

FIRSTNEWS
THE NEWSLETTER FOR 1st WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

Summer Term 2018



What a term!

It is so lovely to see so many young people enjoying all that Scouting has to offer. Our scout group is proving ever popular – we now have 87 enjoying the Beaver, Cub and Scout programmes. Our section leaders have been working hard to create an adventure-filled programme and it is great to see so much happening in the great outdoors.

We had a good turn-out at Wokingham's **St George's Day parade** on Sunday 22nd April – despite all the regeneration chaos. Thank you for your support. It is important to see our group taking an active part in the community – whether through the formal parades or by supporting organised litter picks.

And we hope that all of you who could make it enjoyed our fantastic family camp and all it had to offer. It was a superb weekend – nearly 100 people setting up camp was quite a sight to behold! Huge thanks to everyone who made this possible – it was a great team led by the Cub leaders, Liz Sims and Rob Slater.

Chairman's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of 1st Wokingham Scout Group – we are a charity run by volunteers and it just would not run without you!

All sections have done many great activities this year, both at the headquarters and offsite. I would personally like to thank all the uniformed team who always go above and beyond. Thank you also to the members and officers of the Exec Committee, support teams and parent helpers

We have had a great year this year and have achieved much – not just in terms of the programmes we have been able to offer to our young people, but also in all the fundraising we have been able to achieve and the special projects around hut maintenance we have been able to carry out.

At the end of this year, due to work commitments, I will be stepping down as Chair of 1st Wokingham after over a decade of involvement. The role has been very rewarding, great fun and holds many fond memories. And continued friendships.

For the coming year, I would really like to urge more people to please get involved. We have a have a few vacancies on our executive committee that we need to fill. **If you could be a fundraiser, assistant treasurer or our Chair, please do speak to any of the team – we would love to have you join us.**

All that remains is for me to wish you all the very best for the coming year.

Kind Regards
Shane O'Reilly, Chair 1st Wokingham

Fundraising Update

With the town centre in even greater chaos than before, a decision was made not to take part in the May Fayre. The organisers were unable to tell us where our stall would be, most of the town centre was fenced off, several of the stalwart leaders were unavailable...

Looking to next year, there are firm plans to address the ceiling in the hall and completely refit the toilets to make them a pleasant, practical and accessible facility. We are also planning to give the kitchen a much-needed facelift. In order to carry out these improvements, we are going to need a more concerted effort with fundraising next year.

We are currently without a Fundraiser and it is critical to the survival of our Scout Group that this position be filled. If you, or maybe you and a friend, think you could be our new Fundraiser, please feel free to chat to any Exec member about it.

Section News

Beavers

Just this term we have welcomed 6 new Beavers to our Colony. We've been taking full advantage of the lovely weather and been out of the hut for most of the term.

We have had a varied programme – from Games nights to evenings learning about builder tools, how to use them safely and constructing a ladder for each lodge. We experienced an Alternative Emergency Aid evening, learning about the emergency services, how to make a call, putting each other in the recovery position and then discovering some interesting uses of bandages!

We also had a lovely evening when one of our Cubs, Rebecca Johnson, was assisted by our GSL Karen and their lovely dog to talk about how to take care of dogs. We then put all our friendly dogs through their paces over a doggy agility course. Congratulations to those Beavers who overcame their fear of dogs and were brave enough to stroke them. A big thank you to everyone for bringing their dogs and making such a memorable evening.

This half term, the Beaver went to Lockey Farm to make sausages and did a nature trail around Sand Martins Golf Course looking at trees, bugs and they even found a dead mole.

Outside our regular meetings, Beavers have helped out at St Paul's Church, doing a Litter Pick in the churchyard along with the Cubs. We have done a hike along the River Thames, taking part in the annual Jamboree on the Trail ("JOTT"), one of the biggest events in the scouting calendar.

We recently went to the Gilwell Funday where the Beavers joined Cubs to enjoy a Medieval themed day-out, participating in lots of activities throughout the day, topped off by an ice cream!

We have lots more fun in store for the final few weeks of term: getting into the World Cup spirit; playing cricket; water fun at Carnival Pool and then finishing up at the Wokingham Waterside Centre on the River Thames doing katanuung.



