



THE NEWSLETTER OF 1<sup>ST</sup> WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

# FirstNews

## September 2016

### What a great summer 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Scout Group had...

Our young people have really made the most of the dry(ish) summer and had plenty of opportunity to enjoy a wide range of fantastic summer activities. Even now summer is over, there is still plenty to look forward to in the term ahead.

Well done to everyone who has helped with fundraising over the last term – we have made a very solid start to raising enough money to replace the roof. With your continued support we should reach our target.

Please make every attempt to come to our group AGM on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We are required by law to hold it before the end of September and it's your opportunity to learn more about the running of the Scout Group and to have your say in its future. We promise to keep the meeting short – it's usually about half an hour. To make it as painless as possible, we will provide tea, coffee and plenty of doughnuts. Please feel free you bring your children with you. One of our Young Leaders has volunteered to run games with them. We hope to see you there!

### Beaver Camp

The lucky Beavers had particularly smart accommodation at their summer camp.



### District Cub Camp

Now that's what you call a camp fire!



### Keep in Touch

We have a FaceBook group for 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham parents. If you would like to join, please email [lizziehewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:lizziehewitt@btinternet.com)

### 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](mailto:handgs@btinternet.com)

# Fundraising Update

Our dedicated Roof Fundraising Taskforce have been very hard at work over the last term and have already managed to raise approx. £3000 towards our new roof. Very well done to them!

The May Fayre was very successful. Thank you to all parents, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who donated sweets, turned the sweets into sweet cones and manned our pancake stand. It is a well-known fact that 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham make the best pancakes in town.

The hamper raffle held at The Broad Street Tavern was also very successful, raising over £700. Thanks to The Broad Street Tavern for holding the raffle for us. Thanks also for the

generosity of local businesses for supplying us with such amazing prizes. Finally, thanks to everyone who bought a ticket.

We still have a way to go until we have enough to replace the roof, but, with your continued support, it is achievable. The next planned fundraising event will be a charity coffee morning at The Bradbury Centre on Rose St on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> October. If you're in town that day, please pop along for a cuppa.

Are your Beavers, Cubs and Scouts still filling their zop jars? They will be collected at the end of term, so there's still plenty of time to collect coins.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to fundraising over the last term. Fingers crossed that the coming term will be equally successful!

## Section News

### Beavers

In the Summer term we had activities ranging from a Street Dancing lesson and Healthy Eating for the Health and Fitness badge to learning about Water efficiency and Biogas and all things poo! for the Environment badge.

The highlight of the year was Beaver camp in Chalfont St Peter. With activities like Crate stacking that went down well during the day, nature walks, and crafts - making musical shakers and Indian Headdresses followed by a great camp fire singalong in the evening.

### Changes in Leadership

The end of 2016 will see some significant changes in the leadership of 1st Wokingham Beavers when Karen Johnson (Beaver Scout Leader) and Lizzie Powell (Assistant Beaver Scout Leader) will be stepping down from their current roles and involvement with beavers. A local parent, Jeremy Grand-

Scrutton, has very kindly stepped forward and offered to assume the role of Beaver Scout Leader which is fantastic news as the unit was looking very much at risk. Jeremy has two young children who will be keen to join Beavers in a few years' time and he personally enjoyed scouting as a child,

1st Wokingham Beavers still needs however at least one more Assistant Beaver Scout leader to remain fully viable into 2017 and to continue to run the varied and challenging program it has come to be known for, not least as there are anticipated further changes in the leadership in Spring 2017. We would welcome hearing from anyone who is willing to get involved as an assistant leader.

### Cubs

Cubs have had a very exciting Summer Term, with plenty of outdoor activities including a visit to Luckley School, orienteering at The Lookout, fire lighting and cooking bread, athletics, water sports at Dinton Patures and

of course our highlight - District 100 Cub Camp.

District Camp was fun packed from start to finish and an opportunity to try activities they hadn't done before. The soapy mop football will certainly stick in their memories. In the evening, all the groups in the District got together for a big campfire and took it in turns to lead a song. Thank you to all those involved in the organisation, especially the Explorer Scouts who gave up their weekend to run the activities.

Looking ahead to the Autumn Term, we will be focusing on the Our Skills Challenge Award. At the end of the term the Cubs will be renewing their Promise at a Promise Party to celebrate 100 years of Cubs.

## Scouts

Scouts had an exciting term and spent most of it in the Great Outdoors with wide games, hikes, cycling, rafting,

orienteering, outdoor cooking and fire lighting amongst the activities. The term was ended with a very successful Survival Camp which saw the Scouts building and sleeping in bivouacs, learning to survive in the wild and generally having a brilliant time.

The term ahead looks no less fun than the summer was, with planned activities including more hiking and cooking as well as Laser Quest, swimming and a Christmas party.

# Any Other Business...

## Pat Moody

It is with great sadness that I can inform you that Pat Moodie died on Tuesday 16th August in The Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Pat and Dick Moodie joined the 1st Wokingham (St. Paul's) Scout Group in the 1960s when it met in a room above Heelas in Market Place, now Boots. Pat was Cub Leader and Dick was Scout Leader.

Pat gave up being Akela a few years ago but continued to help out each week until failing health prevented her. Dick continues to help with maintenance and quartermaster activities.

Our thoughts are with Dick, their two sons Alan and Paul and their families

## 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.

## Can you help?

When we hold camps we always have a first aid tent. As part of the first aid kit we have a pillow for use on a camp bed.

The pillow is new and in a sealed bag ready for use. We should also have a pillow case in a sealed bag.

Now the problem. Our pillow case has been lost (4 lost in total!). I have used up all of my family's old pillow cases. Do you have an old one to donate? Any colour will do. If you do please give it to a leader. Thanks.

## Save the Date

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

Friday	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Group AGM
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> October	Charity Coffee Morning
Tuesday	8th November	Group Fireworks
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Wokingham Town Winter Carnival

## Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour

There have been several incidents of vandalism recently. They have been reported to the Police and crime report numbers obtained.

5th July: We had attempts to get on the roof of the scout hut where bulk head lights were broken as they were being used as handholds and had to be replaced. The glasses of three of our anti-vandal bulkhead lights have round holes in them that are made by an air rifle of some sort.

This was reported to the police on 5 July and a crime number was obtained. Thanks to Harry for informing me and completing temporary repairs.

30th July: They struck again, reported to the Police and another crime number was obtained.

This time they left beer cans and drink bottles laying around. They also ripped off the wall the central 6 inch gutter pipe and removed it. They also broke several drain pipe clips.

This morning Dick and Keith fitted a new central down pipe and fixed it with new clips. We also replaced 5 drainpipe clips that had been broken. Finally we have repainted the top of all drainpipes with anti-vandal paint (doesn't dry).

We think that youths either walking or in cars, come up to the car park have a drink and play football on the ground outside the hut. When their ball goes onto the roof they use the drainpipes and lights as climbing aids to get onto the roof to retrieve their ball.

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  
1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk)

## Get the latest news

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