



1st Cheam Newsletter

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1st Cheam Scout Group

Founded 1928

Charity Number 303838



<http://www.1stcheamscouts.co.uk/>

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Notes from the Leadership Team

The hot, sunny summer has enabled our sections to make the most of lots of outdoor activities for weekly meetings as well as camps. All the details are in the following section leaders' reports.

Our AGM and Family BBQ on 28th June was an opportunity for those parents who were able to attend to hear more about what the Group is doing, to meet the leaders and to hear about leadership changes currently taking place. Thanks, and presentations were made to Gary B who has stepped back from his position as part of the Troop leadership team and Shaun H and Sam M who are withdrawing from the Cub Pack leadership team in the coming months. Their contribution to the successful running of the Group over several years has been greatly appreciated.

As explained in the last Newsletter, we have undertaken a significant recruitment campaign to find suitable adults willing and able to train as leaders to join the team. We very much value the support we get from parent-helpers, our Young Leaders and D of E students but sections need leaders to plan and take responsibility for running the weekly meetings. We are very pleased to have welcomed several new volunteers who are currently training.

Looking ahead to the coming months, please note that this year's Remembrance Parade is on Sunday 8th November. As usual the Group will join in the ceremonies and 11am Silence at Cheam War Memorial along with all the other uniformed organisations and community groups. Full details to follow but we do ask all members to take part if they possibly can.

Chair's Corner – Dave Hodges

Wow, what an amazing Summer of Scout activities and congratulations to the Troop leadership team for running another terrific summer camp in deepest Sussex. Thanks also to all those parents and supporters who loaded and unloaded lorries, put up tents, built fires and made a fantastic contribution to the teamwork it takes to make it happen.

Cub Leadership update - As mentioned above both Shaun and Sam are relocating from Cheam and have left or will be leaving 1st Cheam. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for their service.

Our recent recruitment drive for volunteers was successful, and I would like to thank and welcome Ashleigh, Blake, Jenny & Lily who have been helping at cubs for the past few months, whilst obtaining their DBS and completing various training modules. They are now ready to take over the pack, and I am excited by their enthusiasm and new idea's, Mark, one of our experienced Scout leaders will support the transition for 6 to 8 months.

Please see below to get to know our new Cub Leadership team:



At this year's AGM we raised a whopping £479 on the raffle. Our huge thanks go to the Balarajah family for all their hard work getting so many prizes donated and the businesses of Cheam that were so generous in donating.

I mentioned at the AGM this year that sadly we have lost two Trustees for the Trustee Board, Peter and Matt for personal reasons. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for their service on the Board. I am delighted that we have confirmed a new Trustee and I am in discussion with a potential two further Trustees.

We are always on the lookout for Parent Representatives on the Trustee Board. Our Trustees have a rich diversity of backgrounds and experience, but it is always good to have the perspective of parents whose children are currently in the Sections. We meet 4 times a year. If this is an area where you think you could help, please do get in touch.



The 100 Club is a monthly cash prize draw which costs just £2 per month, per number, entered into a monthly Draw. You could become a winner and support the Group at the same time by joining the Club. The more members the higher the prizes! If you would like to join, please contact Ingrid Hodges on ingrid.hodges@hotmail.co.uk or via the website <https://www.1stcheamscouts.co.uk/100-club>

Congratulations to all our recent winners:

	First Prize £40	Second Prize £20	Third Prize £10
May 2026	John Darling #39	Josh Tonge #15	Karen Adorjan #34
June 2026	Andrew Oakley #78	Craig Watson #81	Bahi Balarajah #10
July 2026	Sue Sargeant #73	Sue Sargeant #96	Mark Laming # 41
August 2026	Karen Adorjan #34	David Hempsted #100	Josh Tonge #15

Troop Notes

Summer Camp 2026

On Saturday 25 July we loaded the lorry, allocated the scouts into patrols for the week and headed off to Hadlow Down in East Sussex. Setting up the field for the week is a big task but, luckily, a few of the leaders and a group trustee had gone down the day before to put up some of the larger tents so some of the work was already done. The scouts spent the afternoon setting up their sites before cooking spaghetti bolognese. After dinner they had tuck shop which happens every evening followed by a game of volleyball, a campfire, supper and bed.

We woke on Sunday to another glorious day and split the group into two for the days activities. One group went off kayaking while the others stayed on site and spent the morning shooting and the afternoon doing some knife work.

