

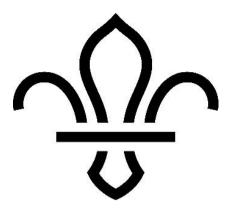


Newsletter Autumn 2023

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The Editor's Bit

Welcome to the latest action-packed edition of the Newsletter. As well as the regular news, we have some potterings from our President, Doug. We are now looking forward to a full programme of activities leading up to the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Have a great read!

Keith Day, Newsletter Editor

Presidential Potterings

Well, as I write this piece for the newsletter there are just 8 weeks to go until I retire from leadership with the Scout Troop. I am sure the time will fly by, as, it seems, has the last 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of leadership roles with the Group.

I have been thinking about and planning a few things to fill the extra time I will now have available and in these potterings I would like to say a few words on planning. It has been my habit over the years to try to plan programmes and other events well in advance so that everything is ready come the day (not that It has always worked, of course) and I always like to be at Troop meetings <u>at least</u> ½ hour before the start for any last-minute problems. I am sure that the programmes of all Sections are well planned and go well, but remember - FAIL TO PREPARE, PREPARE TO FAIL. Get things ready in advance (if possible), it will save a lot of rushing around and panic on the night! And so back to retirement. I have seen many boys and girls go through the Troop and have many, many, memories of them. I think it appropriate to finish these potterings with the following: -

Contemplations

There are times when I think – "Is it worth it?", Running a Scout Troop for boys. Is the time and the money spent, wasted? In the Bedlam, the uproar and noise. I think of the times when I know what to do to make Troop Meetings go with a shout, of the projects and challenges ripe to enthuse ... then the lads take the easy way out. There's frustration in trusting a lad with a job when you've trained him to do it alone, then finding out that he's not seen it through, or his efforts have not been his own. And it hurts when some parents just don't want to know, who don't care what my Scouting's about, And I wonder sometimes if the Leaders feel they enjoy Troop nights far more than the Scouts.

BUT ...there are times when I know that it's worth it. When the effort has not been in vain, when the lads say, "Thanks Skip, that was smashing – now when can we do it again?" I remember the laughter of weekends away, different characters etched on my mind, creating the brotherhood and spirit of youth – Scouting's magic, that's hard to define.

And I think of the memories of camp fires at dusk, as we sit round the embers so bright. Of the hopes and the fears of my lads who trust me, as we talk far into the night. I recall all the Scouts who have passed through my Troop, all the years that their friendship has spanned. And I know with a quiet satisfaction that I've helped mould the boy into man.

Doug Sullivan President





Chairman's Corner

Hello everyone,

I hope you are well and enjoyed the half term break with your family & friends.

I chaired my first annual general meeting back in July, for those of you that attended, hopefully you'll agree that it was a success, I was amazed at just how much preparation and planning goes in to it, so a big thank you to all those involved in hosting a vital event in our organisation's calendar.

We agreed various actions at the AGM, one of which was to adopt the new constitution, as recommended by the Scout Headquarters, this reflects significant structural transformation across the entire scouting organisation, which I detailed in my last update and reiterated at the AGM.

I am delighted to say that the current crop of talented and dedicated volunteer trustees who sit on the trustee board with me, such as the treasurer and secretary, all agreed to stand for re-election and this was approved at the AGM. I was also slightly relieved to hear that Adam, our GSL, nominated me to be re-elected as your Chairman, which was also approved, so I look forward to another 12 months, leading the Trustee board. I was also pleased to nominate, with unanimous approval, Doug Sullivan as our President and Ron Ockelford as Vice-President, a new position, reflecting the many, many decades of service to 3rd West Wickham, so thank you Ron! Whilst we will be saying farewell to Doug, as leader of the Scouts at the end of the year, I am delighted that Doug will still remain part of 3rd West Wickham Group. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Doug for his incredible tenure, he has been with us for many decades, in various leadership roles, his dedicated, compassionate leadership and enthusiasm, has helped mould the Group to what it is today, a Group that should be rightly proud of its many successes.

Due to various diary clashes, we are hosting our first Trustee board meeting, post the AGM at the beginning of November, so in my next update, I will keep you posted on the topics we discussed.

As always, if you have any thoughts or comments, or offers to volunteer in any part of our wonderful organisation, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nick McGarey, Chairman

One of the best things in the world to be is a boy, or a girl. It requires no experience, but it needs some practice to be a good one.

