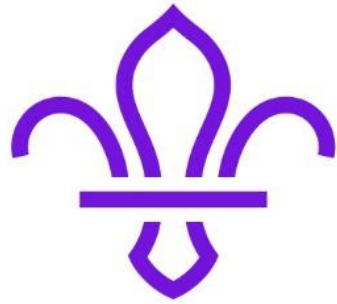


# Scouts



3rd West Wickham  
St John The Baptist



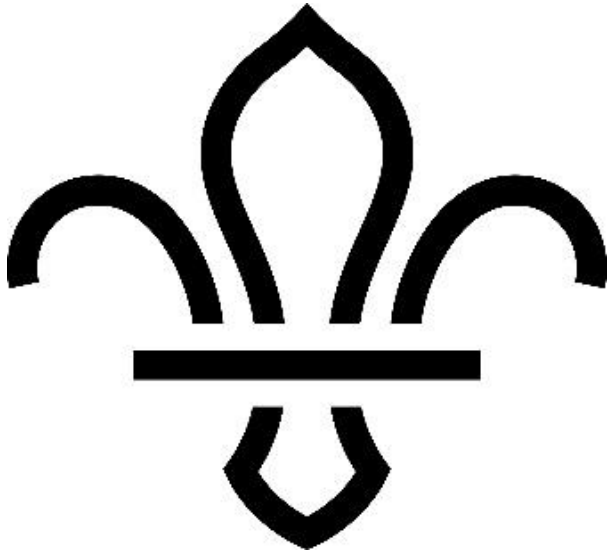
**Newsletter  
October 2021**

# WHO'S WHO

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*Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Enjoy today – it is a gift .... that's why we call it – the present...!*





## ***The Editor's Bit***

Welcome to the latest action-packed edition of the Newsletter.

As usual there are reports from all the sections as well as the return of Presidential Potterings.

The leaves are falling and it's a beautiful time to get outside and be active. Here's to a wonderful Autumn of Scouting!

Have a great read!

**Keith Day, Newsletter Editor**

***Spent the past three days alone trying to learn escapology. I need to get out more.***

## ***Presidential Potterings***

The Scout Troop had a weekend at Bewl recently where, under expert tuition, everyone successfully completed an intensive course in either sailing or kayaking and also gained at least two scout badges (in some cases, more). It was a fun weekend with the scouts learning or improving upon a skill. Now, water activities may not be for everybody but there are plenty of other badges to have a go at and skills to acquire which could stand you in good stead as you get older. Any employer, when looking at a CV which says – 'gained Chief Scouts award, Duke of Edinburgh award, became Queen's Scout etc.' will know that that person in front of them is self-reliant, can work with a team, has leadership qualities. We all have to start at the foot of the ladder but with those awards under your belt, you are already climbing.

Baden-Powell said "Hundreds of big men today started at the very bottom of the ladder". But, as I have said before, you've got to do your own climbing. Don't stay in the mud because others stick there, look for your own stepping stones and make your own way out of it. Get your foot on the lowest rung and up you go. I have seen so many men start well in life with all the equipment necessary for making them successful, who went and failed owing to their lack of patience, when things went against them at the moment they chucked up everything and tried something else, and if once you get into the habit of chucking up and trying again, it becomes a habit and remains a habit, so that your whole life becomes a series of chucking-ups and never getting up.

Aim high – it's about time we had another Queen's Scout!

**Doug Sullivan, President**

***With money being difficult to raise we must take extra care to ensure the maximum benefit accrues to the largest number whenever we embark upon any scheme involving expenditure.***



## Chairman's Corner



Summer has almost waned away and the very clement weather is helping us to transition fully into this new school year. Many parents are now returning to the office on a more regular basis. And despite some recent fuel shortages the traffic we all love to hate has properly returned too.

If anything, this could describe any Autumn term after the summer holidays. This year it is a special one, almost a comforting one after so many months of uncertainty and upheaval.

As a Scouts Group we have had the pleasure of reconnecting as a community, face to face, around a BBQ at the Scout Hut on Tiepigs Lane– what a real treat this was! The different units within the Group have been actively meeting too since the beginning of September. And we have been running events from Band Night to our upcoming Auction on 6 November (yes, do grab your diary and make a note!) and Jumble Sale on 20 November.

