

Scouts



3rd West Wickham
St John The Baptist

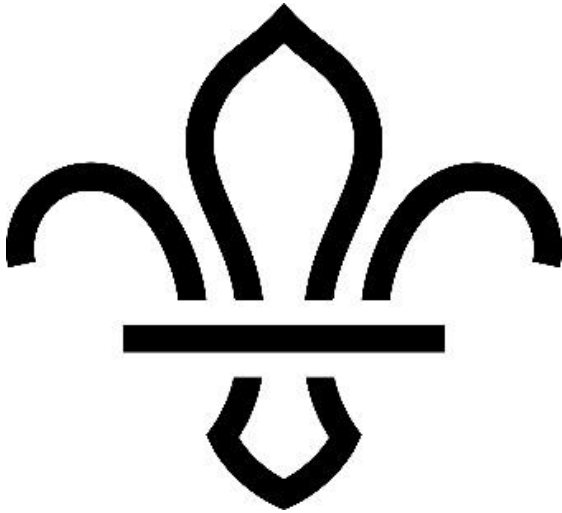


**Newsletter
February 2022**

WHO'S WHO

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The Editor's Bit

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter. As usual there are reports from all the sections.

Crocuses, dewdrops and daffodils are flowering and it's a beautiful time to get outside and be active. Here's to a wonderful Spring of Scouting!

Have a great read.

Keith Day, Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Camps!!

With the removal of the COVID restrictions we are planning TWO camps both within the next few months!! Firstly, the Bears Wood Camp from the 13th to 15th May, this is open to every young person from all the sections of the group.

Secondly, is our bi-annual Family Camp where all the family are invited to come and try out some of the activities normally reserved just for the children. Many of you will have been on a Family Camp before and know what a great weekend it is.

At the time of writing booking for both these camps are being taken, however, for both camps numbers are limited so please book your place as soon as possible. Camping is a really important part of the Scouting, and we strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

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.

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

Please remember to help 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 3rd 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 www.smile.amazon.co.uk www.giveasyoulive.com

Alys Helm, Group Scout Leader
gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk



Chairman's Corner



In this editorial, I thought I would share with you the role of the Group Executive Committee and why it plays a very important part in our Group.

So, what is it?

To put it simply, the Executive Committee (EC) makes decisions and carries out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group.

Did you know that a Scout Group is a charity? Our 3rd West Wickham is a charity registered with the Charities Commission in England.

Members of the EC act collectively as charity trustees of the Scout Group. They are all volunteers who actively participate in and collaborate towards ensuring that the Group complies with the requirements of running a charity

And what does it do?

The areas that the EC covers are varied. Let me give you a taste of some that we perform at the 3rd West Wickham:

We look after the Group's property – our HQ in Tiepigs Lane. It includes the maintenance, the regulatory checks for the building and the surrounding land. We also look after the equipment that the Group owns or uses on a regular basis.

The EC also manages Group finances. This includes the rent on our HQ, the various insurances needed to run our activities safely, the gas and electricity we use at HQ, and many other items that covering everything our young people are able to do with the Group.

As part of our financial role, we also run a number of events to raise funds for the Group. We are fortunate to have a great team who volunteer specifically to run these events. This includes the Jumble Sales, the auctions and quiz or entertainment evenings.

Why is it important?

First and foremost, the EC is there to make Scouting accessible to everyone which means focusing our energy on keeping the fees you pay as parents as low as possible.

In addition to this, we also support the widest and richest access to activities that our young people undertake either in their sections or as individuals. This ranges from themed activities organised through volunteers (astronomy evenings, for instance) or arranged locally (Quasar games as an example), to sponsoring our young people to join international events like the Scout Jamboree or our traditional Family Camps.

Most of the work that our young people benefit from happens behind the scenes. Without our great team of volunteers there wouldn't be a Scout Group.

Thank you to all those who make it happen and all of you who help along the way! If you are able to join us and help, in any way, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Askold Jacura, chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

3WW Supporters

Are you a parent of one of the young members of 3rd West Wickham Scout Group? Then 3rd West Wickham Supporters needs you and your ideas! During the last two years the pandemic has largely prevented us from holding social and fundraising events. But now as things are slowly getting back to normal, we have restarted our core fundraisers of Auctions and Jumble Sales, but not other types of events. I've no doubt everyone looks the world a bit differently now, and so our Supporters Group needs to adapt and evolve. So, what types of social and fund-raising event should we plan for the coming year? What would you support and try to get other parents involved in?

