288 so we weren't very far behind. One of our cubs said the following about the Challenge *"This term in cubs some of our pack went to the Cub Scout challenge. It was a fun day but there was dreary weather. The aim was to get as many points as possible by completing challenges and finding orienteering points with questions and letters. This was really fun."* From Duncan R.

As I submit this for publishing many of our Beavers and Cubs will be attending the London Zoo BedBUGS sleepover; in total 49 children and 11 adults are going to be spending in the night in the BUGS house at the zoo. I am sure everyone will have an amazing time and will, despite

being very tired, have lots to tell you about when they return. The group will be taking lots of pictures and will be posting them onto the group website for you to see as well.

Having mentioned our website please drop in to visit it regularly, the address is [www.3rdwestwickham.co.uk](http://www.3rdwestwickham.co.uk). The site has lots of information on what the group and the various sections are doing, what's more I do try to keep it updated with some pictures of whatever activities our Cubs get up to. Whilst being slightly techie can you please add our new email address [wontollacubs@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:wontollacubs@3rdwestwickham.co.uk) to your safe list (or equivalent) I know that at least on a few occasions our emails are going directly into people's junk folder.

A favour from an ex leader; we have been asked by one of the groups old leaders if we, as a group could collect milk bottle tops. We would therefore be really grateful if you could keep any tops you may use and give them to your Cub to bring in to HQ each week. Please see our website for more information if you are interested.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone that helps us run Wontolla, this includes all the parents that help us each week, especially when we are out of HQ your help is invaluable, we do have strict adult to child ratios and without you we may have to cancel activities. However, I would specifically like to thank all the leaders and assistant leaders who spend a lot of their own time working behind the scenes planning and preparing to ensure that your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explores get the best possible experiences and fun out of Scouting. Organising evening, trips out and especially camps take a lot of work, all of which done in their own time and often at the expense of being with their own family. For example, a number of leaders are actually giving up their own annual leave to set up the site for the upcoming group camp in June. If any of you parents can spare an hour a week please get in contact with the group we always need extra helpers.

Many thanks

**Adam (Akela), Wontolla Cub Scout Leader**

### *Scout Shout*

Having been entertained by a lightning show from our kitchen window, a sure sign that summer has definitely arrived! Fortunately, the occasional storm and downpour has not distracted from a very good start to the outdoors activities that we love so much at this time of year, although Alys did find some very deep and gloopy mud on the Moonwalk, so if anyone has a spare pair of size 4.5 rigger boots, she could certainly give them a good home!



Well done to Eban, Roan, Seth, Connor, Clark and John for putting in a sterling nightshift! Also, thanks to Hannah for helping the leader's team of myself & Alys. We also participated, with the Explorers, in Scouts of Steel, again with Hannah's help.

We have had several entertaining and productive sessions so far this term, but, sadly, we have to report that two Scouts let the reputation of the Troop down quite badly on a swimming trip to Bromley Pavilion. Good behaviour is required from all Scouts, but especially so when interacting with non-Scouters and members of the public when away from HQ. As a consequence, they missed out on a fabulous new activity, when a Roller Disco put us through our paces just before the half term break.

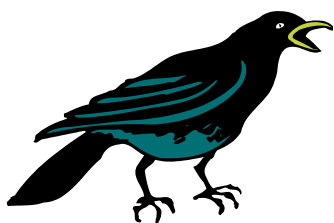
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We also managed to stay dry for Backwoods Cooking at Wilberforce, and Wide Games at Frylands, though it was a very close run thing, with some very damp wood for open-fire cooking!

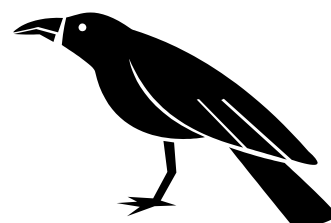
As you can see from the online programme, by logging on to OSM, we have an exciting half-term of sessions leading up to the Summer holidays, not least the Group camp later this month at Downe, with all the wonderful things Scouts are going to keep us entertained with at the AGM!

Keep checking for any changes which may be made: for instance, we had to re-arrange the bat walk, as the Country Rangers thought it would be too light; another valuable lesson for us when we plan the programmes, but hopefully it will be light enough to play golf at the driving range on 19<sup>th</sup> June – almost the shortest night.

**Yours in Scouting**  
**Jen, Doug, Geoff, Paul & Steve**



### *Ravens Reports*



Since the last newsletter Explorers has grown, I'm not just talking about the Explorers but the section itself, Joel, Joseph, Jobe and Max have all joined us from Scouts and are already into the Explorer way of scouting, Kieran was invested at HQ at the end of last term and we awarded 14 Badges with Alex H & Kieran achieving their 9 year award and Elle 20 nights away. Not forgetting Cery, Holly, Rhiannon and India who have all been with us 2 years. So, what have we been up to, Last term we started work on our International badge, with a visit to china town and an evening cooking a number of Chinese dishes, HQ smelt like a Chinese restaurant, we had the music playing and some of the dishes were edible, it was an amazing evening enjoyed by everyone. Then the beast from the east derailed our plans with an evening at Frylands cancelled and Scout of Steel postponed. Team Raven were ready but unfortunately unable to make the new date. We ended the term with an evening bowling where Anya and I managed to hold our own but did not get a look in with the food.

