

# Newsletter - First News - Autumn 2009

The newsletter of the 1st Wokingham (St Paul's) Scout Group. See us online at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk>

## Chairpersons's Report

Graeme Robson & Shane O'Reilly, Co-Chairman

Many thanks for the warm welcome we have received from everyone at 1st Wokingham; the Executive committee, Leaders, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers (and of course, parents!)

In the dawn of a new era we would like to begin by thanking Bill Forfar for the last 18 years as our chairman. We appreciate the professional handover and the advice that he has passed on to both of us, a real gentleman. Even after Bill officially left he successfully secured the new 20 year lease with Wokingham Town Council. Bill has left a legacy we are proud to maintain and in Bill's words we will move "onward & upward".

The last four months has highlighted to us just what a team we have joined, with so many dedicated, conscientious and productive people involved. With the Wokingham Centenary year fast approaching we look forward to continuing the excellent work that has been undertaken by our predecessors, keeping with tradition but also bringing new ideas and personalities to this exciting time.

Our first big event was the Bonfire Night on the 4th of November which was a fabulous success, we were even blessed with the weather! We would like to thank all involved for a very successful night, all the hard work prior to the event and the effort on the night. We would also like to thank the Beavers for making the excellent Guy and all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and families who attended and made the evening the success it undoubtedly was. Special thanks also go to the assistant manager at Sainsbury Winkersley who kindly gave us a great deal on the fireworks that we purchased for our event.

So once again, many thanks to all for the warm welcome, we very much look forward to serving 1st Wokingham.

## Lease from Wokingham Town Council

Bill Forfar, retired Chairman

1st Wokingham Scout Group owns the hut that we meet in but the land on which it stands is leased from Wokingham Town Council (WTC). The lease for the land was due to run out on 23rd June 2009 and through the group's solicitors I have been carrying out negotiations with WTC and the Scout Association. I am pleased to say that these have now been successfully completed and that the signed lease has been lodged with the Scout Association and filed at the Land Registry. We now have a 20 year lease in place. All the correspondence and paperwork relating to the lease has been archived ready for those of you that will volunteer to start the extension of the lease in 2029!!

## Group Scout Leader

Debs Parker. GSL

Hi all, I hope you had a good summer, although I know it seems like a long time ago, with the clocks going back and the dark nights drawing in. All sections had a good summer term, all ending with water fights or cookouts! 26 boys managed to attend Cub or Scout camp and from what I saw all enjoyed themselves immensely. Thank you to all leaders who gave up their holiday to run them.

Thanks also go out to all of you who came to our BBQ and AGM, it is great to see so many families enjoying themselves and also supporting 1st Wokingham. I was worried that we may not get the new members that we need, though I was wrong to worry as we have got nearly all the slots filled. But ... we are still looking for someone to organise the May Fayre where we run a pancake stall, this fund-raiser is very important to 1st Wokingham so help would really be appreciated. Keith is pulling a list together so you will know exactly what we need and how to run it, so if we have any volunteers then please let me or our new Chairpersons know.

1st Wokingham is heading into new waters and with all the new people on Exec a lot of ideas are being put out there, if you have any on anything then please let us know. One thing I have put forward is that we could do a family camp, although for this to happen (and sorry, it's not our fault) we would need every parent that wants to attend CRB checked, so if you haven't had one done and are interested in the camp please let your leader know and they will get a form for you. It does not cost you or us a penny.

## Scouts

Sian Gates, Scout Leader

The summer term is always a favourite with Scouts because we can get outside and do more of the things that Scouts enjoy doing most!

This summer we played team games on Redlands field. This is a good opportunity for the Scouts to work in larger groups with a team objective i.e. To win! It also gives them a physical workout! Most Scouts were able to gain their Pioneer badge. This involved taking part in two evenings, the first of which taught the skills and the second enabled them to use their skills to build a bridge.

As it was summer we went cycling at The Lookout and visited the climbing wall at Earleywood. The climbing was enjoyable but predictable (get from bottom to top) and the cycling was interesting (how many times can you fall off?).

We made sausages and then cooked them. This activity is not for the faint hearted! It was a real learning experience and hopefully the Scouts now know what a 'proper' sausage should taste like (unless they had the spiked chilli version). So far all of our activities have been very positive but then there was the "orienteering exercise"!! Whilst this was an enjoyable evening it did demonstrate how terribly badly some of the Scouts were at following a compass bearing. So, more practise with compass bearings will be on the agenda for the coming year!