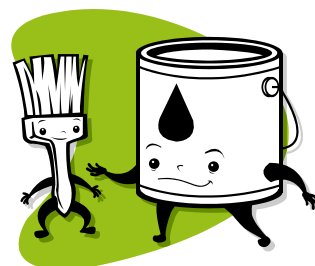
It does not require a huge commitment. At the moment the Group's funds are relatively healthy and we are not expecting any major expenses in the foreseeable future. We don't need a huge fundraising effort like we did in the past for the new roof, but we do need to maintain a steady income to run HQ, as well as help keep subscriptions down.

The Supporters Group meets for an hour or two about 4 times a year, and aims to hold two or three social fund-raising events each year, in addition to the Jumble Sales and Auctions. So that's not too onerous, is it? If you feel you would like to assist, or just offer some ideas that you might help make happen, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Terry Newman
3WW Supporters



Greenacres Maintenance



Since the last report we have had a relatively quiet time. The front windows which had rotting frames have been replaced by three new double-glazed units which should require little maintenance - although one of those units turned out to be cracked and had, in turn, to be replaced. The new units should also be more secure and warmer. A problem with the kitchen lights has been fixed while Liam has finished painting the rear of the building and Doug has continued painting over the graffiti on the side of the garage. We have carried out all our regular checks such as testing the emergency light system and checking that the sewerage traps aren't blocked and we have also replaced the outside tap with a lockable version in anticipation of switching over to a metered water supply. And that's about it until all the flora starts to grow again! We hope to get back to a more regular approach to maintenance soon and will be looking for a few extra volunteers. More on this in due course.

Mike Tully
07986 174444

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

Member of Scouts Supporters' Committee and Cub Section Assistant



Beaver Bits - River Colony

Springing in to 2022

We started the last half term of 2021 with the Beavers working on junk modelling in their lodges, which they all excelled at. Indeed, we were hard pressed to choose a winner from the excellent entries, including a medieval castle with towers and an inspiring design for a new spacecraft with space helmet accessories on display too.

We were pleased to offer the older Beavers in the section an opportunity for a night away, which they had not previously had during lock-down, and in early November we hosted eight Beavers in the HQ for a Dinosaur themed night and morning of activities.

Our half term was completed with a visit from Paul the firedog handler and his very able colleague Sherlock the firedog. Paul provided the Beavers with some great advice about how to deal with fires and similar dangerous situation. Sherlock the firedog then proceeded to impress all present with his sniffing abilities to discover various accelerants and other examples of evidence all used as part of his daily work.

We sprang back into action in 2022 with a new focus on the Community Impact Badge with our vector of attack being the environment. To this end we have started by learning about the life cycle of domestic waste and discussed the importance of, re-use, re-purposing and recycling. To demonstrate this and help our wild bird population in winter the Beavers worked to make garden bird feeders, which I am sure went down well in the gardens of West Wickham and Coney Hall.

We will develop this theme in the next half term when work to produce some upcycled art and venture out on a litter pick.

In addition to the new focus above the Beavers also started on their book reader badges this half term by crafting monster book marks, designing their own book covers and committing to reading five books in the coming weeks. We also celebrated Chinese New Year with some steamed buns, a chopstick race and by making red dragon garden twirlers. We ended the half term with a hobbies evening where all the Beavers were given the opportunity to share details of their pursuits which included Karate, Warhammer and the guitar!

We were pleased to take in four new Beavers in January all of whom had progressed to investiture by half term.

Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our young leader Roan who has been excellent as ever and who will be leaving us at Easter. Thanks also to all of our volunteers and parent helpers without whom the section could not operate.

Paul (Badger), River Beaver Scout Leader



Cub Pack Capers - Wontolla Cubs

It has been another busy time at Wontolla, it's hard to believe that we are already two months into 2022.

We started back at HQ with an evening dedicated to welcoming all the cubs back after Christmas and giving them chance to get to know each other, especially the younger ones who joined us from Beavers.

Since the last newsletter we have been trampolining, on a super dark night hike, had the annual Great Wontolla Bake Off, we've made our own paracord survival bracelets, worked on our personal challenges, designed and made Jubilee Platinum pictures for the wall at HQ and also learnt about maritime semaphore. During that particular session the cubs had to use the maritime semaphore system to pass several words to their partner who was stood at the far end of the hall, who then had to use the words to decipher a message. It may sound easy, but it really wasn't, the flags were so small the cubs had to use binoculars to see them.