I feel there has to be a well-deserved sigh of relief at this point– things feel and look almost “normal” – and yes, I am delighted I could use that word!

We are proud to continue to be here supporting the personal growth of young people in our Group! As you know our mission in scouting is about building skills for life for our youth. Today more than ever we have learned the value of resilience and opportunity to bounce back. This is why the organisation has recently launched the YouShape Award. It simply is about providing opportunities for young people to speak up, share their ideas and shape their experiences at Scouts.

Through this award, Scouts are providing a tool to help our volunteer leaders encourage even more young people in their sections to have a say. And by sharing their ideas and leading their peers, young people will be developing incredible skills that they'll use for the rest of their lives. Things like teamwork, leadership, communication and more.

This is a big milestone in the Scouts' youth shaped journey, helping us to embed a youth shaped approach into everything we do. Young people having opportunities to shape their experience is one of the key objectives of our Skills for Life strategy. Giving young people the opportunity to shape their own Scouts experience is an important part of helping us grow and develop as a movement.

To find out more about this Scouts' initiative please look at:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/youth-shaped/> .

As always you can take the opportunity to share with us feedback, thoughts, or opportunities to further our young people's experiences. **Contact me at [chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk)**.

Here is to our continued journey!

**Askold Jacura, [chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk)**

## **Remembrance Day Parade Sunday 14 November**

Covid restrictions prevented our attendance last year, so we are pleased to be able to join the Remembrance Parade this year. We will be meeting in the Croft Avenue car park (behind the shops opposite Boots) at 10.10. The parade usually sets off about 10.20 walking to the war memorial on Corkscrew Hill where the service will start at 10.45. Scout and Guide groups from all over West Wickham plus other organisations and members of the public will be there. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Group T shirts**

Our wonderful new design T shirts are available from any leader at HQ. Just £6.50 each and can be worn under uniform, at camps and events.

### **What can you do to help the Group??**

Obviously (!) we cannot operate without leaders. We are all volunteers and the more adult leaders we have the less work any individual must do!! As I have reported previously, we had to close Brook Beavers due to a shortage of leaders which means our waiting list is growing by the week! With more adult leaders we can offer more young people the wonderful opportunities that Scouting has to offer.

Please think about giving some time to support our existing team – a recent report has provided proof that Volunteering is GOOD FOR YOU so as well as helping the young people you are benefitting your own health! Please contact me for more details – no pressure just a chat – and see if you can give some of your time to help.

## **FUNDRAISING**

At last, we are able to restart our usual fundraising activities!

**Auction Saturday 6 November** If you can help on the day, please let us know  
**Viewing 11.45am – 12.55 pm Auctions Start at 1pm**

### **Jumble Sale Saturday 20 November**

Helpers are needed in the morning collecting and sorting and, in the afternoon, to man the stalls. Lastly help needed to clear any leftovers on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – please contact Alys.

**Doors open to buyers at 2pm**

### **100 Club**

**Are you a member of the 100 club? If not please use this simple way to support the Group.** 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 are not yet a member of the 100 Club, please ask me for a form.

### **Online Shopping**

With Christmas fast approaching please remember the Group when online shopping. It is really easy to sign up and a small percentage on everything you buy can be paid to charity. Please, choose 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Scout Group as your charity and you will be boosting our funds with every purchase at no additional cost to yourself!

**[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)**

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

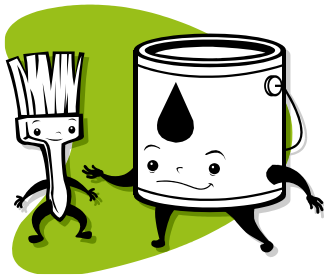
## **3WW Supporters**

Slowly life seems to be returning to normal, and with it the Supporters activities are slowly restarting. Our first venture will be an **Auction on 6<sup>th</sup> November**. This will be our first auction since March 2020. I have been much encouraged by the response of the Supporters and other helpers to the suggestion, and so we have decided to give it a go. Recognising the world has changed somewhat in the last two years, we are hoping to be able to take card payments for the first time. I just need to persuade the card company that 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Scout Group is a bona fide Charity, and not a front for money laundering, which is not as straight forward as I would have expected.

