

Newsletter - First News - Spring 2008

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

Chairman's report by Bill Forfar

Group Scout Leader needed

Debs Parker has taken this role but we are still searching for a Group Scout Leader. Debs and I have tried to share the work going to the GSL meeting once a month but it really needs a parent to take on this role and act as our representative to the District. The main work involved is –

- A) Group Scout Leader meeting one evening each month and represent 1st Wokingham's views
- B) Provide feedback to Exec of 1st Wokingham from the GSL meeting
- C) Keep records for Leaders of training courses attended and required and their Service Records
- D) Keep track of Criminal Records Bureau checks for Parent Helpers
- E) Ensure 1st Wokingham Group is compliant with Scout Rules and Regulations, see P.O.R. for details (Policy Organisation and Rules go to (<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/por/2006/index.htm>))

Beaver Leader needed

The other Leader we need is a Beaver Leader to help Becca House. Our thanks go to all of you who help on the Parent Rota but another leader would enable her to plan ahead more than she can at present. Please talk to Debs, me or Becca for more information about what it entails.

Alcohol and Evendons Farm Park

Summer 2007 saw a welcome absence of under-age drinking in Evendons Farm Park. In previous years drinking and the associated damage to the Scout Hut reached such a pitch that the Police, Town Council and District Council all took an interest in curbing it. The final suggestion was to pass an Alcohol Designation Order (ADO) for various public parks around the town. However, District Council would not start the application for this order until they had "monitored" the situation for a year.

I shall be asking District for their verdict during this monitoring period and report back to you their findings. Personally I hold out no hope for the ADO to be raised because of the lack of incidents last summer.

Group Scout Leader

Debs Parker. GSL

We have come to the end of the celebrations for 100 years of scouting, and what a year it was. Congratulations to everyone who took part in any bit of it that they could, from camping in a very wet and muddy field, to letting balloons go in market square, and those who shouted it's behind you at the panto. I hope you all have memories that will last you a life time.

Now we are starting to look forward, and the sections are starting to think of things that they want to achieve this year. So what ever comes up, go for it as you are the lucky ones as district team have been looking at our waiting lists and it has apparent that every group there is, there are enough boys wanting to join that we could start a whole new district up.

At 1st we are OK, Beavers have a new warranted leader so that helps Becca out for now. Cubs are going great guns, there have been a few changes with leadership, but hopefully for the better so boys should see badges quicker now at least. Scouts as normal, doing fantastically.

So HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all and all the best for 2008.

Scouts

Sian Gates. Scout Leader

During the Autumn term the Scouts have participated in a wide range of troop night activities including a night hike, wide game in the dark, planning and cooking a meal for four people, making wooden toolboxes, a town treasure hunt, Christmas craft evening and they have also started building evidence for their DIY badge. In addition to our regular weekly meetings, a group of 6 boys spent a very enjoyable weekend hill walking in the Black Mountains. We also ran a one day course which enabled 8 Scouts to gain their Emergency Aid 1, 2 and 3 badges. During the Christmas break, 18 boys took part in a sleep over in our hut where they took part in games, watched DVDs and ate pizza.

Cubs

Ian Winter. Assistant Cub Scout Leader

The Cub pack ran well last term with a steady amount of Cubs moving up into Scouts and Beavers swimming

up to Cubs. The programme was varied and included toffee apple making, a wide game, night hike and a fancy dress evening for Halloween with suitably spooky games. The group fireworks took up one evening which was enjoyed by all.

The Cubs also undertook some DIY work which included drilling, sawing and screwing. The end result was a lovely, varnished cup stand which all the Cubs successfully made.

Beavers

Supplied by Editor

Last term was full of activities that were aimed at having fun and working towards badges. The activities included a Pen pal evening which involved sending letters, pictures & photos to our new twin colony in Norwich. Making pizzas. A trip to The Museum of Berkshire Aviation. The badges that were aimed at were Friendship Badge, Outdoor Challenge Badge and Discovery Challenge Badge.

As you can see from the Chairman's Report above we need your help in running your colony so if you can help by becoming a leader then talk to Debs (GSL), Bill (Chairman) or Becca (BSL)

Reading Festival

After the Reading Festival which was held over the August Bank Holiday, the organisers invited Scout groups from Reading, Wokingham and Newbury districts to pack up tents that had been left being by festival attendees ready for recycling. This is organised by a charity who send the tents abroad for usage in disaster areas. The benefit for taking down and packing up the tents is that you are allowed to keep 5 of every 6 tents salvaged.