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

I hope you have all had a relaxing half term and are fully ready for the exciting terms planned for your sections.

Looking back over last term all the sections took advantage of the remaining few lighter and warmer evenings. The Beavers explored one of our local parks, Wontolla were lucky enough to have a Park Ranger guide them on a bat walk using bat detectors, meanwhile Seeonee cubs also hiked and cooked themselves some tasty food during a backwoods cooking session. Scouts also had a busy outdoor term; going on a bat hunt at Sparrow Den, wide games at Frylands and finished the term with backwoods cooking at HQ. The Explorers started the term with games in a local park and also took part in an amazing London based scavenger hunt!!

Can you help YOUR Group?

As a Group 3rd West Wickham are continuing to thrive; we currently have 90 young members, 19 leaders and 14 supporting adults. Whilst these numbers are brilliant, we could ideally do with some extra resilience both within the section leaders and the supporting adults. Please give some consideration to helping our Group, it does not have to be every week, even if you can only spare one evening a month that would be amazing. All our current leaders are committed to our Group but do need regular and reliable support from parents. If several parents can commit to regularly helping once or twice a month it really does help lighten the load on the full-time leaders. If a leader's role isn't for you, please consider a role on either the Board of Trustees (formally the executive committee) or our supporters committee, both roles are just as essential to the running of the Group.

Jumble and Auction

Once again, thanks to the supporters of the Group we have an amazing jumble sale and auction. The jumble raised over £1,100 and the auction a massive £740. Both these events contribute massively to the reason that the Group's subs have not been raised for many, many years!! For everyone involved in organising or helping out at the events please do accept my thanks, without your support they simply wouldn't be able to happen.

Specifically, with the jumble in mind I am aware that on multiple occasions now the leaflets advertising the jumble have not been delivered to several streets in our area. This is disappointing and does have an effect on the reputation of the Group, on the donations we receive and on how many people come. Consequently, I am going to change the way that the leaflets are delivered and incorporate the delivery into the sections evening activities for the relevant term. This may result in the leaders having to change their term plans but the continued non-delivery of the leaflets isn't a sustainable option. I do hope you understand my reasons for changing this. Again, thank you to all those that help with the delivery of the leaflets, the collection of the donations, helping during the jumble itself and with the clearing up on the following days.

Remembrance Parade

As previously emailed, Remembrance Parade is on **SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER.** Please make every effort to attend, last year we had less than 10 young people attend!! For such an important event and for a Group of our size this really is a low number. The parade will start in the car park of the Swan Pub (leaving the car park at 10.25am), from there,

our Group, along with many of the other Scouting Groups in West Wickham, will parade along the High Street turning right into Corkscrew Hill and then down to the War Memorial. Once there, the uniformed Groups will form up around the memorial. There will then be a short service which will finish around 11.15am. I will send a reminder of all the details soon. I understand that everyone has busy lives but please do try and attend.

As always if you have any questions or can help your Group in any way please do get in contact.

Regards

Adam, Group Lead Volunteer, 3rd West Wickham

Best wise words: "Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise, you have to eat medicines as your food".

3WW Supporters

The Supporters held their second Auction of the year in early October, which was a very busy event and raised £740 for the Group. As ever, we had a great team of helpers, working very hard to make the event run smoothly. In total the Auctioneers and stewards auctioned 320 Lots in just over three hours, which I think was a record hourly throughput. A tremendous effort! The profits were a bit down on recent Auctions. Bizarrely, I don't think we were helped by the weather – it was too good! The day was hot and sunny, in the mid-20s I think, and so we had less buyers than we have done recently, and they were drinking free glasses of cold water rather buying cups of tea and hot bacon rolls. Not good for business, methinks...

Let's hope for less favourable, but not too unpleasant, weather for our next Auction on March 2nd 2024.

Terry Newman, 3rd West Wickham Scout Supporters

Did you hear about the couple that met in a revolving door? They're still going round together.

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.giveasyoulive.com

Did you know - Insects outnumber humans by 200 million to one.





Greenacres Maintenance

The working party has met fairly intermittently over the summer but has managed to keep up with repairs. The biggest job has been the replacement of the window sill by the kitchen door which was found to have largely rotted during the repainting of the woodwork at the rear of HQ. Other work during the period has included the repainting of the gates, weeding and clearing the drainage gulley at the rear and some finishing off work on the lean-to at the side of the garage. We have also replaced the last few non-LCD light fittings, done some tidying of the grounds and done some minor adjustments to the double doors to make closing them easier. The usual regular checks have been carried out including the recertification of the heating boiler and gas system.