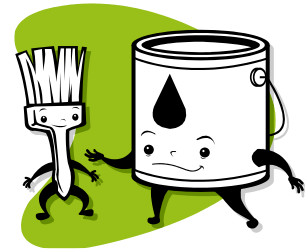
At the time of writing, I am receiving a steady trickle of items for sale at the Auction, so I am hopeful that we have enough Lots, and enough attendees to make it a success. Fingers crossed!

The Auction will be followed a **Jumble Sale on 20<sup>th</sup> November**. We will see how these events go, and hopefully will be able to arrange other fundraising events in the New Year.

**Terry Newman**  
**3WW Supporters**



### ***Greenacres Maintenance***



With the gradual reopening of the HQ building following the relaxation of Covid restrictions the maintenance team has had a little more work to do. Currently we meet on an ad hoc basis at fairly short notice when the weather looks fine!

Recent activities included replacing a large wooden panel near the entrance which had rotted. We have now sealed it in under aluminum sheet so hopefully it won't rot again. We have also done some work on the grounds and repainted the front gates plus various doors at the car park side of the building. While doing this we found that rot had also penetrated the front window frames so we have arranged for these to be replaced by double glazed units which should also be more secure and warmer. Doug has also been getting on with painting over the graffiti on the side of the garage and Askold and Liam have worked on the grounds.

We have carried out all our regular checks such as testing the emergency light system and checking that the sewerage traps aren't blocked (ugh!) and undertaken some extra ones that Head Office asked to be done before building are fully reopened. My thanks also to Ron, Terry, and Keith for their support.

We plan to get back to a more regular and organized approach to maintenance after Christmas and will be looking for a few more volunteers – you have been warned!

**Mike Tully**

***The young love to disobey, but nobody makes them obey very much these days anyway.***

## ***Do you have any pre-loved Scout Uniform?***

We are happy to pass on any second-hand uniform which will help raise funds for the Group, could help another family plus prevent waste by recycling. 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 careful Covid 19 laundering and resale.

Everything is clean, ironed and in good condition plus prices are, obviously, much lower than if you bought new. Please contact me if you have requests for uniform items.

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

Member of Scouts Supporters' Committee and Cub Section Assistant

***“Nomophobia”. The fear of being out of mobile phone contact. (99% of the population have that – don’t they?)***

## ***Old Age Is Golden***

Old age is golden I’ve heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,  
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up,  
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,  
“Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?”

When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels right over my head.  
When I was older my slippers were blue,  
But I could still dance the whole night through.  
Now I am old my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store and puff my way back.

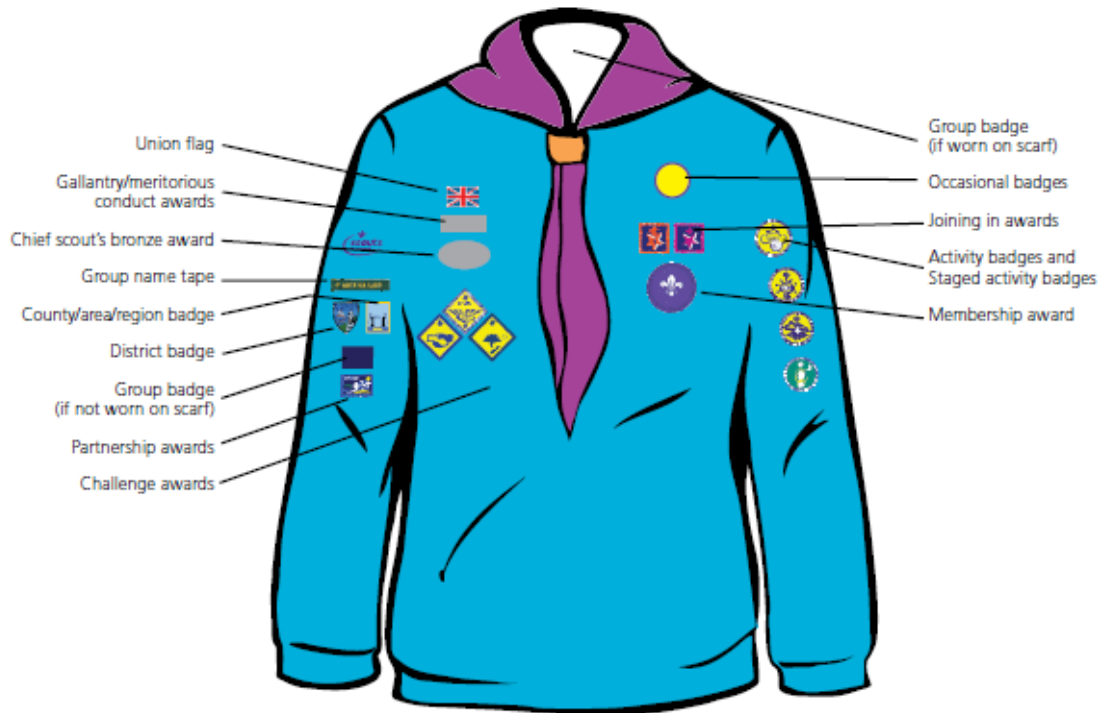
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
and pick up the paper and read the “Obits”.  
If my name is still missing, I know I’m not dead,  
so I have a good breakfast, and go back to bed.