Chief Scouts Silver Award

The Wontolla Team would like to congratulate both Toby and Jenson for successfully achieving all the elements to the Chief Scouts Silver Award. They should be especially proud of this since it was achieved primarily during lockdown which made completing many of the elements a lot more difficult. Well done to you both!

Moving On

Christmas also saw Toby, Jenson and Jonah moving up from cubs to scouts, whilst we were sad to see them go, we know that they will have an amazing time with the scouts and with the extra level of independence that comes with the move. It has been a pleasure having them all in our group and we wish them all the best in the future.

However, when cubs move up opportunities become available for others. Therefore, congratulations are also due to our new Sixers; Daniel, Finley and Harry. This is a responsible position and one that is not given to a cub lightly, it is now down to them to lead by example! The younger cubs are all looking at you for guidance and where necessary support.

Finally, we would also like to say hello to our four new cubs, Blake, Jacobo, Khyan and William all of whom have swum up from Beavers.

All the best to you all

The Wontolla Team



Cub Pack Capers - Seeonee Cubs

Our Spring term started with a big hello to three new Cubs joining us from the waiting list, who have never been in Scouting before— Austin, Rory & Max – Welcome to Cubs!

We said goodbye to one of our senior Cubs Daniel who has moved on to join the Scout Section. We also say goodbye to Leo & Tom who have moved out of the area to join Scout Groups where they now live - good luck in your future Scouting careers.

As the Seeonee Cub Pack has reduced in numbers this term, we have reduced the amount of Sixes to three (Yellow, Green & Blue) to accommodate. Next came the Sixer promotions within the Cub pack as we like all Cubs in their time with us to take a responsible role in their pack!

Congratulations to new Sixer – Freddie

Congratulations to new Seconders – Joey, Struan & Theo

We started the Year at Yellow level alert, which allows us to meet inside for meetings, but any person aged 11 or above must wear a mask; so, our activities were planned with this in mind in the Spring term cold, dark, wintery weather.

Our First night of the term we reminded our Cubs about the Cub Scout promise and had to demo our ceremonies to our new Cubs starting. All were given a quicker reminder of what it is to be a Scout and what would be expected of them in “Doing Their Best”.

We also mentioned and supplied paperwork to undertake the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2022 taking place over a weekend at the end of January, which should be a fun, nature

activity that the Cubs can do with their family. Birds seen in his garden in the biggest numbers were Blue & Great Tits, but also noted a number of Jackdaws, Pigeons & Robins. Next was the Science Activity Badge Part 1 where we planted some bulbs, checked our pulse rate, watched a Coke & Mentos volcano and built our Marsh mellow structures – all challenges and good demonstrations for eager to learn Cubs who like Science.

Next up was the Personal Safety Badge, where we indicated a common-sense approach when out and about near roads, railway lines, rivers, canals & quarries etc. We also identified available Helplines & why you would call them and “Stranger Danger” & what you should do to keep safe.

It was then Chinese New Year time where we celebrated the Year of the Tiger and showed the Cubs how the Chinese like to celebrate with the Do’s and Don’ts of New Year Culture, like “Clean the House” but don’t give unlucky presents. We finished off the evening by sampling some different types of Chinese food, but made careful note of diet preferences and allergies for the new Cubs; we noted a vegetarian and a shell fish allergy as had prawn crackers on the menu!

As the weather was not severe for this time of the year, we went for a walk around Well Woods with torches and watched the animals in the farmer’s field; a bit spooky in the dark with a pair of eyes looking back at you; visited the bomb hole, bat boxes and the hand carved benches. We then moved down to Coney Hall REC where we noted the Meridian stone pointing at Greenwich and indicated time zones either side of the line. We finished up in the play park for a few minutes for Cubs to expend any energy left.

We will return after half term with the Science Activity Badge Part 2 where we will see how our bulbs are growing, hopefully note a chemical reaction with coins and build an electrical circuit to complete the badge requirements.

Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated with the usual cook your own pancakes, which the Cubs always enjoy. We will try to keep the pancake toppings minimised so as to not give them too big a sugar fix before bed time!

Exciting activities planned for the rest of term:

- Prepare for Camp (May Cub Camp & Family Camp in June scheduled)
- St Patricks Day
- Personal Safety Badge Part 2
- Keston Ponds Walk

So hopefully the Cubs have enjoyed the challenges so far this term and we will keep their minds stimulated with the activities still to come.