At the end of term we did what we usually do. This means that all of the Scouts went for a swim in the River Thames. Thankfully the Leaders had enough sense to not capsize their kayaks/canoes and so we all stayed dry (ish). During the summer holidays we went on camp with 4th Wokingham. This year we went to The Peak District. We did lots of exciting activities including, caving, climbing, hill-walking, archery and weaseling. It rained a lot and we all got very muddy (sorry parents!). We did however have a lot of fun and hopefully we will see lots of Scouts wanting to go on next summer's camp.

#### Autumn Term 09

We are continuing to work outside when the weather is good and inside when the weather is bad. So far we have been lucky. We have been 'walkabout' on the Finchampstead Ridges and we have focussed on an interim fitness assessment and games.

Currently, planned events which need your attention are the Gilwell Winter Camp in early January; please email us if your Scout would like to attend. We will also be doing a group cookery competition and the finalists will be able to take part in the District competition and then the County competition if they are good enough.

Finally we will also be running a one day course for Scouts to have the opportunity to complete their Emergency Aid 1, 2 and 3 badges.

## Cubs

Debs Parker, Cub Scout Leader

We had a great term. We did pioneering, Danish long ball, a hike around California Country (park not state!), compass work, getting ready for camping and of course water fights where mother nature joined in too. For all those who came to see Baloo get his long service award – congratulations you deserve it, you also saw that for some unknown reason, I ended up worse than everyone else. Cheers boys!!

We also ran a Father and Son camp during this term, which we do every 2 years. We had 10 dads and 11 boys, who all seemed to get on really well and got stuck into everything that we set them. The Harrington boys did brilliantly at the crate climb (18 and 19 crates), and then dad Ed Jones thought he was the bee knees when he managed to climb 15 crates. However they all should have known that I would end up beating them all with 21 crates (that is why I'm Akela, although the dads did beat me at staying up until 4.15 am, I gave up the ghost at 3.30. Sorry mums if they weren't any good when they came home!)

During the summer holidays we had a fantastic camp, which we were worried about beforehand with only 2 boys having done it before and the rest being first time campers. Everyone was brilliant and got well into it so we needn't have worried!. They managed to get a lot of badges, do a very high monkey bridge, play wide games and cook their own lunch over an open fire. Plus they also managed to impress a very old gentleman who joined us, who has been in the scout movement for over 65 years.

Can I just finish this report by saying if anyone asks if they can join our cub group say thank you for the interest but at the moment we are up to 35 and have no more space until next September. I just know at the moment we have had lots of people asking so thought I would let you know so that you can pass it on.

## Beavers

Becca House, Beaver Scout Leader

During the summer term we continued with lots of activities that made up parts of the various Challenge Badges including the Global Challenge Badge where we tasted some Indian food!

We had a visit from the Police as part of the Friendship Challenge Badge and the Beavers were unusually quiet (for a short period of time!). We enjoyed learning to pitch tents and other outdoors skills with Dave from Scouts, some of these skills were put into practice when we visited the Lookout and followed a nature trail.

The Fathers Day cricket event was great fun with several Beavers managing to hit their dads for 6! We picked (and ate!) fruit at Greys Farm and ended the term with the fabulous (and wet) Beach Party

## Forthcoming Events

For full details about these events then please visit our web site at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/events> or look on the notice board in the entrance hall to the HQ.

13th Mar. 2010	Fundraising	Quiz Night (HQ)
25th Apr. 2010	Young People	St. George's Day Event
3rd May 2010	Fundraising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre) We will need some parental help so please plan ahead to be free
29th May - 31st May 2010	Young People	District Camp (Binfield). To celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Wokingham
2nd Jul. 2010	Social	AGM & BBQ (HQ)

## Hut Cleaning Help

In the last issue we asked for parent's to volunteer to clean the hut. Many thanks for those people who have already completed their session and to those that are still to do their session.

We only had one session over the weekend of 31st Oct/1st Nov that we failed to fill and so the hut missed it's clean.

We will be looking for volunteers for next years rota in December so be sure to sign up when the list of dates is published.

## Hut Spring Clean

Approximately every three years we hold a spring clean of our hut over a weekend and this year it took place on 11th & 12th July.

Unfortunately we did not complete all the tasks due to a lack of volunteers. The Exec will review whether to hold a second event later in the year to complete the remaining tasks.