# Position of badges on uniform

## Beaver scout uniform



## Cub scout uniform

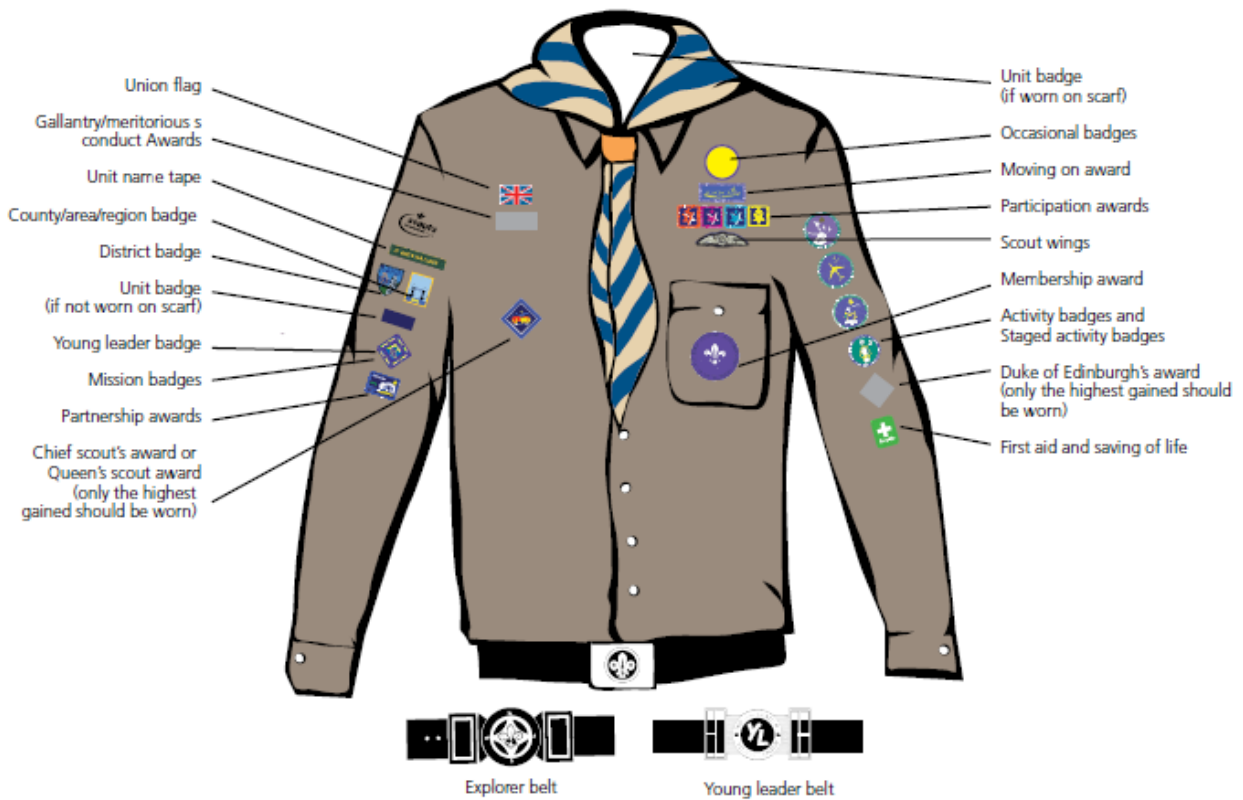




## Scout uniform



## Explorer scout uniform





## **Beaver Bits - River Colony**

We returned from the Summer Holidays refreshed and ready to start a new year of scouting with the Beavers. Following the swimming-up of three Beavers at the end of last year, we welcomed five new Beavers and one joining the Group from 1st Biggin Hill. The section currently stands at 20.

