



3rd West Wickham  
St John The Baptist



# **THE BURROW NEWS**

## **DECEMBER 2025**

# Chairman's Corner

Well, AGM number three under my watch is officially complete and I'm delighted to report that not only did it go smoothly... it went suspiciously smoothly. In fact, we had our best attendance yet, which I'm choosing to interpret as soaring enthusiasm rather than the rumour of free food!

Speaking of which, a huge thank you to Paula for masterminding the catering and serving up the finest burgers and sausages. I suspect a few of you stayed for the meeting purely in the hope of seconds and who could blame you?

A big thank you as well to those who volunteered to join the maintenance team afterwards. Honestly, it makes a massive difference. Scouting doesn't run on goodwill alone, it runs on people willing to wield paintbrushes, spanners, and sheer determination. You're heroes, every one of you.

As we step into the festive season—mince pies aplenty and twenty versions of *Last Christmas* on repeat—it's the perfect moment to reflect on a year full of highs and lows. I want to pay special tribute to Geoff, our long-time Scout Leader, retiring after an incredible 18 years of service. As mentioned at the AGM, we wish him all the best as he recovers from a major stroke.

I also want to thank Alys Helm for stepping up to produce this newsletter following the sad and unexpected passing of Keith Day earlier this year. Your efforts are hugely appreciated.

On a positive note, our numbers remain strong across all sections, our finances are healthy, and most importantly our young people continue to amaze us with their energy, curiosity, and uncanny ability to lose a neckerchief within 30 seconds of arriving on site.

Thank you to every parent, leader, volunteer, and Scout who has played their part. Wishing you all a wonderful, fun-filled, family-packed festive season. Rest up, recharge, and get ready, because next year will be even bigger!

**Nick McGarey**

# Geoff Webb



Many of you will know Geoff Webb who retired in August after 21 years of continuous service as a Scout Leader, working with Scout and Explorer groups. We were very pleased not to lose Geoff's expertise, enthusiasm, and interests when Geoff agreed to become a Trustee for 3<sup>rd</sup> WW Group. However, some of you will also be aware that in early September, Geoff suffered an untimely and serious stroke, whilst doing something he loved, performing at a local gig.

Those of us who know Geoff well, are receiving regular progress reports from his wife, Jill, and we know that many of you will be interested in how he is doing, so here is a summary.

Thanks to the NHS, which is at its best in life saving situations, Geoff pulled through the first month following his stroke, having suffered another mini stroke, five chest infections, breathing and swallowing difficulties. He spent 18 days in King's College Hospital Critical Care Unit and was then briefly transferred to King's Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU), and then onto the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) HASU, where most of his health problems stabilised. He was then transferred to the PRUH Stroke Unit to start his rehabilitation which involves repairing both physical and mental problems caused by Geoff's brain injury.

Those of us who have direct or indirect experience of the impact of serious strokes will know that recovery is a slow and painful process, and the uncertainty it creates is very hard on the victim and on our loved ones and friends. Geoff has approached his rehabilitation with great fortitude, stoicism, and Geoff being Geoff, has made friends with everyone who is looking after him. Geoff's daughter who is a physiotherapist has been quietly working with her father, since the outset, which supplemented what the therapy team did not have the capacity to do, meaning his chances of making the best recovery are improved.

Geoff will shortly be transferring to an intensive stroke rehabilitation unit at St George's Hospital, Tooting, which is where the real work starts. Geoff is very motivated as he wants to get back to as much as possible of his pre-

stroke life. We hope he will be fit enough to return home and to his local community which is missing him very much in four to five months and will keep you posted!



## Group Lead Volunteers Report

It's been a full and lively few months and I wanted to share a quick update on what's been happening across the Group.

**Thank You** First, a huge thank you to all our volunteers. Every section runs smoothly because of the people who give their time each week, and we're lucky to have an incredible team both in front of and behind the scenes. Some keep the building safe and in good shape. Others put hours into fundraising, so we have the resources we need. Our jumble sales and auctions make a huge difference, and they play a major part in keeping Scouting at 3rd West Wickham affordable for every family.