My thanks to Keith Day, Terry Newman and Phil Helm for their efforts in keeping HQ in shape.

Mike Tully



Beaver Bits - River Colony

We started the Autumn term of 2023 with a camp at Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Activity Centre, run by the 32nd Bromley (Hayes) Group who kindly invited us to join. Seven of our Beavers attended and had an excellent time. This camp was the third overnight opportunity the Beavers have had this year and most of our Beavers have attended at least one overnight camp in 2023.

We welcomed 6 new Beavers to our section in September bringing our total numbers to 19. Early in the half-term we were very pleased to be visited by Sam Webster of "Drumming for Drums", who ran a drumming workshop for the Beavers. This covered the work for their Stage 1 Musician badge.

The Beavers also went on a walk through Well Wood and explored shelters, a "crater" and the vast array of sticks and branches available to them in the wood. Back at the HQ the Beavers had fun with some experiments such as Rainbow Skittles, Leakproof Bags, Water Rising and Paper Cup weights.

We finished the half-term with a Halloween themed evening at Emma's Pottery Parlour where the Beavers created their own Monster mugs.

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

Paul (Badger), River Beaver Scout Leader



Cub Pack Capers - Seeonee Cubs

Autumn is here with darker nights, but we had a bit of an Indian Summer so that meant T-shirts and sunshine!

A big hello to four new Beavers joining our Cub pack: Freddie, Henly, Sebastian & Nathan.

We also said goodbye to Dextor, Benjamin and Max who have left for football challenges. Congratulations to Theo who achieved his Silver

Award before moving on to join the Scout section at the start of term. Good luck everyone with your continued careers.

Then came the Sixer & Seconder promotions within the Cub Sixes,

Congratulations to new Sixer: William & new Seconder Alexander.

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:

- Welcome to Cubs with the Cub Scout Promise & familiarisation to Cub Scouting
- Local Walk to Hayes Common get to know the area
- Backwoods Cooking at HQ
- District Youth Team visit to Introduce YouShape Badge
- Swimming practice at the Bromley Pavilion
- District Swimmer Badge Event
- Home Safety Activity Badge

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 & finished the evening off with Team games.

Our next meeting was a local walk to Hayes Common in the warm evening weather to undertake some team games on the open common. Due to the darker evenings, en route back to HQ we stopped off to check the quality of the Chips, which went down very well. Getting back to HQ earlier allowed for some team games to be played.

We then undertook some Backwoods Cooking on the new altar fires at HQ. This was certainly a challenge as we had strong winds on the night but dry; we had to build up the sides of the altar fire to shelter the food cooking & keep the flames down. Sausages, bacon & burgers were cooked correctly and consumed by the Cubs. Cubs cooking skills were then tested further with roasting Marsh mellows and placing between milk chocolate digestive biscuits to make smores!

Our next evening was a visit by the Bromley District Youth Team at HQ to introduce themselves and take the Cubs through the aspects of the YouShape badge. This will take several weeks to complete likely in to next year in order to see if plans made now are achieved.

We then went swimming to the Bromley Pavilion swimming pool. This gave the Cubs some swimming practice as the following weekend saw the Bromley District Swimmer Badge event. Parents knowing how good their Cub child is at swimming could attend this event to gain a staged swimmer activity badge for their Cub child. Our swimming practice allowed

us leaders to assess our Cubs swimming abilities and see if there was any interest to make a swimmer team to compete at the Bromley District Swimming Gala in November. Let us hope we can get a team together to attend this event which last run pre-covid times.

Our last event before the half term holiday was to complete the Home Safety Activity badge. This showed Cubs how to keep their home safe and secure with knowing emergency numbers. We then showed some scenarios of home safety and asked the cubs to identify what is wrong in the pictures. Sorry to report but you may be quizzed as to why things are like they are at your home as we did make the cubs sit and think about what is a safe home.

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

- Halloween Activity
- Remembrance Evening
- Remembrance Parade
- Cyclist Activity Badge part 2
- District Swimming Gala
- Pioneer Activity Badge Part 1
- First Aid Evening
- Pioneer Activity Badge Part 2
- 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.

Seeonee Cub Team



Cub Pack Capers - Wontolla News

What an action-packed start to the new term we have had in Wontolla!