As some of you may be aware this year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Beavers. To mark this important milestone, we have introduced a number of 35 themed activities for the Beavers to take part in on various evenings this term. These include but are not limited to, keeping two balloons aloft for 35 seconds, 35 star jumps, planking for 35 seconds and a word search of 35 answers. There will be a celebration at the end of term with camp blanket badges issued to the Beavers then.

We began the term with an evening of experiments, where the Beavers learned how to create their own volcanoes with bi-carbonate of soda and to produce colourful food dye water sculptures. We completed the work on experiments later in the term with an instruction on self-inflating balloons.

We introduced our new Beavers to the activities at Frylands Wood. They and the older Beavers took full advantage of the activity course and tunnels complex to work towards their Adventure Challenge badges. A fun time was had by all.

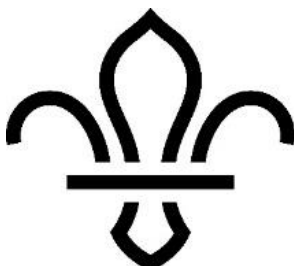
This term the new money-skills badge was introduced and we took the initiative early on to give the Beavers a full introduction to the world of finance. The evening involved a talk on the history of money followed by an exercise on saving, donating or spending. Finally, the Beavers were tasked with "saving" two sweets for a week to receive "interest" of one more the following week. This met with mixed results...

The half-term came to a denouement with a visit to Coney Hill Baptist Church and the Beavers completing their Faith badges.

As ever, I want to thank our strong retinue of parent helpers for their assistance this half-term and our visiting Young Leader, Roan, who has been indefatigable in pitching in to help us.

**Paul (Badger), River Beaver Scout Leader**

*I went to a shoe shop and they had a special offer "Buy one, get one free". Then I thought, "aren't all shoes sold that way?"*





## **Cub Pack Capers - Wontolla Cubs**

It has been a busy term for the Wontolla Cubs with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities. We started the term back at HQ with a general welcome back to cubs and a few lively games, followed by a tricky treasure hunt in Well Woods where the cubs had to find hidden clues and then, using these clues, decipher a secret message.

We spent two activity packed weeks working on their scientist badge, which involved examining chemical reactions by making Elephants Toothpaste, looking at their pulse rates before, during and after exercise, making their own electric circuit or electromagnet and finally trying to build the tallest tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows. I also set them a challenge of working out how to make a paperclip to float on water, so far only Finn has managed it!!



We ventured out of HQ for a hike around Keston Ponds, halfway through it was dark enough that those without a torch were struggling to see! A big thank you all the parents that came along and help out during the hike.



Finally, our last session of term was the ever-favourite pumpkin carving, sadly I had to miss this session but I have seen the photos of the pumpkins and they all looked super scary!!!



Next term we are looking forward to a proper, extra dark night hike (torches mandatory!!), trampolining, remembrance activities and remembrance parade. We also look forward to the annual Great Wontolla Bake Off and our end of term Christmas Party.

The Wontolla Team would like to say goodbye to our three oldest cubs, Arthur, Jake and Oliver, it has been a pleasure having you in our group and we wish you all the best in the future.

#### **Adam & the Wontolla Team**

*(Of rock 'n' roll). Music for the neck downwards. (Keith Richards – rock musician).*



### ***Cub Pack Capers - Seeonee Cubs***

Autumn is here with darker nights and colder weather. Changes to our Cub pack are inevitable as children grow in size, skills and knowledge & gain age.

A hello to three new Beavers joining to our Cub pack: Ethan, William & Callum - Welcome. We also said goodbye to a Cub who has moved on to join the Scout section, Freddie. Good luck with your continued Scouting career. Then came the Sixer & Seconder promotions within the Cub Sixes, even though our numbers are smaller this term!

