

Scouts



3rd West Wickham
St John The Baptist



**Newsletter
Autumn 2022**

WHO'S WHO

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Adam 07879 634027
gsl@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

BEAVER SCOUT LEADERS

River Colony

Paul 07525 42308
riverbeavers@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

CUB SCOUT LEADERS

Seeonee

Kevin 020 8462 5521
07815 874912
seeoneecubs@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

Wontolla

Adam 07879 634027
wontollacubs@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

SCOUT LEADER

Geoff 020 8663 3549
07771 563830
scouts@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

RAVEN EXPLORER LEADER

Paula 07785503638
explorers@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

GROUP CHAIRMAN

TBA
chairman@3rdwestwickham.co.uk

SUPPORTERS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Terry Newman 020 8776 1331
terry@newmanhome.plus.com

SUPPORTERS EVENTS BOOKINGS

Terry Newman 020 8776 1331
terry@newmanhome.plus.com

MAINTENANCE TEAM

Mike Tully 07986 174444

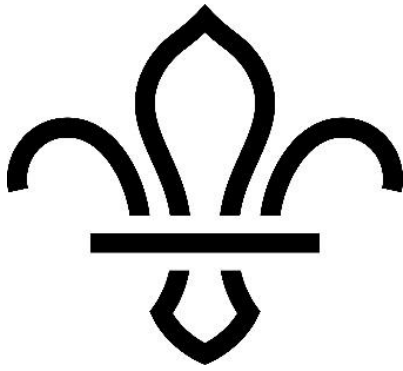
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Keith Day 020 8658 9327
newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk



Old age is coming at a really bad time.





The Editor's Bit

Welcome to the latest action-packed edition of the Newsletter. As well as the regular news, we have reports from Doug, our president, Alys, our former Group Scout Leader and Adam, who is our new Group Scout Leader.

Have a great read!

Keith Day, Newsletter Editor

Presidential Potterings

I make no apology for repeating my potterings of two or three years ago. It's great that our members come to section meetings week in and week out and we would rather see them without uniform than not at all – BUT when uniform is to be worn it should be the smartest.

Uniform – often the subject of fierce debate. Do we need it? Should we change the style or colours? Could it be more “user friendly”? Our uniform, along with the Law and Promise, is one of the things which makes the Scout movement what it is, and not just another youth club. It is instantly recognisable when we are out and about the local community and the public like it to be worn smartly. The uniform we have now, while not perfect, is I believe, the best we have had for some time and our young people should be encouraged to be proud of it. In the past it has been noticeable that the keenest Scout is nearly always the one wearing the smartest uniform – badges in the correct place on the shirt, polished shoes (not trainers!) etc. Is this the case now? And with Beavers, Cubs, Explorers?

Let all those adults who wear uniform set the example so that the young people will follow it (and please can we discourage this awful habit of wearing the Scout shirt outside the trousers. It may be the way on the streets, but not, to my mind, with Scout uniform – it looks untidy!).

There, I've got that off my chest.

Doug Sullivan, President



It's good to be a Scout and know it, but it's better to be a Scout and show it.

Update from Alys

As you know, I stepped down as Group Scout Leader at the end of June and must thank everyone once again for my cards, cake, beautiful vase plus Phil and I had a fantastic weekend away as well!! Adam and Paula have taken on the leadership of the Group and are doing a great job moving everything forward.

Askold also resigned as our Chairman at the AGM and I want to thank him again for everything he did for the Group, He was a great support to me and fun to work with at the same time! I am delighted to say that Nick McGarey has now taken over the role and will be attending his first Exec meeting very soon. Nick and Bev have 3 children in the Group and many will remember that Bev was a wonderful Beaver leader for several years.

I have certainly not disappeared and will continue to be on the Exec as long as they want me, help with maintenance and Jumble sales plus anything (well nearly anything) I am asked to do. I am spending a lot of time working with Bromley District as in my role as Deputy District Commissioner and there will be changes coming in next year which should prove interesting.

Our Group really need and value all the support from parents, ex-members and many people who have never previously been involved in Scouting. We do need more leaders and, as I have mentioned once or twice, it honestly is good fun. We work as a team and the more members in a team the less individuals have to do. Worried you can't offer to attend every week? Not a problem at all, attend every second or third week and you will still be playing a valuable part in keep the meetings going. Do speak to Adam, Paula or Nick and offer to get involved in whatever way you can manage – we need you!

Alys Helm

Be not afraid of going slowly, only of standing still.