On Monday the scouts were given string and plastic sheeting and shown how to build a bivouac (shelter) in the woods. This has always been a favourite activity, but we haven't been able to do it for the last couple of years as we haven't had wooded areas on the sites we used. Shelters built, the scouts enjoyed an afternoon of challenges as well as making campfire bread and preparing fajitas to cook in foil over an open fire using no pots and pans. That evening some of the braver scouts slept in the bivouacs while others opted to go back to their tents.

Tuesday morning saw the scouts taking on the royal tournament competition in the morning with team challenges and an assault course, Hogwarts won overall. In the afternoon they headed off to a swimming pool with water slides which was a perfect way to cool off.

Wednesday was the day out and this year the scouts went to Bowles where they climbed three different rock faces, enjoyed bouldering and then tackled the high ropes. It had been a busy day in the sunshine, so we centrally cooked a bbq for dinner.

On Thursday the two groups from Sunday swapped so the other group went kayaking and the group who had kayaked previously stayed on site for shooting and knife work. The scouts also planned what they would be making for their cooking competition on Friday and came up with some great ideas. The farmer came to visit for campfire that evening and it turned out she lived in Cheam many years ago before buying the farm. It was a great site, and we hope to use it again.

Friday morning saw the scouts tackling individual challenges for the super scout competition which was won by Violet for the younger group and Alex for the older group. Then they headed off for another swimming session, we like to send them back clean(ish) before returning to the site for the cooking competition. One patrol cooked spaghetti bolognese with pancakes, Oreos and whipped cream to follow and the other served a starter of garlic dough balls and calzone pizzas. They were judged not just on the

food but also the presentation and extra touches. It was very close and both patrols did really well with Hogwarts's patrol winning.

And just like that it was over. Saturday was spent taking down the site. A huge thank you everyone who came down to help pack up. It's a lot of work to pack everything away and leave the site exactly as we found it and it's the point of the week when we really value the extra support.

Back in Cheam, all that was left was to announce the winning patrol. If you look at the back wall of the hall you will see tent pegs going back over many years each bearing the name of the winning patrol for that year's summer camp with the names of the scouts who were in the patrol on the other side. Congratulations to Hogwarts patrol who will add their peg to the wall for 2026.



The week wasn't without its challenges, the heat was constant, but we'd rather that than rain, and the scouts had to be super careful with their cooking fires given how dry the field was. They overcame it all, putting up with us leaders constantly reminding them to drink and apply sunscreen, joined in with everything enthusiastically and a great week was had by all.

If your scout didn't camp this year and would like to see a bit more of what camp looks like, then lots of photos and videos were posted on the troops Facebook page.

Save the date for summer camp 2027 which will be held from 24th - 31st July. If you can't wait that long, we have an overnight camp on 26/27 September 2026 at Kings Oak which will be the last camping opportunity of 2026. This term we will also be sending out the details of our annual canal trip which will be over Easter weekend in 2027.

Cub Notes

We started with our Space badge and learnt all about our solar system. We did lots of cooking this term with the cubs making their own budget and menus. They also made campfire cones backwoods style. We did our termly deckoid league and went on a night hike across Cheam Park. We ended the term with a picnic in the park.

The team would like to thank everyone for their help and support in making it another amazing year in Cubs.

Baloo and the Cub team

Beaver Notes

Hi there from Beaver headquarters.

We are starting this Autumn term into Winter on the 7th of September and have seven new starters joining us, taking our numbers to twenty-three!!

The programme is already set out right up to Christmas day including a Circus Skills morning on the 20th of September at a local Scout venue in Worcester Park. We are also hoping to have a number of the Cubs there in the afternoon for what looks like being a fun day in total.

We have sixteen sessions in total, and we are working on having the local fire brigade with us in November and hopefully their fire engine as well. The Beavers always love this session so fingers crossed we can organize this. The other sessions range from bug hotels, book reading, obstacle courses, brain training, and we also will have bonfire night and Remembrance Sunday to do as well.

Oh, and finally, Christmas celebrations towards the end of the year, but let us not think about that yet.

As ever, if you as a parent would like to offer your services for one session that would be great by all the leaders, just see me after any of the sessions. It is extremely rewarding as well as fun.

Look forward to seeing you all in September!!

Chris (Otter)