We're especially grateful to those who help even though they no longer have children in the Group or never had children with us at all. Your generosity means more than you know. The November jumble raised over £1300, which is a brilliant result, so thank you to everyone who made it happen.

**Help** I also have a small favour to ask. If you think you could give an evening a week, or help more regularly in any way, we would love to hear from you. You don't need experience, just enthusiasm and a willingness to

get involved. Whether it's helping in a section, joining the maintenance team, supporting fundraising, or becoming a trustee, every role makes a difference. It's fun, it's rewarding, we do a great line in tea and biscuits!!! But more importantly, you will be part of a great team, and you will be making a massive difference to the young people of your community.

If you recently offered to volunteer but didn't hear back, please drop me a quick email, with everything going on, it's easy for something to slip past me.

### **Remembrance Parade**



We had an excellent turnout for the Remembrance parade this year, it was great to see so many of our young people and families there for such an important event. I was especially proud of the volunteers who read the Kohima Epitaph and those who led the procession carrying the Union Flag. All the young people represented the Group with real confidence and respect.

### **District Camp Date for your diary**

Looking ahead, the District is planning a camp for all sections from the 18th to the 20th of September at Downe. It should be a fantastic weekend, we'll share more details as soon as we have them. In the meantime, please note the date in your diary to keep the weekend free so that your young person can attend.



**Online Scout Manager** A quick note about Online Scout Manager. Please take a moment to log in and check that your child's details are up to date. We must complete the Group census early in the year, and having correct information already in place saves a huge amount of time.

Best regards

**Adam Group Lead Volunteer 3<sup>rd</sup> West Wickham Scout Group**

# Jumble Sale Results

Our two Autumn Jumbles were amazing! In September we raised £1276 and in November even more with a total of £1341 plus some items are for sale on E Bay which have so far raised an additional £70 and , if more are successfully sold, the total will be even higher!

The 4 Jumbles in 2025 raised an incredible £5,109 – 2<sup>nd</sup> best year ever. So, all the hard work really is worth it!

Obviously, there is a lot of clearing up to do but we have managed to minimise the amount of pure rubbish.

- All soft plastic was recycled via Tesco.
- Books were taken to the National Trust and other charity book shops.
- CDs & Videos went to charity shops.
- Clothing and anything else considered to be useful or saleable was taken by ladies from Lewisham Hub, St Christophers, Foal Farm, and other charity outlets.
- Cardboard, paper, and remaining textiles went to local recycling points.

All of which meant that only a couple of carloads had to go the tip where it was all carefully sorted into the correct bins.

**The next sale is on Saturday 7 February 2026 and we would appreciate any help you can give on the day.**

**Some of the Cubs, scouts and Explorers are given leaflets advertising Jumble and Auction leaflets and asked to deliver to specific local roads. It is vital that these are delivered to ensure our local residents have advance notice so they can hopefully donate items plus attend both the events and help raise even more for the Group.**

**Thank you for your support.**

**Alys**

*Well done is better than well said – Benjamin Franklin*

# 100 Club

## Calling all parents!!

Our 100 Club raises money for the Group and is currently making about £300 which is really useful but if we had more participants, we could improve that figure!! At present most of our members are long standing supporters of the Group who no longer even have any children in the sections but are kind enough to keep participating.

For just £12 a year you can have one number and stand the chance of winning in the monthly draw. Each month 50% of the total received goes to Group funds, 25% as a first prize and 15% as second prize. Each June there is a **SUPERDRAW with a £50 prize**. Of course, you can purchase as many numbers as you wish and so increase your chances of winning!!



Full details are on the Group website  
**3rdwestwickham.co.uk** or use this QR code.

## Auction

A very big thank you to everyone who helped with the October Auction. I believe it was our best ever result, with a super profit of £1140 from the sale of Lots, Catalogues and refreshments.

All things were in our favour: good quality lots, including quite a few donated items and items from the jumble sale, and a very good crowd. As well as our usual advert in the News Shopper, we also used Social media to spread the word and got a 'shout-out' by Vernon Kay on his Radio2 show on Friday morning. We certainly had some new buyers.