Many thanks to those that did turn up and help, see below for a who they were:

### Saturday 11th July

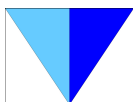
Maintenance	Dick Moodie Keith Winter
Leaders	Debs Parker GSL Ian Winter ACL
Scouts	Alex Spalding River Phillips
Parents	Kay Maynard Brian Phillips
Helpers	Pat Moodie Carol Winter

### Sunday 12th July

Maintenance	Dick Moodie Keith Winter
Leaders	Kerry Benham ACL
Beavers	Tyler O'Reilly
Cubs	Cole O'Reilly
Scouts	Matthew House
Parents	Glyn Thomas Jean & David House Hugh Spalding Graeme Robson Mark Allen Sylvie & Shane O'Reilly
Helpers	Pat Moodie Carol Winter John Allen

The 2 doors into the Entrance Hall to the hut have been painted in the group's scarf colours, i.e. Light Blue and Dark (Royal) Blue. Hopefully this will also serve as a reminder to those Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who put their scarves on the wrong way around.

Light on the Left,



Royal on the Right

The group's old flag has been restored by Carol Winter and has been hung back up in the hall. This flag was made by Pat Moodie and dedicated by Father Williams the Vicar of St. Paul's in 1968. It was carried by the Troop until a new one was purchased. It then flew at Scout camps until one on a well known windy site on the Isle of Purbeck when extremely strong wind proved to be just too much for it

## Data Protection

In order to facilitate the electronic dissemination of termly subscription reminders the 1st Wokingham group has collected email addresses of most of the parents/guardians of our young people. Please note that this information is used solely to communicate with you and will never be supplied to any third parties. We will not disclose your email address to any other email recipient.

At the last Group Exec meeting we had a request to document the data held by the group on its young people and to show who had access to that information. We only keep the minimum information needed for running the group and to supply to Scout Headquarters in the yearly census. The data is held in a spreadsheet. The data available to a person is limited to what they need to do their job. The list below is the response to that request.

Who has access?		Membership Person	GSL	Beaver, Cub & Scout Leader	Beaver, Cub & Scout Parent Helper	Treasurer	Web master	Camp Leaders and Home Contact
Why they have access		maintains a single list supplies to others data that is required	to manage and sort any issues	only details about their section	only details about their section	To collect Subs	For sending out FirstNews or Maintenance issues	To act in Loco Parentis
First name	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Last name	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Date of Birth	supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
Address	supplied	yes	yes	yes		yes		yes
Telephone number	supplied	yes	yes	yes		yes		yes
Date first invested	supplied	yes	yes	yes				
Beaver Cub or Scout	generated	yes	yes	yes		yes		
mother's name	if supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
father's name	if supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
mothers' mobile number	if supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
father's mobile number	if supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
email address	if supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
mother CRB	generated	yes	yes					
father CRB	generated	yes	yes					
Photo usage permission	if supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
Allergies	supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes
food dependencies	supplied	yes	yes	yes				yes

Prior to and during a camp additional information is held that is necessary for the Camp Leader to act in Loco Parentis. This information is held on paper and is shredded after camp. This is only held for those attending the camp. The Home Contact is an Exec member or a Leader not involved with the camp and not related to anyone attending camp.

Who has access		Membership Person	GSL	Beaver, Cub & Scout Leader	Beaver, Cub & Scout Parent Helper	Treasurer	Web master	Camp Leaders and Home Contact
Why they have access		maintains a single list supplies to others data that is required	to manage and sort any issues	only details about their section	only details about their section	To collect Subs	For sending out FirstNews or Maintenance issues	To act in Loco Parentis
medicines being taken	supplied							yes
Doctors name and address	supplied							yes
other comments	supplied							yes

A separate waiting list is kept by the Waiting List person and the details of young people are shared with the relevant section leader once a term to see who can be taken from the waiting list. Those chosen will have their data moved from the waiting list to the membership list. This is held as a spreadsheet.

Who has access?		Waiting List Person	GSL	Beaver Leader	Cub Leader	Scout Leader
Why they have access		maintains a single list supplies to others data that is required	to manage and sort any issues	only details about potential new Beavers	only details about potential new Cubs	only details about potential new Scouts
First name	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Last name	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Date of Birth	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Address	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Contact name	supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
email address	if supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Telephone number	if supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

## Newsletter Input or Comments

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](mailto:editor@firstnews@firstwookingham.org.uk) firstnews@firstwookingham.org.uk