Group Scout Leaders Report

How quickly time flies, it doesn't seem that long ago that we were all enjoying the summer sunshine and now Christmas is only 58 days away!

As many of you will know I took over from Alys Helm as our Group Scout Leader during our AGM last term. I was delighted to take on the new challenge but more than a little intimidated by the size of the shoes I had to fill! Alys is without question a devoted Scouter and if I achieve half of what she has during my tenure then I think I will have done a good job!! We were able to present Alys with a lovely gift and express our sincere thanks for her 27 years with 3rd West Wickham Scouts. Luckily Alys will still be around and has been helping me over the last few weeks as I find my feet. It's amazing how much goes on in the background without anyone realising the hard work and efforts of the team!

This leads me nicely to the work done by some of that team, our supporters and maintenance committee, without whom we would not be the successful group we are. The recent jumble sale raised an amazing £1000 and the auction another £800. That £1800 contributes directly to helping keep your subs to the absolute minimum, which with the current financial climate I am sure is something everyone is happy about. The maintenance team have also been hard at work at HQ making sure everyone is always

ready and safe for the sections to use, recently they have installed a new Emergency Defibrillator, checked and replaced the security lighting and arranged for the drive to be re-tarmacked over half term. The time and effort behind the scenes is amazing and I thank everyone involved for the dedication that they have shown over many years.

I'll finish as always by thanking all the Leaders and Assistants from all the different sections of the group. I know personally how much time and effort goes into planning every evening that they run, we can't do this without their generosity of time and patience! Please do take a moment to thank the leaders who work so tirelessly for your children and remember they are volunteers and do this on top of their life commitments!

It's a great team and if you think that you can spare an evening a week, or help on a regular basis then please consider contacting me or your child's section leader. We are always looking for additional adult helpers, it is a genuinely fun and rewarding thing to do.

Best regards

Adam, Group Scout Leader 3rd West Wickham

If you want to walk fast, walk alone; but if you want to walk far, walk together.

3WW Supporters

The last few months have been a quiet period for 3WW supporters. Back in July Geoff Webb held his Mess Fest event featuring his own band Idle Hands and a number of other acts. An event well received and appreciated by those who attended. Hopefully Geoff will be holding another event in 2023.

The main fundraising events during the autumn term have been a Jumble Sale and Auction. The Jumble Sale raised an amazing sum of a £1000, and the Auction followed with a total of £800. Although I have to give thanks to the Auction helpers who spotted some interesting items to be held back for the Auction, and these raised nearly £100 of the Auction total. The Auction was particularly notable in that we knocked down 300 Lots in 2 and 3/4 hours. A record speed set by Mike and Dom the Auctioneers, keeping the rest of the team on our toes.

In the Supporters section of the May newsletter Hannah wrote a very eloquent appeal for additional help and ideas for fundraising events, and explaining why we do this. I have to say, we have not been inundated with ideas and offers, so if you were intending, your contribution would be very much welcomed.

Terry Newman, 3WW Supporters

Q) What are the worst four words you can hear during a game of golf?

A) "It's still your turn".

Greenacres Maintenance

The working party has had a fairly quiet time recently with no major problems to fix. We have installed a new defibrillator in its own cabinet which can now be found in the office

and we have also replaced the floodlight over the front door which was no longer working. We have made some minor improvements to the cupboards in the kitchen and elsewhere. We were expecting that British Gas would replace the gas meter with a "smart" meter but they have so far cancelled all the appointments that we made and we now have a date in November to look forward to! Similarly, we are waiting on Thames Water to install a water meter as our bills are quite high but our actual usage is minimal. By the time you read this we should also have a newly tarmacked car park. The surface of the existing car park has been breaking up for some time and the grit treads in to the building as well as being a potential hazard if small children fall on it. This work is being done in half term while the HQ is not being used. My thanks to Keith Day and Terry Newman for their efforts in keeping HQ in shape and also to Liam Murphy for his work on the grounds.

Mike Tully

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down".

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 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

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

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 for a form.



Beaver Bits - River Colony

Returning from the Summer Holidays

We returned from the Summer Holidays refreshed and ready to start a new year of scouting with the Beavers. Following the swimming-up of four Beavers at the end of last year, we welcomed three new Beavers into the section which currently stands at 16 strong.

We were also very pleased to welcome Callum and Clare as our new Assistant Leader and Section Assistant respectively. Thank you to them for giving up their time to work with the section. We continue to be supported by our young leader Roan who was very

deservedly presented with the inaugural Helm Award for outstanding youth leadership at the end of last term.