This Term has started as last ended chilled out with an evening with the RNLI, some backwoods cooking and a games evening in the park, the real work starts after half term with the 12 explorers going to group camp starting their plans and some work towards our Platinum awards but we would not be Explorers if we did not have Fun with Gillwell 24 coming up watch this space.

That just leaves me to say good luck to all the Explorers who are taking exams as I write this newsletter and a big thank you to the parents who join me weekly as without their help the evening would have to be cancelled.

**Paula**



*MOONWALK 2018*



What an awesome event - The Moonwalk - 'Zombie Apocalypse' 2018 (an overnight incident hike) is the best Scout Event that I have ever done.

This was the first time that the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham have ever entered this challenging competition and I hope it won't be the last as it was a fantastic opportunity to have great fun! None of us knew what to expect so excitement was high - the effort the organizers had put into the apocalypse theme was amazing – they had even built a crashed plane fuselage with bio hazards oozing out of it (glow sticks) / green lights and explosions - all helped to set the eerie scene.

We were told that a plane had crashed and gases had been released into the atmosphere turning everyone into zombies. We had to navigate our way around the contaminated area and solve various dangers and problems (22 bases) using problem solving and our 'scout skills'. This was made all the more exciting as we only had torch light, to navigate our way through the woods and to see grid references marked on a map which we had to follow.

My team (Joseph/ Jobe) teamed up with other explorers - we managed to complete 17 of the challenges in the allotted six hours eventually crawling into bed thoroughly exhausted just after 4am. Thank you Alys for staying up to greet us – sorry we were one of the last teams back!

One of my favourite challenges was the 'electric fence'. We were told that the zombies had broken the electric fence and we had to repair it to stop them entering the 'safe' compound. We had to find the broken connection (which was buried) and use a scout tool box to connect the wires which were some distance apart. Solutions – we came up with included the use of a metal tape measure to continue the flow of electricity and a line of metal tent pegs – not bad thinking considering it was 3am and we were all beginning to feel tired.

Another task we had to complete was to rescue a survivor from the plane crash – he was in a maze which also contained a medipack to save him. However, unfortunately for us he was surrounded by zombies who were attracted to torchlight and noise. We had work as a team to distract them whilst sneaking through the maze in moonlight and bringing him back to safety.

Searching pot holes to retrieve glow sticks was the favourite challenge of my brothers. They were entered in the Scout Team (Seth, Roan, Eben, Connor, Clark and John) and managed to complete 8 bases and last the competition to 2am before returning to base camp.

Thank you to everyone involved in helping us to attend this event, especially Alys and Geoff who not only gave up their Saturday and Sunday but also a night's sleep as well. If you get the chance to sign up for the next Moonwalk – do so – it's an experience you will be talking about to your Grandkids'- that's if you survive!

**Jobe Sabour, Explorer**

P.S. Unfortunately, we all failed in our mission to contain the gases as we all ended up as zombies the next morning!



## DIARY DATES 2018

June	Friday - Sunday	22 - 24	TBA	Group Camp, Downe
	Sunday	24	11.45am - 2.00pm	Lunch & AGM at Group Camp, Downe
July	Sunday	1	9.40am	Church Parade
	Saturday	7	TBA	Explorers Gilwell 24
August	Friday - Sunday	31/8 - 2/9	TBA	Troop Water sports camp
Sept	Saturday	22	2.00pm	Jumble Sale <i>HELP NEEDED</i> am & pm
	Saturday - Sunday	29-30	TBA	The Supreme Box Car Challenge
Oct	Saturday	6	TBA	Swimming Badge Evening, Beckenham
	Sunday	7	9.40am	Church Parade Harvest Festival
	Saturday	13	TBA	Explorers Robot Wars, Bears Wood
	Saturday	13	1.00pm	Auction <i>HELP NEEDED</i>
Nov	Saturday	10	TBA	Swimming Gala, Cubs & Scouts
	Sunday	11	9.40-11.00am	Remembrance Day Parade West Wickham
	Saturday	24	2.00pm	Jumble Sale <i>HELP NEEDED</i> am & pm

Email items for next issue to: [newsletter@3rdWW.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@3rdWW.org.uk) before 1st October 2018.

### *District Scout Shop*

BROMLEY HQ, The Frank Rhodes Centre, 15 Prospect Place, Langdon Road, BR2 9HL  
(Parking outside)  
Saturdays 9.30am – 12.30pm (not school holidays)

Crofton Oak Scout Hall, Crofton Road, Orpington BR6 8JE  
Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30pm and Tuesdays 8.30pm - 9.30pm

ANY ITEM SHOWN IN THE SCOUT CATALOGUE OR NOT IN STOCK CAN BE ORDERED

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