Bill Forfar and Keith Winter attended the Reading Festival site on Bank Holiday Monday where we joined 26 other Scout groups. In 5 hours, we managed to get 9 tents for the group and gave 2 tents to the organisers for charity. At the end 3 days packing up over 7 truck loads of tents, camping chairs and camping mats were recovered for charity.

If any parent, particularly with a 4x4 or estate car, would like to help out this August Bank Holiday Monday then please let one of the leaders know.

Fireworks

Once again our group firework night was a huge success and everyone enjoyed themselves. We had a wide variety of coloured displays, some of them quite noisy, followed by hot dogs and chocolate consumed around a large bonfire. Thanks to all the parents and leaders that helped make this another safe and successful event. The date for this year's display is in the events diary below.

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.

8th Mar 2008	Fundraising	Quiz Night (HQ)
27th April 2008	Boys	St. George's Day Parade Meet at 1400 in Market Square, parade to All Saint's church
5th May 2008	Fundraising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre) We will need some parental help so please plan ahead to be free
8th Jun 2008 PROVISIONAL date	Social	Town Walking Quiz (Wokingham Town Centre). A gentle stroll around Wokingham Town Centre looking for answers to the provided clues., date to be confirmed
4th Jul 2008	Social	AGM & BBQ (HQ)
26th Jul - 2nd Aug 2008	Boys	Scout Camp (Isle of Purbeck, Dorset)
22nd to 25th Aug 2008 or 23rd to 26th Aug 2008	Boys	Cub Camp (Ellis Hill Farm)
5th Nov 2008	Social	Group Fireworks

777 Follow up

In response to the report on our web site about our 25th Anniversary we received the following email:

Subject: Former Membership, Have just been looking up history of the 1st!

I was initiated into the first in December 1939 and my 15 months under the guidance of Mr Moffat really laid my foundation for a life of Scouting (having been a Wolf Cub in Clapham 1936-39).

Have held many appointments both internationally and UK including CC (now President) of Greater London South.

It all really started in Wokingham to where I was evacuated with St John Bowyer School from Clapham, London. Lived with "The Hydes" at 40 Langborough Road. My great Scouting friend, Billy Collins, lived opposite. We were both Scout messengers for the LDV (became the Home Guard) on duty four evenings each week. Our school requisitioned the Salvation Army Hall for daytime use for our classes.

Oh, so many happy memories of Scouting in Wokingham. I could go on so long - meetings in the garden of the DC, Colonel Palmer at The Hey, next to Langbouough Road town footpath. Billy and myself going with Col Palmer in a Rolls Royce (my first time) to demonstrate the use of Scout Staves to a new troop near Arborfield!

Look forward to further news from Wokingham.

Bill Stern

WANTED AD

We are still looking for:

1) In the kitchen of our hut we have various pieces of equipment that we have purchased or have been donated by parents/friends of the group, e.g. refrigerator, coffee machine. We now find that our microwave has broken completely and the electric cooker is not very efficient.

If anyone has a working microwave or electric cooker with grill that they are disposing of then please consider donating them to the group.

2) Second Hand Kit for Sale

When the boys grow out of kit, shirts, jumpers, waterproofs, etc., the under-sized kit usually gets thrown away. We are looking to start up again, a second hand kit stock so that others can benefit from good quality unwanted items at reasonable cost. To do this we need a parent to take charge of this for us. Is anyone willing to do this? If you are please contact one of the leaders.

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 boys. 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.



1st Wokingham Centenary Tea Towel

Our Group Centenary tea towel, made from unbleached cotton and supplied in a cellophane sleeve, is still available at £3.50 each, or £3 if you buy 2 or more. A sample is on the notice board in the entrance hall of the hut.

If you would like to order, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

I would like to ordertea towel(s).

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

Please make cheques payable to 1st Wokingham (St. Paul 's) Scout Group



1st Wokingham Centenary DVD

Our Group Centenary DVD, is still available at £7.50 each This contains pictures of the group and boys covering the whole of our history.

If you would like to order, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

I would like to orderDVD(s).

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

Please make cheques payable to 1st Wokingham (St. Paul's) Scout Group



1st Wokingham Quiz Night

Saturday 8th March 2008 7.30 pm for PROMPT 7.45 pm start

This annual event is for light-hearted fun. Teams are made up of up to 6 adults. Come as a single, pair or make up your own team with friends and family. This is not restricted to members of the 1st Wokingham and there is an excellent prize for the team scoring the most points. A Hot Supper will be served during the interval, however please bring along you own nibbles, drinks, plates and cutlery.

For further information, please call Mary Gillan on 0118 978 9737 or email mary_gillan@yahoo.co.uk.

If you would like to take part, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

Number of tickets required at £6 per person

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

Team Name if known:

Please make cheques payable to 1st Wokingham (St. Paul's) Scout