



THE NEWSLETTER OF 1ST WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

FirstNews

April 2016

Scout Hut Roof

By Shane O'Reilly - Chairman

As you must be aware by now, we need to replace our hut roof, which after 35 years is starting to crack and is prone to leaks.

We are extremely lucky to have our own hut and thousands of people, young and old, have enjoyed the premises since 1981. I for one started my involvement on a camp around a campfire outside our hut.

All of us involved with 1st Wokingham past and present have benefitted from this organization. We must ensure our current and future groups of young people are able to enjoy everything scouting and our hut offer.

As a non-profit and charitable organization we have managed to provide a family and community facility which all of you will agree has been instrumental in our young people's developments. A key part of that management is to maintain our facilities, i.e. the hut. Whilst our traditional yearly fundraising activities help fund the means to provide equipment for our young people, in addition we have always managed to create a reserve for maintenance which has covered large investments in the past such as new windows, carpets, etc. The anticipated cost of the new roof outweighs our current

contingency balance for building maintenance.

So hence this call for your help and support. The latest quotes suggest that we will need to raise £10-15K. Yes, this is a large sum and a large project but in terms of what we do and what we have done that is priceless. We are at a crossroads, replace the roof in 1 year or the group closes.

Did you know?

You can hire the hut for children's birthday parties (primary age children only). It's a great space for running around in and is just as suitable for a disco as it is a football party. Rates are extremely reasonable too!

Contact Georgina Spalding for more details and bookings:
handgs@btinternet.com



Sixers Supper

The Cubs went to Henry Street Garden Centre for their Sixers Supper. It looks like they had a great time.

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Litter Pick

Thanks to the Beavers and Cubs who turned out for the Community Litter Pick.

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Fundraising Update

Following our recent plea for help, we have had 8 kind volunteers come forward to form a Fundraising Taskforce. We have already been busy, having evaluated all the ideas put forward by the parents and have firm plans in place to raise this desperately needed money.

You should already have received requests for donations of sweets – these will be made into the cones which were so popular at the Winter Carnival and sold at the forthcoming May Fayre as well as events at St Paul's CE Junior School. You should also be aware of the request for the children to each fill a jam jar with 20p coins. They can either save them

up out of loose change or they could earn them by doing jobs around the house – that would also count towards some badges.

There are plenty of other fundraising initiatives underway too and you'll be pleased to hear that we are trying to minimize the financial input required from parents. We have started approaching local companies for sponsorship or donations and are working our way through a long list of possible grants.

In the coming months you will be many other fundraising activities going on, including film nights, a 100 Club and in October we are planning to have a Christmas Shopping Day – leave your Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with us for the day while you make a start on your



Christmas shopping.

Please, please, please give the fundraising your full support. Hopefully you won't find any of the planned activities too difficult or expensive. With your help we will soon have a shiny new roof!

Section News

Beavers

Last term the Beavers were busy working on their 'Global' badge and this term's theme is 'Sport and Fitness'. Lots of fun activities are planned, including trips to Luckley House School and Lockey Farm, and there will be a visit from a dance group.

If you would like to become a helper at Beavers, or even a Beaver Scout Leader, please speak to Karen. You can never have too many helpers!

Cubs

Having worked on teamwork and World Challenge last term, the Cubs' theme for the summer term is 'Our Adventure' and they will be working on their athletics and emergency aid badges.

Scouts

Last term's major project was building a bird table. The scouts did a very professional job and their bird tables look amazing.

Following the success of the survival camp at Arborfield last year, another is planned for this summer. As Rich says: 'This is not a normal camp of comforts such as tents, scouts will be sleeping rough in their own home made shelters (bivouacs) in the woods, lighting fires without matches (if they fail they get sandwiches), foraging for wild food, gutting fish, skinning rabbits/squirrels etc., sterilizing water etc. They will be learning how to be Bear Grylls, so if they get lost in Wokingham or their own back garden/bedroom, they can survive for weeks.' It will be an amazing experience for all taking part.



The Beavers all really enjoyed their evening of circus skills with Oojamaflip.



The older Cubs had a great time on their hike camp.



Any Other Business...

Termly Subscriptions

Payment is due at or before the first meeting of each term as this ensures that your child is insured and also helps with our banking. If there is any problem with payment, please contact us so that we can discuss other arrangements.

Our preferred method of payment is by online banking (details on Subs Request letter). Any other payment by cheque or cash should be deposited in the box on the wall inside the main hall doors attached to an information slip with the name of the child and his/her section. Other payments may also be made by

these methods if full information is attached. For security reasons the box will be emptied at the end of each session.

For payments from January 2014, we will be registered to claim back Gift Aid on subscription payments. Approximately 60% have completed the form and we thank you. Forms will be going out again with the subs request letters and we ask that you look out for these and those who haven't submitted one please do so and return them as soon as possible. It cost you no extra payment; the government

pays us on your behalf on presentation of the form.

Keep in Touch

We have a FaceBook group for 1st Wokingham parents. If you would like to join, please email lizziehewitt@btinternet.com

Save the Date

Please save the following dates, more information can be found at the events calendar on our website.

Monday	2 nd May	Wokingham Town May Fayre
Friday	24 th June	BBQ and AGM
Tuesday	8 th November	Group Fireworks
Sunday	27 th November	Wokingham Town Winter Carnival

Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour

Please can we ask anybody who sees acts of vandalism or antisocial behaviour at the hut to report to the police and get an incident number. Send incident numbers to Keith Winter via <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/contact/> who will keep a record.

The police non-emergency number is 101 and the hut address is
1st Wokingham Scout Hut
Redlands Farm Park
Ewendons Lane
Wokingham
RG41 4DX

If you wish to submit material for the next edition of the newsletter, or have any comments about this newsletter then please contact the Editor at firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk

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