



FirstNews New Year 2016

Group Scout Leader / Chairman's Report

The main challenge for the scout group this year will be raising funds for a new hut roof. I'm sure it won't have escaped your notice that it's in a sorry state. The new roof will cost in the region of £35K, so please do your best to support the year's fundraising activities. If you have any ideas for how to raise money, please do let us know.

During 2015 we had a lack of volunteers to clean the hut this year, and so at the leader's suggestion we have split the rota termly for each section. Please check below and see if you can help because the cleanliness of the hut benefits everyone.

Thank you to all the parents and children that helped out at our fund raising events you can see how well we did below.

The group is registered to claim back Gift Aid on subscription payments. Those who haven't submitted a signed form, 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.

Happy Scouting

Shane and all at 1st Wokingham

Scouts

Richard House, Assistant Scout Leader

All is well with Scouts at present. We currently have 25 scouts of which 14 are now girls. Our very full programme meant that we had a delay in investitures so we invested a massive 10 new Scouts at the end of last term. Our full programme also means that we will be handing out 108 badges over this term.

Cubs

Liz Sims, Assistant Cub Leader

You may be aware that we had a new leadership team last term and we are pleased to say that it all seems to be working well. Cubs have been very busy and recent activities have included a visit from Guide Dogs, a night hike, a trip to Wokingham Fire Station and we ended last term with a trip to Reading Climbing Centre.

Beavers

Karen Johnson, Beaver Leader

The 1st Wokingham colony has achieved a significant number of activity badges for the children this year including the safety badge, experiment badge, cookery badge, first aid level 1 & 2, cycling badge, space activity badge, faith badge, and camp craft badge. For the children the highlight of the year was the Beaver camp held in June in Woodley. The theme was sporting legends. In the Autumn term the colony focused on the disability awareness badge, animal friend badge as well as launching the Million Hands project which the colony is supporting in respect of making a difference to the lives of those living with a disability. During the spring term, we will be working on the Outdoor Challenge badge, My World Challenge badge, friendship challenge badge, Global Issues Badge, Teamwork Challenge and Fitness Challenge badge. Next summer we are looking forward to going to PACCAR Chalfonts Height Scout Camp where we have booked the tipis at Roys Reservation.

Save the Date

Please save the following dates, more information can be found at the [events calendar](#) .

Monday	2 nd May	Wokingham Town May Fayre
Tuesday	8 th November	Group Fireworks
Sunday	27 th November	Wokingham Town Winter Carnival

Latest News

The web site <http://firstwokingham.org.uk> has been updated as follows:

- Dates for Spring Term have been supplied, see [Term Dates](#)

Provisional dates for each session of the spring term have been supplied for each section, see [Beavers](#), [Cubs](#), [Scouts](#)

Fund Raising

Thanks to all who have supported our fundraising activities over the last term. It was great such a high turnout at the Fireworks Night and we made £132 profit. I think you'll agree that the fireworks were as spectacular as ever.

Despite rather inclement weather, our stall at the Winter Carnival made a very healthy £600 profit. Obviously, this was due to First Wokingham Scouts making the best mulled wine in town!

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.

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

Evendons Lane

Wokingham

RG41 4DX

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 at

firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk

Hut Cleaning Help

Whilst the main hall gets a clean after some section meetings the whole hut does need a proper clean about every four weeks. It takes two people about 1 1/2 hours to clean the hut. This year each section will be responsible for a term. We need a minimum of two adults (over 18 years), but more people will speed up the process. Also you can volunteer for more than 1 session! The hut will be available for cleaning all day on Saturday, all day the following Sunday.

For 2016 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Section	Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
Beavers	1	23 Jan	24 Jan	Help Please
Beavers	2	13 Feb	14 Feb	Help Please
Beavers	3	12 Mar	13 Mar	Help Please
	4	Apr	Apr	Not being Cleaned
Cubs	5	7 May	8 May	Help Please
Cubs	6	11 Jun	12 Jun	Help Please
Cubs	7	9 Jul	10 Jul	Help Please
	8	Aug	Aug	Not being Cleaned
	9	Sep	Sep	Not being Cleaned
Scouts	10	8 Oct	9 Oct	Help Please
Scouts	11	5 Nov	6 Nov	Help Please
Scouts	12	3 Dec	4 Dec	Help Please

If you can help us the please contact Keith Winter via email at keith@firstwokingham.org.uk or telephone on 0118 978 8518 and state:

- which session you can do, which day and start time you prefer, and the names of people

Keith will then ensure that the hut is reserved for that day/time and generate the rota. We will of course ensure that the keys to the hut are available at the time you need them and all cleaning materials you will need are ready for you. Please look at your diaries and volunteer.

Thanks in advance
Keith Winter