We try to let each Cub have the potential in their 2.5 years as a Cub to become a Sixer or Seconder. This allows them to learn and demonstrate leadership, communication skills and being part of a team, which are linked to the Team Work Challenge Badge & Team Leader Challenge Badges.

Congratulations to new Sixer: Millie

We have also been joined by two Explorers this term undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards – welcome Sophia and Louie.

So, what have we done (or got planned) since the last exciting instalment of the adventures at the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Seeonee Cub Pack? We have undertaken the following, all to give our Cubs a challenge & experience, not to mention the badges!

- Learning the Cub Scout Promise with familiarisation to Cub Scouting
- Road Safety Activity Badge
- Pioneer Activity Badge
- Wilberforce Wide games - Team Building
- Fire Safety Activity Badge
- Visit a Fire Station

Our first evening of this term was to welcome our new Beavers and introduce ourselves as Jungle Book Characters showing them how we do things at 3WW Seeonee Cub Pack. We were definitely out of practice to perform our Grand Howl ceremony as we've been out and about most of the summer term enjoying activities and not allowed to meet inside before then.

We also ran our terms practice Fire Alarm drill, which went very well in evacuation timings, as long as you can stand all the Cub chatter when forming a line to walk outside to the assembly area.

Bagera then took the Cubs through the requirements of the Road Safety Badge. They practiced the Green Cross code on a live road (not too busy) & viewed the local Road signs in the immediate area. They liked to play our how not to be distracted in a car when driving game as many cubs would turn around to take part in the rear seat activity, taking their eyes off the simulated road. So, the Cubs should now know how to behave in the car. They were also tested with a number of road signs and asked where you might see one?

King Louie then tested the Cubs knowledge with the Pioneer Activity Badge. All related to the tying of different knots and their uses. We completed the evening with our new rope skills of building a stretcher as a project to carry any injured Cub to test the stretcher assembly. Should hopefully be able to tie shoes laces now.

We then visited Wilberforce Scout Camp for Wide games to help our Cub team building & leadership skills. Classic games like hide & seek in your Sixes to find another Cub Six hiding in the dark and to work as a team being systematic in your search following a Cubs instruction. Cubs really liked to search for a hidden leader/explorer as they knew the site layout and the best hiding places.

Akela then took the pack through the Fire Safety Activity Badge. Got the Cubs to imagine laying at home in the dark in their bed and suddenly hear a smoke alarm activate! What are they to do, jump out the window, call for mum & dad or wake the house hold? Promoted a lot of thought as to what to do to create an escape plan for their individual home environment. We showed some different home room environments and asked the Cubs to indicate any Fire hazards they could see, like a candle unattended or something blocking the fire exit. This lead on to expected behaviour around a camp fire and attending a Fire Work display.

A visit to Beckenham Fire Station finished off the first part of term where the Cubs played with fire hoses and were shown Firefighting equipment. Very much expensive big boy toys & equipment that helps to save lives. The visit was to complete requirements for the Fire Safety Activity Badge.



What activities have we waiting for the Cubs for the remaining term:

- Home Safety Activity Badge with Shere Khan
- Remembrance Evening
- Remembrance Parade
- First Aid evening
- Life Skills Evening
- Cycle Maintenance activity Evening
- Chariot/Sleigh Racing activity Evening
- Traditional Christmas Party

So, we have a term with varied activities to keep a Cub's interest as we can still meet face to face. Many will gain a badge or two from attending all events and you parents are likely to have to sew them on their uniform.

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

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

*The dialling code for Russia is 007.*

## **Scout Shout**

Well, we certainly got the Autumn term off to a cracking start with 12 Scouts and 5 leaders all paddling and sailing around, having a great time at Bewl Water in the glorious late summer sunshine. A healthy crop of badges were awarded for water sports and nights away; it was such a pleasant change to be camping again! We look forward to even more weekend camps at Bewl next year; please keep an eye on [bewlwatersports.org.uk](http://bewlwatersports.org.uk) for the 2022 calendar for the courses that best suit.