Cubs

As always, we try to get outside as much as possible in the Summer Term and our focus has been Our Adventure and Navigator badges.

We started by finishing off our pioneering badge with a few tricky challenges thrown in – hook a duck definitely provided some laughs!

To test the skills we've learned, we are looking forward to tracking, a treasure hunt and orienteering at The Lookout (hopefully the leaders won't get lost this year!).

Of course, to add to all that, we spent a fun packed day at Gilwell climbing, abseiling, fishing to name but a few activities.

Finally, we enjoyed our camp so much last year that we decided to let our parents and brothers and sisters come to. I hope you agree that it's been 'the best camp ever'!



Scouts

Our Scout troop of 32 is having a blast!

Scouts have been doing a lot of varied badge work and several of our Scouts are now well on their way to completing the Chief Scouts Gold award – which is an amazing achievement.

In addition to this we have gained 2 leaders, Lizzie and Jon, so welcome to them. They have both passed their basic training and are now officially

As well as working towards badges, our Scouts have been having a lot of fun as well! We have played lots of games, in particular our own version of Dodge Ball with an inflatable exercise ball (which is a favourite) but also wide games on the field, Danish Long Ball and many team building games. We've also built go-carts, pimped go-carts, made woggles, cooked on open fires, enjoyed science and themed evenings, craft evenings, an egg run, Pancakes, bridge building, Night Hikes, plus visits to a trampoline park, Coral Reef and Laser shooting.

In addition to all this, we have had a camping trip to South Wales to climb mountains. All in all, it's been a very action-packed term.



A special request to parents: If you have any skills that we could use you for to sign off activity badges, then could you please let me know. Your help would be greatly appreciated. All the badges are on the Scout Association website:
<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64,779>

Party Time! Did you know?

You can hire the hut for children's birthday parties. 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 Anna Birrell for more details and bookings:
anna.birrell@hotmail.co.uk

Get the latest news

Our website is regularly updated. Have a look at
www.firstwokingham.org.uk

Family Camp

We had a magnificent weekend at Bear's Rails Campsite in Windsor Great Park on 15th – 17th June.

Nearly 100 1st Wokingham Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families set up camp together for a weekend of adventure. And judging by the sheer levels of exhaustion experienced by children and adults alike, a huge amount of fun was had! Thank you to all for supporting this weekend and a massive thank you to all the volunteers and leaders who worked so hard to make this camp a success for all.

It was also great to have such support at the AGM – thank you for attending.

Here are just a few photos of the weekend:



Quartermaster Requests for Help

Vandalism

We have experienced some episodes of vandalism recently. Apart from being a great nuisance, it costs money to repair the damage made to our hut.

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 have any questions, then please call Keith on 0118 978 8518. Thank you in advance

World Scout Jamboree in 2019

It has been a busy few months for my fundraising: I marshalled at the 'Devises to Westminster' Canoe Race on Easter Saturday, when over 300 boats came through Reading. I car park marshalled at the 'Dubs in the Park' event at Easthampstead Park, where I saw VWs of every shape, size and colour. I have also just hosted "An Evening of Swing and Jazz" concert which raised me an incredible £900!



We have also been busy getting to know each other in Unit 62 by going Ice Skating and having 2-day long meetings where we have discussed the identity of our unit, deciding on the neckerchief that we will wear to the Jamboree, our unit badge and doing team building activities to help us bond.

Our next fundraising event is a joint one with Unit 63, the other Berkshire contingent, when we will be serving refreshments at the County Cub and Scout Dragon Boat Regatta at the Waterside Centre.

Date for your diary: I will be hosting a **Quiz Night** at 1st Wokingham in late September. Cost is £10 per head and will include a Fish and Chip Supper. There will also be a licenced bar. Teams of 8, so get a group of friends together and come and join in the fun. More details once the date is confirmed – and keep an eye on my Jamboree board in the entrance hallway of the hut.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,
Harry.

Harry can be contacted via harry@harrymcbain.co.uk

Useful Information

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.

Gift Aid: We have registered to claim back Gift Aid on subscription payments. If you have not already submitted your form, please do return it as soon as possible. (It costs you no extra payment; the government pays us on your behalf on presentation of the form).

Dates for Your Diary

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

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