

Dear parents, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers,

now that 2022 is coming to an end it is time to think back over the last 12 months. Many things have happened around the world as well as in the UK and the Scouts have lost their patron, HM The Queen, whose Platinum Jubilee we only celebrated earlier in the year.

Our sections had a very busy 2022. Here are some pictures that show the range of activities our members enjoyed: camping, climbing the O2, stand-up paddle-boarding, air-rifle shooting, fishing (and gutting the catch), canyoning and many things more (some other activities can be re-lived at <https://8thwestwickham.org.uk/gallery>).



Our sincere thanks to our Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders, Section Assistants, Young Leaders as well as all the other helpers. Without you, none of this would be possible!



But let's hear what some of the Scouts, who have put pen to paper as part of their "Media Relations & Marketing Activity" badge work, think of being with the 8th: "My favourite thing at Bisley [the National Scout Air Rifle Championship] was where I did the turning targets. We also did cross bow shooting. But my favourite thing was putting up the tent in the dark as it was fun and we all worked together." Or: "my favourite thing [at summer camp] was making fresh mackerel and chips; we caught and gutted and cooked the fish". Or maybe more distinctly: "fun – fun – fun. 'Strategy' was fun."

The calendar for 2023 is already packed with more than two dozen camps and activities – and that is in addition to the weekly meetings; just have a look at the event tab on our website at <https://8thwestwickham.org.uk/events> and see for yourself. In preparation for the packed and exciting programme we have made one of the biggest investments for quite some time: we have bought a number of stand-up paddle boards suitable for all age groups and we are sure that we will make much use of them over the next years, starting in 2023. And until then you may wish to take part in our Christmas trail designed by our Beaver leaders; details can be found on the last two pages of this letter.

This brings us to a request to our parents; as you can imagine, running a Scout group with around 100 members requires quite some effort. So: if you have some time to spare to help, please let us know – you can give, as they say, as little or as much as you want to. Some of the "jobs" we need help with are listed on <https://8thwestwickham.org.uk/join/adult-volunteers-18>. Your support is much appreciated.

Finally, it is time to say goodbye to Tim Spittle who, after more than 30 years as a leader in the 8th West Wickham has decided to step down from being a Cub Leader. Tim has been a part of many of our members' journey in Scouting, be they Cubs, Scouts or Explorers – or even parents of our current members. Thanks, Tim, for your dedication throughout all those years; you will be missed.

On behalf of all the leaders and the Executive Committee we wish you all a merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Stuart Haydon
Group Scout Leader

Niels Rump
Group Chairman



8th West Wickham Christmas Trail 2022

Some of you may remember our first Christmas Trail two years ago. It went quite well so we're pleased to let you know about our second Christmas Trail. We hope it is something different (and hopefully fun) for families to do over the Christmas holidays. This can be done at any point in the holidays but we would suggest doing it in daylight.

The idea is you follow the clues (see next page) to each address to find a picture (or pictures!) and a letter. There are many different pictures but keep a count of three key pictures and collect all the letters. When rearranged they should spell a Christmas themed message!

The pictures will be in place from Friday, 16th December until Monday, 9th January 2023.

We are asking families to drop some donations for the foodbank into the porch of 14 Rose Walk, one of the houses in the trail. The trail can be started at any point.

Send your answer to helenwise2014@hotmail.com.



8th West Wickham Scout Group

These are the sort of pictures you are looking out for. Keep a tally of how many of these three pictures that



Street	Odd or even number	Hint!	Letter
Hawes Lane		A religious building where we meet.	
Phoenix Close	odd		
Hawes Lane	odd	Greater than 155 and 175	
Hawes Lane	odd	Between 175 and 193	
Lenard Avenue	even	Use the Green Cross Code to find an even number over the road!	
Little Court	even	Head back over the main road again. A multiple of 5	
Hawes Lane	even	Back up the hill. Between 250 and 230	
Hawes Lane	odd	On the corner of The Mead.	
The Mead	even	A single digit	

The Mead	odd	A single digit	
Pickhurst Rise	even	Not far from the footpath over the train line. Just over 100.	
Langley Way	even	Less than 20	
Langley Way	even	Between 20 and 60	
Hawes Lane	even	Head towards the Swimming pool. Both digits are the same.	
Links Road	even	A single digit	
Links Road	odd	Between 25 and 45 Now cross over Glebe Way.	
Silver Lane	even	On the corner of Glebe Way	
Rose Walk	even	A teens number PLEASE DONATE TO THE FOOD BANK HERE	
Rose Walk	even	Now head in the direction of the park	
The final 2 clues are roads off the high street a bit of a walk away. Maybe do these another day?			
Chessington Way	even	A multiple of 5.	
Ravenswood Avenue	odd	Between 45 and 65	

Arrange the letters you have collected to spell out a Christmas message...

[illegible]