We have welcomed new faces to the pack: Welcome to Tommy, Hector, Harry, and Anna – we hope you have enjoyed your first half term with us and look forward to investing you soon!

After a welcome night, getting to know our new cubs and catch in up on news from the summer, we have started badge work, kicking off

with collectors evening – a chance for cubs to bring in things they collect and have a passion for.

We had a real mix of interests. It was fantastic seeing the Cubs so enthusiastic about their interests, explaining and talking about their collections, why they enjoy them and taking questions from the rest of the Group.

We had an avid reader who brought their collection of books in and talked passionately about the main character and the adventures they get up to; an array of rocks and crystal to dazzle us; a super sticker collection and, very seasonally, a conker collection! This will all go toward their badge work – it's never too late to share any of your collections – whether you have oodles or just starting out, bring them along to any meetings and share with the troop.

We were lucky enough to have an amazing bat walk around Coney Hall Common from the Common keeper, organised by one of our leaders. Armed with torches, bat sonar detectors and eyes to the skies, we were able to use sonic detectors, set to a range of frequencies, to hear the bats and see them flitting around the common between the trees at dusk, catching their dinner! I've lived on Coney Hall common all my love and never seen them before, so it was a real treat and a surprize to see so many on our doorstep. Thank you to Hannah for organising and for the keeper for his time.

Thanks to Steve, one of our leaders trained to run archery, we were able to have a successful archery session up at Frylands, doing our best Robin Hood impressions! Quite a few bullseyes from the cubs, working on a new skill for many of the cubs. You all did amazingly!

We also took the chance to explore the area and think about nature and our environment.

This term, we have carried on the yearly tradition of the Great Wontolla Bake Off! Now in its 7th year, the cubs took a creative turn int eh kitchen, thinking up weird and wonderful creation mixes for their cupcakes! Raspberry and white chocolate was a definite winner, blueberries, orange and Oreos to name a few! Some of the cupcakes even made it home for others to try ⁽²⁾. Sadly, Adam who has run the Bake-off since the Group started, couldn't be with us that night – it's the first one Adam has missed – all the more for the rest of the leaders!



After Half term, we will be thinking about faith and cultures with a visit to a local Mosque; looking to remember those who have fought in conflicts past and present as we approach Remembrance Day – details of the local remembrance service to follow.

We are hoping to try for an overnight camp night in November subject to leaders and permits – so more to come on this when we have details.

We will also be hosting the first Wontolla Olympics – get your trainers on for team building as we re-enact and re-visit some of the weird and wonderful games from across the years.

Towards Christmas, we'll be getting out warmest waterproofs on and completing a night hike – get those torches and thick socks ready! And finally, to celebrate the festive season, we will have an evening of Christmas crafting and out traditional Christmas party with Seeonee Cubs.

As always, we couldn't run the sessions without our leaders who give up their time to and skills, and parents helpers to make sure we can run the sessions with enough adults. If you think you could give up an hour of your time a week, or even fortnightly to become a regular helper, or a leader, please speak to Akela and the leaders any time. We really appreciate parent helpers each week.

Yours in Scouting,

Akela (Laura) & the Wontolla Crew

Scout Shout

Having safely navigated our way through to half-term with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities in the semi-dark, we look forward to longer nights, but still getting outside as much as possible!

Traditionally we start to plan our winter camp around this time of year, and following our reconnaissance trip earlier, we may be visiting Buckmore Park for the first time this century!



So far this year we have completed the Expedition Challenge with Ben, Raphael and Joseph, who gave a very informative presentation on all the wildlife observed, and an entertaining description of their activities. It was disconcerting to hear that Blacklands Farm, where we camped overnight, is being sold, but we hope that it remains open for camping at a reasonable cost to Scout members. We have also gone Bat-Hunting, practised our Circus skills, cooked outdoors and played wide games at Frylands.

Dipping into my treasured 28th edition copy of Scouting for Boys again, as I still await an answer to the following: (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!).

From page 122; Chapter on Camp Life, including useful hints & tips to be practised at home:

"A Scout is also tidy in his tent, bunk or room, because he may suddenly be called upon to go off on an alarm, or something unexpected; and if he does not know exactly where to lay his hand on things, he will be a long time in turning out, especially if called up in the middle of the night. So, on going to bed, even when at home, practice the habit of folding up your clothes and putting them where you can at once find them in the dark, and get into them quickly."