Getting back to face to face Scouting has also been a reward in itself, and great to see so many new faces at our meetings. We have also been very lucky with the weather with our outside activities, having already enjoyed Wide Games at Frylands, Night Hiking around Farleigh and Warlingham. A reminder please that for all outdoor activities please bring a torch, as well as shoes and clothing suitable for wet & cold weather. By the time you read this, we will be deep into half-term, having also enjoyed a golf lesson at Addington Court driving range, under the expert tutelage of their professional Alex MacGregor.

Indoors we have been further enhancing our Pioneering skills building devices for firing rockets across HQ, and also engaging in our own version of the TT Races, where Scouts have to answer questions around local and worldwide Scouting to win Patrol points.

We have not planned activities beyond half term yet, as we live in such uncertain times, not knowing if or when we are likely to be curtailed again by our Government. Dipping

back into my battered copy of BP's Scouting for Boys, I am reminded that this is not the first or likely to be the last time we face up to life in adverse times, and we can still learn from his experiences, for example, when drawing up the current Scout Law, he himself drew upon the historic Knights Code:

"Chivalry required that youth shall be trained to perform the most laborious and humble offices with *cheerfulness* and grace; and to do good unto others."

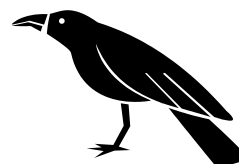
Note the emphasis on cheerfulness, one of our most precious of commodities when facing difficulties of all sorts, and applies as much to leaders as well as Scouts!

Be Prepared!

**Geoff, Doug, Dunston & Donell**



## ***Ravens Reports***



So, we ended last term on a high. We were starting to benefit from restrictions being lifted and we were able to get back to doing some of the fun exciting activities we are known for. The Explorer group had increased and the 3 girls were keeping the boys on their toes when it came down to the more traditional scouting activities.

One great evening was a survival night where each group was given raw fish to prep and cook on an open fire, a few in the group struggled lighting the fires but once lit the fish they cooked was edible. The following week was cook from the store cupboard they all did really well apart from the group that thought we meant the local pizza shop store cupboard and had pizza delivered (not naming any names you know who you are but I have to say you made us all laugh and the presentation was lovely). We ended the term at laser quest where the whole group decided they were hungry in the break between games and done a quick dash to the local takeaway. Good job it was fast food. I've never seen them all move so fast.

Jobe achieved his platinum award finishing the community impact part of the award making items of clothing from recyclable items. His teams Samari warrior costume out of chip packets was a winner on the catwalk.

The summer came and went and we returned to Explorers without any restrictions the planning evening went well and we have had a wood carving night, a trip up to London where we had to take photos of 5 different land marks around London bridge in an hour (and of course a visit to the takeaway before having to run for the train). We welcomed Eoin to Explorers from Scouts and are expecting a few more Scouts to join us before the end of term with the remaining of year 9 joining Easter 2022. As I'm writing this, we are planning a camp for the half term and that leaves me just to say thank you Explorers for making a Wednesday evening so much fun, well done to all of you that are doing DofE volunteering within the other sections. I'm getting glowing reports back from all the leaders, you're making me and the other Explorer leaders very proud. And finally, well done to Asher & Donell for all the training you have been completing, giving up your Wednesday nights and for all your help.

**Paula, Explorer Scout Leader & Assistant Group Scout Leader  
Asher & Donell**





## Diary Dates 2021/22



November	Sat	6	Viewing 11.45am - 12.55 pm Auction starts at 1pm	Auction Help Needed
	Sun	14	Meet at 10.10am Parade 10.20am Service at 10.45am	Remembrance Parade
	Sat	20	Doors open to buyers 2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed morning and afternoon
February 2022	Sat	5	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed
May	Sat	21	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed
June	Fri- Sun	24 - 26		Family Camp
September	Sat	17	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed

### Next Newsletter

Email items for next issue to: [newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk) before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

### District Scout Shop

Bromley District Scout Shop is now open with Covid safe precautions in place to protect our volunteers and customers. They are now able to accept payment by card.

15 Prospect Pl, Bromley BR2 9HL  
Saturdays 9.30 – 12.30 during term time.

To keep the shop running they do need more volunteers – maybe 4 – 6 Saturdays per year. If you could help in this way, please contact Alys.

Uniform and other items can be ordered from the Scout Shop at <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/> and other suppliers. If you decide to purchase from Amazon maybe you could use Smile Amazon and raise a little bit extra for the Group.