

FIRSTNEWS – THE NEWSLETTER FOR 1st WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP OCTOBER 2017



New Scouting year, new programme, new challenges – and lots of fun!

A huge welcome back to you all! And an extra special welcome to those of you joining the 1st Wokingham Scout Group for the first time. We are lucky to have a very active group, run by such an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have been working hard to plan fantastic programmes for your children and young people to enjoy and benefit from.

We are fortunate – and in the increasingly rare position - to own our Scout Hut. This has huge benefits for us as a group but also means we must ensure that we maintain it well and keep everything safe and up to a good standard. A huge pat on the back to everyone who helped raise the money to carry out essential works on the Scout Hut roof!

Following this, we have been selected as a recipient of a sponsored community project. This will mean that we can refresh the inside of the hut with a new lick of paint to make it look fabulous once again.

**** Thank you to those who have already offered to help prepare the hut walls for this. We would still like more volunteers to help scrub the walls with sugar soap, so it would be great if you can join us for a couple of hours on FRIDAY 13th or SATURDAY 14th October.**

Please let Anna Birrell when you can help – anna.birrell@hotmail.co.uk. **

Please also note that **Wokingham's Remembrance Day parade** is coming up – on the afternoon of Sunday 12th November. 1st Wokingham would really like a strong turn-out at this event. Please do come if you can. Further details will be coming soon.

Chairman's Report

I hope you all had a great summer.

2017 has been a great year, not only for the installation of our new roof by way of our immense group funding raising, but a great year with all sections enjoying fun and very fulfilling programs.

We had our AGM in combination with a BBQ on the 7th July at our Scout hut. This was a great evening and we thank all for attending. Full details can be found on our website.

I would personally like to thank Lizzie Hewitt who stood down as our group secretary. We are very pleased that Lizzie is still with us and has taken the role as our dedicated fundraiser. We welcome Gwen Sewart as our new Group secretary. Gwen was a key member and contributor of our Roof fundraising team. In addition, a special thanks to Karen Johnson who has taken the absent role of GSL (Group Scout Leader). Karen is doing an exceptional job.

Thanks again to all involved with 1st Wokingham. We look forward to the exciting programmes for the rest of 2017.

Please have a read of this newsletter and if you can offer any help, ideas or suggestions they are always welcome.

Shane O'Reilly
Chairman

Fundraising Update

Last year saw an absolutely phenomenal effort on fundraising and it was a real achievement for the group to raise enough money to replace the hut roof. Well done everyone!

Now that we have our lovely new roof, there are a number of further improvements which we'd like to be able to carry out. For example, we could really do with an improved kitchen and I'm sure you'll agree that the toilets also need some attention. That means that we need to keep the momentum up.

We have two major fundraising events coming up this term: the famous **1st Wokingham Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display on Tuesday 7th November** and **our stall at the Winter Carnival on Sunday 26th November**. More details will come out in due course but please put these dates in your diary.

In order to make these events a success, we rely on scouting families to volunteer. If you think you'd like to help, either in planning or on the day, please email lizziehewitt@btinternet.com.

Section News

Beavers

This Autumn term, we welcome 9 new Beavers to our colony, taking our numbers to 25.

The last weekend of September saw 16 Beavers brave the 'elements' – particularly as the weather forecast mentioned a hurricane was due to hit the country! The two night *Elements Camp* focussed on Water and was action-packed. We joined over 1,000 other young people. It was so much fun that we are looking to repeat it next year.



Over the coming weeks, the Beavers will be focusing on the Disability Awareness Activity Badge. We have already had a 'sight awareness' evening and visited 'Our House' (a facility for children with special needs). Later in the term, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf will come to our hut. We will also work towards the Berkshire Scouts Project Africa Challenge Badge.

Beavers are looking forward to Halloween Night and welcoming Oscar back for a fun packed Christmas party.

Cubs

Cubs got off to an exciting start with the County Cub Adventure Day at Paccar. Activities included fire lighting and camp cooking, climbing, cave bus, rabbit run, abseiling, 'the drop', blind trail, hike trail, traversing and circus skills.

The Autumn term focus is on the Our World Challenge Badge which started with a visit to the Wokingham Foodbank. We will be learning about other faiths and cultures around the world and have lots of visits and visitors to look forward to.

Scouts

Scouts are, as usual, taking part in a wide variety of activities. We have had a lot of interest from potential new joiners and we are looking to get the number up to 30 very soon.

As always, new leaders across the group are always welcome, so if you know of anyone up for the challenge, please don't hesitate to speak to us.

Quartermaster Requests for Help!

Do you have a petrol Strimmer?



If you have a petrol strimmer, could we please ask that you help us out by going to the hut and cutting the grass back?

It needs doing from the far end of the car park all the way down to the bottom corner. From the edge of the grass back to the fence line.

This could be done in the evenings or at weekends - and more than one of you could get together for a strimming party..... Once the grass is cut we will then be able to trim the trees to make this area usable again.

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

Any unwanted pillow cases?

When the children go to camp we always have a first aid tent with equipment ready. Part of the equipment is made up of sleeping bags and a pillow. Whilst we have the sleeping bags and a sealed sterilised pillow we have run out of pillowcases. For some reason, they always get lost...

If you have an old pillowcase of any colour then please leave it at the hut and let Keith (0118 978 8518) know it is there. Many thanks.

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.

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 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).

Looking after 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
Evendons Lane
Wokingham
RG41 4DX

Party Time! 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

Get the latest news

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

Dates for Your Diary

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

Tuesday	7 th November 2017	Group Fireworks Night
Sunday	12 th November 2017	Remembrance Day Parade
Sunday	26 th November 2017	Wokingham Town Winter Carnival
Saturday	16 th June 2018	Family Camp weekend

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@firstwokingham.org.uk