So, thank you again to everyone for all their hard work and I look forward to our next auction on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Terry

# Beaver Bits River Colony



As we approach the end of 2025 we look back on a very busy spring and summer term.

In the second half of the spring term, we were very lucky to be able to visit Beckenham Fire station for a guided visit from two of the firefighters there. The Beavers learned all about the equipment firefighter and women use, the daily routines at the station as well as got to experience the fire engines. To finish of the evening the Beavers were lucky enough to practice their fire hose skills:



In the summer term we fitted in two visits to Frylands, photography sessions in Kelsey Park, cycling at Coney Hall Rec before ending the term with Crazy Golf. We also continue to benefit from the excellent sessions District arranges in Bromley and twelve of our Beavers attended a brilliant Space Exploration themed Beaver Camp at Downe Activity Centre in May:



We started the autumn term with a *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* inspired evening, where the Beavers got to design their own candy, were challenged on a chocolate river and competed in a nut sorting competition. Practical skills were also on the menu:



We learned the 6 six steps of the Green Cross Code and put it into action, learned our knots, how to light a candle as well as how to roll our scarves. In preparation for Halloween, we visited Emmas Pottery Parlour to create our very own Monster Mugs. Some of the designs were truly spooky:

The second half of the term the Beavers made use of their creative skills by building large models using boxes to complete their Builder badge as well as got musically involved at a Drumming workshop completing their



Musician level 1 badge. The section also visited the Apple Store in Bromley to take part in a “Make your own Emoji” session, while learning more about technology in subsequent sessions at the HQ.



During the Summer term we also welcomed Lee Byrd as a new leader in the group, and he has hit the ground running attending and leading sessions throughout the summer and autumn terms.

As ever, I want to thank our strong retinue of parent helpers and volunteer leaders for their invaluable assistance over this year.

Paul (Badger) Beaver Team Leader

## Cub Pack Capers



Autumn is now here with darker colder & likely wet nights.

A big hello to three new Beavers joining our Cub pack : Amber, Beatrix & Harry – Welcome

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.

Our first evening of this term was to welcome our new Beavers and introduce ourselves as Jungle Book Characters showing all 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. It is a relaxed evening where the new joining Beavers get to meet the Cubs & familiarise themselves as to how it works at cubs with our opening ceremony “The Grand Howl.”

Our next meeting was to practice a song & dance the cubs would perform at our Scout Group AGM the following week. So we sang the Bare Necessities in Life song and had a bit of a dance.

The following week at the Scout Group AGM at HQ the Cubs attending performed the song & dance to get their Entertainer Activity Badge. Well done Cubs, you did us proud.

Some had signed up to the Supreme Go Kart race at the weekend where six cubs formed two teams and raced against 39 other Cub pack teams at Goodwood Racecourse. Congratulations we made it past the first eliminator stage to be in the last 16 teams competing; unfortunately we were then eliminated as the team that beat us is the team who have won for past three years (very accustomed to go karting & well-rehearsed as local team). A proud effort & enjoyment for all those attending, not to mention some badges.



We had planned for a Local Bat walk with a Wickham Ranger as bats come out at sunset to feed and you need sunset to occur during the start of cubs and weather to be suitable for the event. Unfortunately, the Ranger was not available to support our pack on the pre-arranged nights and had to revert to First Aid activities back at HQ for those two evenings. Cubs learned First Aid skills as to what to do if they find someone on the floor & practiced the recovery position. First Aid and confidence to use it is a great life skill, will always come in handy and may actually save someone.

We then held a Sleep Over at HQ on a Friday night, like we did earlier in the year back in May. Our main badge theme for this activity was Backwoods cooking. We had to limit numbers attending to 12 cubs as only had three leaders available for the event. An enjoyable sleep over and a nights away badge along with the Backwoods cooking badge for their attendance.

We then with weather permitting held a local walk around Well Woods in the dark collecting wooden sticks that had fallen & could be collected from the

ground without damaging flora. The aim is to explore the woods with a torch light adventure & use the wooden sticks we collected later in the term.