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



Scout Shout

Getting over the disappointment that we could no longer have our traditional end of term ten-pin bowling session at Orpington, as it is being re-developed, and the virus laying waste to other planned activities, it was a relief that at least Geoff's band could perform the festive music for the Fryland's Scout Centre Christmas Market again, as we limped our way out of 2021. Here's hoping for a much brighter 2022, with more camps, comradeship and mud!



Dipping into my treasured 28th edition copy of Scouting for Boys (cost 10/6d, an extra 10 patrol points for the first Scout that can let me know what that is converted to decimal, and give me an estimate as to how much that would be nowadays with inflation factored in from 1953!)

As one of his parting comments in his last message, "I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence..."

"Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one..."

"But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people."

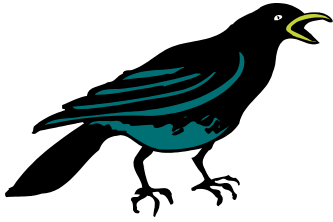
And to continue our journey of giving and receiving happiness, things got off to a jolly good start with a games evening followed by a muddy night hike to celebrate Dunstan's birthday. Budding engineers were treated to an evening building their very own paddle boats, and understanding the properties of viscous coupling, by exploring the uses of Gloopy Slime; much more enlightenment, education and entertainment than watching telly at home, to misquote Lord Reith (another 10 points on offer for the correct one!).

Looking forward to one of my favourite sessions coming up is "Tiepigs Got Talent"; catch new local acts (your own Scouts) before they make you buy tickets, to see them performing anything from Songs to Sketches to Shakespeare! With Fat (Shrove) Tuesday rapidly approaching (also known as Mardi Gras) and by the time you read this, it may have whizzed by, we will be having a Pancake Festival at HQ. Heading to the backwoods later on, we will also be cooking outdoors, gaining valuable experience for the Outdoor Challenge award, to complement following the Countryside Code and Safe Lamps & Stoves operation at HQ.

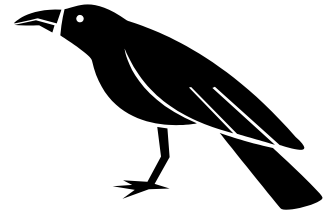
Further forward, we hope that some Scouts will brave the May camp (13-15th May), and join in with the whole Group at Family Camp in June (24-26th) Budding singers and musicians (of any age!) are welcome to perform for the latter; please let us know so that we can put a programme together. Even further forward, we plan to take as many Scouts (and Explorers) to the Bewl Water weekend camp September 2nd-4th to gain their BCU paddling and RYA sailing awards.

Be Prepared!

Geoff, Doug, Dunston & Donell



Ravens Reports



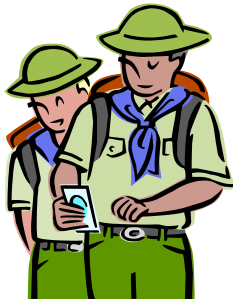
It's been a good year for the Explorers. We have recently welcomed some new members who have moved up from Scouts, and are ready for more later in the year. The Explorers have been doing more badgework, including teaching each other skills for the Instructor badge. We had origami ninja stars, rainbow flicks and impressively quick shoelace tying. We were even able to get back to camping again at the end of last year, when we had a weekend at Frylands Wood. While there we had impressive displays from some of the Explorers at the archery and some even more impressive pizzas cooked from scratch in the wood fire oven.

Two of our older members who recently turned 18, Jobe and Jake, have enjoyed their time so much they have returned as leaders! It's been a big help to have them on board and we look forward to continuing to work together.

For the rest of the term, we have Chinese cooking planned following our trip to Chinatown in February, more skills to be taught, and trampolining and bowling planned to end the term. We're all looking forward to seeing what skills the rest of the Explorers have to teach!

Paula, Asher, Donell, Jobe, Jake





Diary Dates 2022



March	Sat	5	Viewing from 11.45am	Auction HQ
March	Sun	27	TBA	Beavers Easter Egg Hunt
May	Fri- Sun	13-15		Camp Bears Wood
May	Sat	21	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed
June	Fri- Sun	24 - 26		Family Camp
September	Sat	17	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed
October	Sat	8	Viewing from 11.45am	Auction HQ
November	Sat	19	2pm	Jumble Sale Help Needed

Next Newsletter

Email items for next issue to: newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk before 1st May 2022.

District Scout Shop

Bromley District Scout Shop is now open with Covid safe precautions in place to protect our volunteers and customers. They only accept payment by card – no cash or cheques.

15, Prospect Place, 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.