This term we have a focus on the safety badge and were very pleased to welcome two speakers from the RNLI to talk about the great work they do and give the Beavers some practical tips on water safety. The Beavers were challenged to don the safety clothes of a lifeboat crewmember in the 90 seconds they would usually have in which to react. I'm pleased to say that they nearly managed it!



The arrival of Autumn allowed us to work on some seasonal crafts with the Beavers who were very creative in their work as you can see below.



We were very pleased to visit Parklands Nursery in Coney Hall rec to work on gardening there and I encourage you all to visit the rec to observe the Beavers' efforts. Finally, we closed the half-term with work towards the Cook Badge and the Beavers made energy balls from oats and honey before skewering fruit on to kebabs. In the coming half-term, we will complete the work towards the safety badge by looking Fire and Road safety. We also look forward to learning about the Beavers' interests when we work on the Collector Badge.

As ever, I want to thank our strong retinue of parent helpers for their assistance this half-term.

Paul (Badger), River Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Pack Capers - Wontolla News

New Faces for a New Term

This term saw some new cubs to the Wontolla pack as we welcomed in Harry, Arthur and Jessica – welcome to the pack!!

The Story So Far.....

So far this term Wontolla cubs have:

Welcomed new cubs

Helped out at the jumble sale

Got to grips with nature

Cooked al fresco

Calved some menacing pumpkins ready for Halloween



Fond Farewells

Wontolla said goodbye to Finn who has moved up to Scouts - Enjoy all the new experiences and challenges!

The Supreme – Box Car Racing

This September, some of our cubs were able to take part in the fantastic bod cart racing event at glorious Goodwood with the Coney Hall Racers coming 6th out of 42 racing teams – Go Wontolla!!

Still To Come.....

Learning to do's and don'ts of fire safety

Remembering, reflecting and poppies

Getting our Race on with artisan ducks

Trying our hand at Archery at Frylands

Looking to the stars for our astronomer badge

Night hike

Good old fashioned Christmas Party



Adam, Laura & the Wontolla Team



Cub Pack Capers - Seeonee Cubs

Autumn is here with darker nights and colder weather, but lots to look forward to.

Changes to our Cub pack are:

A big hello to two new Beavers joining our Cub pack: Dextor and Benjamin

We also said goodbye to Cubs who have moved on to join the Scout section at the start of term Freddie & Ben. At half term, Joey also moved up to Scout section. Good luck everyone with your continued Scouting career.

Then came the Sixer & Seconder promotions within the Cub Sixes, Congratulations to new Sixers: Struan & Theo

We have had an Explorer helper continue helping us this term undertaking his Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award continuing his voluntary support for our section – Thank you Owen

So, what have we done (or got planned) since the last exciting instalment of the adventures at the 3rd 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
- Local Walk Sparrows Den to Wickham Common Primary Sch – get to know the area
- Backwoods Cooking at HQ
- Cub Astronomer Activity Badge evening
- Torch Light Walk

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 also ran our terms practice Fire Alarm drill, which went very well in evacuation timings; it is important to remove chatter when forming a line to walk outside to the assembly area on the grass. We finished the evening off with Team games.

Our next meeting was a local walk at Sparrows Den. We hiked a circular cross-country route past St John's church and ended up at Wickham Common Primary School as the evening was just getting dark. This gave the Cubs an insight in to the local area & paths.

We then undertook some Backwoods Cooking on the new altar fires at HQ. This was certainly a challenge as had rained most of the day and the fire wood was very wet; had to use BBQ coals which took longer to get to temperature before we could cook anything safely. Cubs did manage to cook bacon and toast marshmallows and noted the cooking principles on an open fire.

Our next planned evening became an unexpected Public Bank holiday with the sad loss of our patron Queen Elizabeth. The planned International Badge activity that evening has been rescheduled to next term.

We then held an Astronomer badge evening with a visitor coming in to do a presentation about the star systems and our universe. We even managed to pop outside in the grounds and look at the stars as it was a clear night. We now wait for the eager Astronomer Cubs to complete their badge work to gain this Activity badge as we cannot cover all the requirements in one evening. Any parent needing further guidance please contact me.