Looking forward to one of my favourite sessions coming up is a mystery Night Hike, plus our traditional Remembrance Parade, plus making & understanding satellites, and trips to see Matilda the Musical, and end of term Bowling.

Thanks to the generosity of one of my golfing friends, he donated an electric guitar & amplifier, which was soon snapped up at the auction on 7th October. This was then followed by our annual "Mess-Fest" Music Night at HQ, enjoyed by a small, but perfectly formed audience, and raised a further £40 for Scout funds. Unfortunately, we couldn't persuade any other members of the Scout Group to perform, but we live in hope.

Be Prepared!

Geoff, Doug, John & Donell



We have had a great start to our term, with a variety of activities both inside and outside of HQ, including a Ready, Steady, Cook challenge and a scavenger hunt around London! With the weather getting a bit colder we are looking to spend a little more time indoors after half term; however, we still plan to be out and about where we can.

We had two Explorers attend the World Scout Jamboree in Korea at the start of August. Unfortunately, it wasn't the best experience for a number of reasons, but well done to Louie and Connor for staying positive and managing to get the most out of it. It really is a fantastic event when all goes to plan, as one of our leaders Oscar can attest to - he attended as a Scout back in 2007!

Sadly, we say goodbye to three of our Explorers this half term – Seth, Roan and Eben. They have just celebrated their 18th birthday and therefore have had their last meeting as Explorers...but are always welcome back as leaders! We wish you all the best for the future and it has been a pleasure to have you in the Group.

Looking forward to the term ahead, we still have some great activities planned. We would like the Explorers to take on the YouShape Award, giving them the chance to plan and

run their own activities and learn some leadership skills along the way. As we come closer to Christmas, we are looking forward to hopefully doing some ice skating again towards the end of term!

Yours in Scouting,

Asher, Donell, Oscar and Paula



Be not dismayed nor be surprised if what you do is criticised. Mistakes are made, we'll not deny, but only made by those who try.

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.

Teacher: Billy, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his? Billy: No sir, it's the same dog.

BROMLEY SCOUTS YOUTH EVENTS TEAM

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

EASTER EGG HUNT · 26/03/23 · CUDHAM SHAWS ST. GEORGE'S DAY · 23/04/23 · FRYLANDS WOOD PIRATE SLEEPOVER · 23-24/09/23 · CUDHAM SHAWS SWIMMING BADGE · 07/10/23 · BECKENHAM SPA SCIENCE BADGE DAY · 02-03/12/23 · 3RD WW HQ

ST. GEORGE'S DAY · 23/04/23 · FRYLANDS WOOD CYCLO CROSS · 20/05/23 · FRYLANDS WOOD SWIMMING BADGE · 07/10/23 · BECKENHAM SPA SWIMMING GALA · 18/11/23 · BECKENHAM SPA

SCOUTS OF STEEL • 05/03/23 • FRYLANDS WOOD ST. GEORGE'S DAY • 23/04/23 • FRYLANDS WOOD MOONWALK • 24-25/06/23 • BROADSTONE WARREN SWIMMING BADGE • 07/10/23 • BECKENHAM SPA SWIMMING GALA • 18/11/23 • BECKENHAM SPA

GO KARTING • 05/02/23 • LONDON DOCKLANDS SCOUTS OF STEEL • 05/03/23 • FRYLANDS WOOD ST. GEORGE'S DAY • 23/04/23 • FRYLANDS WOOD MOONWALK • 24-25/06/23 • BROADSTONE WARREN SWIMMING BADGE • 07/10/23 • BECKENHAM SPA

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SCOUTS

BEAVERS

MADE WITH RECYCLED PAPER







Diary Dates 2023/24

November	Sun	12	10.15am-11.15am	Remembrance Sunday Parade
				Leaves The Swan Car Park at
				10.25am
November	Sat	18	2pm	Jumble Sale, HQ - help needed
November	Sat	18	4pm - 6.15pm Cub <i>s</i>	Swimming Gala Splash Event,
			6.45pm-9pm Scouts &	Beckenham Spa, BR3 4PF
			Explorers	
December	Sun	3	TBA	Beavers Experiment Badge, HQ
February	Sat	TBA	2pm	Jumble Sale, HQ - help needed
March	Sat	2	Viewing from 11.45am	Auction, HQ

Next Newsletter

Email items for next issue to: <u>newsletter@3rdwestwickham.co.uk</u> before 1st February 2024.

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 <u>https://shop.scouts.org.uk/</u> and other suppliers.