

Newsletter of the 1st Blackwater Valley B-P Scout Group

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) No. 1193176
Full member of the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS)



“THE COOT”



Founded 1994

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<http://1stblackwatervalleyscouts.co.uk>

THE 22nd OF NOVEMBER 2025

A significant date in the history of our Scout Group:

- Our new Scout Hut building was officially commemorated
- and the adult members of the Group joined in a quiz and supper that evening to celebrate.

THE NEW SCOUT HUT

Your Fund Surrey Small Projects Fund gave our Scout Group a grant of £78,277.00 which was supported and authorised by Cllr. Carla Morson (LibDem) and Cllr. Fiona White (LibDem).

The local building company, Keen Construction Limited, undertook the whole project for the grant budget and completed all works within six weeks.

The official unveiling of the commemorative plaque was undertaken by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr. Michael More-Molyneux, who has been a friend to our Scout Group for many years.



The plaque is unveiled



BEFORE



AFTER



The commemorative plaque

The Lord Lieutenant commended the work and dedication of so many who have supported Scouting ideals for our local community through this Scout Group and how lovely it is to meet so many of those people on this occasion. Richard reflected on that sentiment saying that there are so many families and friends who have contributed tirelessly over so many years, some who were unable to be there that day, and some who are no longer with us but would be so proud of this day. “They are in our hearts today”.

Philip West and his family have been associated with the Scout Hut for longer than anyone else in the Group and he recounted its history from the very first “half a pavilion” that was donated and erected on the site as a Scout Hut some 50 years ago and affectionately referred to the Scout Hut as his “second home”.



Figure 1 From L to R: Cllr. Carla Morson, The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Liz Keen, Sam Keen, Shaista Salim (YFS) and Richard



Members, families and friends



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Messages of congratulations on the new Scout Hut were received from 1st Mortimer Scout Group, The Bath Rover Crew, Nigel Godfrey and family, Major (retired) Craig and wife Mary McColville, and the Chairman of the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS).

Grateful thanks were recorded to the many organisations, individuals and their families that have supported us and provided example, opportunity and inspiration to our Group since its inception in 1994 including:

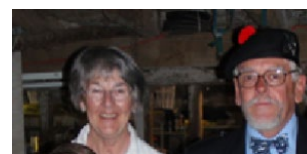
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust
- Trueman Coaches
- Ash Parish Council
- Johnson's Wax
- The Royal Army Logistics Core
- The Royal Marines
- Johnsons Wax
- Leslie Sell Charitable Trust
- Major (retired) Craig McColville, Royal Signals, and his wife Mary in France
- Mike Godfrey and his family on their farm in Devon
- The Loseley Park Estate
- “Mich”, landowner at East Horsley
- The Long-Distance Walkers Association (LDWA)
- The Nantmor Mountain Centre in Snowdonia
- World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS)
- Other independent Scout Groups.

THE QUIZ NIGHT



Cheers to one and all (especially Craig and Mary)

Carolyn Punter organised another excellent quiz and supper supported by her husband Bert, friends and neighbours who live adjacent to our Scout Hut. Carolyn and Bert's son, Harry, started in Beavers and is now a Leader and Trustee in the Group. Craig and Mary McColville sent a “wee cheque for drinks and nibbles” to mark the occasion.



2Craig & Mary

The quiz raised £350.00 for Scout Group funds and provided a very pleasant social event.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

SANTA CLAUS & CHRISTMAS

Santa will be visiting our Scout Hut next Saturday the 6th of December at 14:00 (2pm) and will be there for two hours. All, young and old, are welcome to see him in Santa's Grotto 😊



A NEW GROUP SCOUT MASTER

In 2026 Callum Howarth will be taking over as the Group Scout Master (GSM). Callum started as a Beaver at the age of five and has progressed through all the sections until he was eighteen when he took out a warrant as a leader. Callum is now Scout Master (SM) for Pioneer Troop and a Trustee for the Group. Callum's mother was Akela with Cubs for a time, and his father was the Group Quartermaster. His Grandfather was in the Parachute Regiment and has long supported Callum in his Scouting.

A formal presentation of Warrant will take place at a Scout Group meeting in the summer, but the ceremonial hand over of position will be carried out at the Rover Moot in Denmark at the beginning of August 2026.

Richard, the incumbent GSM, will remain as a Trustee and take out an Assistant Scout Master Warrant to enable him to help with camps and expeditions when requested and continue with leader training.

WFIS EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The annual general assembly of WFIS members will be held in Laubach, Germany in January 2026. Laubach is where WFIS was launched in 1996 so it is a fitting return. It was Laurie Dring of the Baden-Powell Scouts Association who initiated the concept which has blossomed into a membership of more than 7 million Scouts in over 56 countries worldwide. Our Group have attended the GA since gaining membership in 2023 after a three year qualification period, and will have four representatives there this year.

It is an education and an incentive to hear of the achievements of other Scout Groups from many different countries and see the different uniforms that have come about from the common theme of Scouting.

ROVER MOOT 2026

The 1st to the 8th of August next year will see the first Rover Moot run by WFIS in its thirty-year history. The venue is by Skørping, Denmark at the Jamboretten Place, the site of an international Scout Jamboree held many years ago.



Many members of our Group will be attending the event and taking part in building and sailing a replica Viking Long boat. It will be a unique opportunity to meet Scouts from all over the world and join with them in activities over the eight-day camp. Travelling there by minibus will take two days either way making it a twelve-day venture.



CONTACTS

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