We finished the first part of the term with a "Torch Light Walk" over the common as was already dark at the start. On the open ground on the common we stopped in the darkness to turn off our torches & view many stars as there were no background street lights to spoil the view of the night sky. Amazing what stars you can see in a pitch-black environment. On the last part of our trek back to HQ, we then stopped off for some chips which were thoroughly enjoyed as Cubs do like to eat after they have done some exercise!

Our next meeting on 31st October after the half term break clashes with the very popular Halloween night of "Trick or Treat". So, to accommodate we start our evening slightly later allowing the Cubs to attend this activity and then come along in their Halloween costumes. We hold a cub forum to find out what activities they want to do and also some quizzes with prizes. A best Halloween costume prize is also awarded.

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

- Remembrance Evening
- Remembrance Parade
- Beckenham Fire Station Visit
- District Swimmer Badge
- Life Skills Evening
- Film Night
- Christmas Sleigh Ride activity Evening
- Traditional Christmas Party

So, we have a term packed with varied activities to keep a Cub's interest. Many will gain a badge or two from attending all events.

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), Seonee Cub Scout Leader

Scout Shout - Praise & Grumble

Praise

Well done to all Scouts and Leaders for surviving all the way to half-term!

We have had plenty of activities in the fresh air, making the most of the autumnal sunshine and dry evenings at Frylands (Wide Games), High Broom Woods (Night Orienteering) and Falconwood Driving Range (Golf lesson at the driving range, with Alex, their very personable professional).



Indoors we have had plenty of games, and Donell is doing well trying to referee. We also worked towards the Navigators badge, prior to Orienteering, and discovered that mapwork in the dark is much harder! The main cooking event was Scouts bringing some weird and wonderful bagel fillings! Unfortunately, one Scout lost track of his fillings, and they were only discovered at the end of the end of the session, which was a real shame as they were excellent. Please make sure that you keep track of what is brought to Scouts to avoid this happening again.

Grumble

We are having several Scouts that increasingly feeling that uniforms are optional; please be aware that being in uniform is an essential part of Scouting, and should be worn for all sessions unless informed by leaders. We are also issuing lots of badges that don't seem to find their way onto shirts; perhaps we should have a sewing session after half-term!

The last session was unfortunately cancelled as the majority of Scouts did not let us know they would not be in attendance. Thank you to the five who turned up, and those

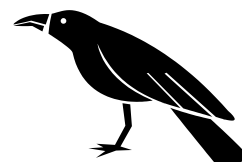
that did let us know in advance that they would not be there. We may have to switch to a two-week half-term to match the schools going forward.

Looking Forward

We have several exciting things planned, and by the time you read this, we will already have done Gunpowder, Treason and Plot! Several activities will also require some parents to assist, so, if possible, keep November 8th and 22nd available. Parents are also invited to march with us on the Remembrance Sunday parade.

Yours in Scouting

Geoff, Doug, John & Donell



Ravens Report

At the end of last term we welcomed the last of the year 9's from Scouts to Explorers and ended the term with a summer activity camp. Due to exams, the older Explorers were not able to attend. We had a fun packed weekend with the younger group on the hottest weekend of the year.

Last year, a number of the Explorers volunteered in younger sections as part of their DofE and again this year, with a few going on to start their Silver award. Summer camp was attended by a number of Explorers, where the Alys Helm Shield was awarded to an Explorer, who not only showed real commitment to 3rd West Wickham but continued to work with the Beaver group. I was delighted to award the Shield to a true ambassador for the group. Congratulations Roan.

This half term there has been a real push to get a number of the Explorers working on their Platinum award by working on a sustainable Christmas. Making Christmas trees from old wood pallets and Christmas decorations from recycled items. We are all looking forward to seeing the finished products. We are also looking forward to the next half-term, with our annual ice-skating trip resuming after Covid.

Paula, Explorer Leader





Diary Dates 2022/23

November	Sun	13	Time TBC	Remembrance Parade - meet car park off Croft Avenue
November	Sat	19	2pm	Jumble Sale - help needed
November	Sat	19	Time TBC	Swimming Badge. All sections. Beckenham Spa
February	Sat	4	2pm	Jumble Sale - help needed
March	Sat	4	Viewing from 11.45am	Auction HQ
May	Sat	20	2pm	Jumble Sale - help needed
September	Sat	23	2pm	Jumble Sale - help needed
October	Sat	7	Viewing from 11.45am	Auction HQ

Next Newsletter

Email items for next issue to: newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk before 1st February 2023.

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. If anyone would like a spare, we have some of the old designs available at very low prices as well.

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 PI, 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 a leader.

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.