The Life Skills Evening was part of the Our Skills Activity Challenge Badge. Cubs had to make a cup of tea/coffee, iron their scarf, lay a dining table, tie their shoelaces, and polish their shoes. All excellent life skills. Next time we will probably add clean a window and peel vegetables to add to the Skills list. Thanks to the parent helpers who supported this evening activity as running 5 base activities was intensive to do it safely.

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. We know our Cubs like to collect badges & learn a new skill.



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, Explorer helper and the parents who support our pack on a regular basis each week, as we could not do all this without you

Many Thanks

**Kevin Seeonee Cub Team Leader**

## Online Shopping - Christmas is Coming

**Please remember the Group when online shopping.** It is 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.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)**

# Scout Shout Out

This term has been full of energy and variety, and the Scouts have made the most of every week. We started with outdoor cooking, where everyone had a chance to get stuck in and prepare food outside. We also spent time in Coney Hall Rec for litter picking and a few lively games, which helped the Scouts look after the local area while having fun together.

We spent a session on “old fashioned” map reading where the Scouts worked on understanding symbols, reading contours, and using a compass with confidence. We also had a great evening at Frylands where the Scouts tried tomahawks. Thank you to Kevin for running a brilliant session.



As November arrived, we built and then burnt our Guys and enjoyed a quick game of Mummy....

We also spent time sharing family stories for Remembrance Day which the Scouts handled with real care and maturity. We also enjoyed a night hike that was not as cold as expected, which made the walk even more enjoyable.

More recently we split into patrols for an international cooking night. Each patrol produced something different, including Indian korma, Mexican fajitas, and Chinese stir fry. The results were

impressive, and the Scouts worked well together to prepare some great dishes.



Looking ahead, we will be practising first aid using several new resuscitation dolls. We also hope to finish the year with a bouldering session in Bromley, which should be a fun way to end the term.

It has been a busy and rewarding Autumn and the Scouts should be proud of everything they have achieved.

**Adam**



## Ravens Explorers

It's been another action-packed term for our Explorers, filled with creativity, adventure, and new skills! The weather has held up quite well for an Autumn term, meaning we were still able to get out of HQ every now and then.

We kicked things off with our own twist on Taskmaster at HQ, where Explorers took on a range of challenges to test their ingenuity. We also got hands-on at HQ completing parts of the Chef Badge, cooking up tasty bread, scones, flatbreads, and biscuits - a brilliant opportunity to develop practical baking skills.

Adventure continued with a Night Hike, giving Explorers a chance to put their navigation skills into practice after dark. Our Survival Skills sessions and Signal & Survive activities helped them learn essential techniques for staying safe and resourceful outdoors, especially on hikes or camps.

Film Night at HQ provided a more relaxed evening, giving everyone a chance to unwind together and enjoy some popcorn and hot chocolate. We also marked Bonfire Night with a classic activity of building Guys to burn on the bonfire, and later in the term enjoyed the ever-popular Chip Shop Hike, combining a night-time walk with a well-earned treat.

To round off the term, we will be going ice skating at Somerset House. We're already looking forward to more fun and adventure next term!

We hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year's!

**Asher, Donell & Oscar The Explorer Team**

# Group T shirts



Front

Our wonderful T shirts are available from any leader at HQ. Just £8 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.



Back

*Smile it, confuses people Scott Adams (American humanist)*

## District Scout Shop

Bromley District Scout Shop is now open with Covid safe precautions in place to protect our volunteers and customers. Card Payments required No Cash

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

Uniform and other items can be ordered from the Scout Shop at <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/> and other suppliers.



# Dates for your Diary

January	Week commencing 12 <sup>th</sup> .	Start of Term		
February	7	Jumble Sale	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Greenacres
March	TBC	Auction		
April	27	St Georges Day Parade	<b>All sections</b>	Frylands Wood
May	16	Jumble Sale	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Greenacres
September	18 - 20	District Camp	details early 26	Downe Activity Centre
September	19	Jumble Sale	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Greenacres
March	TBC	Auction		
November	14	Jumble Sale	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Greenacres

## ***Next Newsletter***

Email items for next issue to: [alysshelm@gmail.com](mailto:alysshelm@gmail.com)

before 2 March 2026

# WHO'S WHO

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Politicians and diapers must be changed often and for the same reasons  
Mark Twain