

# Newsletter - First News - Spring 2009

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

Happy New Year ... if a bit belated

What a cold start to the New Year it has been. I hope none of you have had a frozen pipe!

Since the last newsletter we've had the Cub Camp at Ellis Farm and the Scout Camp at Studland Bay. Both went well but please read the detail in the Leaders Reports.

The Town Walk cum Treasure Hunt in September/October had to be cancelled because so few families wanted to take part. In case you are not aware, it involves a map, some pictures of the Town with various questions and you have to answer the questions as you walk round the Town Centre for a couple of hours looking for the pictorial clues. Points are totalled up at the end and ... POINTS MEAN PRIZES.

We have it ready for another time but have to make sure enough families are interested.

The Bonfire Night was blessed with good weather and a slight breeze. This meant the smoke was taken away to give us an amazing display. The hot drink and sausage went down well and the Bonfire warmed us all up. My thanks to all of you who attended for being so orderly in the queue. Thanks also to Mary Gillan for selling all the tickets, preparing the sausages and drinks and to all the helpers who served you all quickly.

Many of you have asked how you can help the Group - well, we've found the ideal thing. We used to pay a couple of older Scouts to clean the HQ but have been told we need Employers Liability Insurance if we pay anyone to do anything. This will be hundreds of £s for insurance. In common with other Groups with their own HQ, we need to ask Parents to Clean the HQ. It takes two people a maximum of 1 1/2 hours. Excepting for the Leaders Room and Stores, all the HQ is swept or vacuumed (we have a Henry), the kitchen surfaces and floor washed and dried, and the toilets cleaned, including washing the floors (mops available). We need the hut cleaned about 10 times a year and with over 80 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts this should not be onerous on you. Details of the times when cleaning is needed are given below in [Hut Cleaning Help](#). Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Please continue to assist the Leaders on the Session Helper Rota, it makes such a difference to the sessions when they can delegate control of a smaller group of young people to a responsible adult. The Scouts especially have lost older young people (13 and 14 year olds) who used to do this supervision.

## Lease from Wokingham Town Council

This expires on 23rd June 2009 and negotiations have started with Wokingham Town Council (WTC). The existing lease cannot be renewed so it must be a new one. There are fixed costs to pay for the new lease so I am arguing for as long a term as possible. The first indications from WTC are promising that they will grant a new lease but, as we all know, the Devil is in the detail.

## Maintenance

Keith Winter set a thermostatic controlled fan heater on frost setting under the water tank over the Christmas break to stop any damage and he reported the HQ was much warmer this year. This is down to the new double glazed windows and replacement ceiling boards.

Things we have identified for future replacement include -

Floor Screed	The cement floor covering under the carpet in the Main Hall is beginning to crumble again in places and will need re-laying soon. The last such problem gave us the yellow and black patch in the middle of the floor.
Roof	We are not sure how long this will last so enquiries about the cost of a new roof will have to be made this year.

## Group Scout Leader

Debs Parker. GSL

I hope you all had a good holiday season and haven't suffered too badly with the nasty bugs. All sections have just completed another excellent term. Scouts doing cyclist badge, Beavers throwing themselves down John Nike ski slope in big tubes though I am not sure who enjoyed themselves more the Beavers or the parents that helped out, and the Cubs did 2 more badges as well as an end of term party we will be talking about for years to come.

Now we start a new year and as you have seen with a new look, thanks to some nice person who left us their version of a Christmas card (spray paint graffiti on walls. Ed). It has been reported to the police and we can hope that they will find the person, but in the mean time we are left with it. So we are looking for some people to help us out one weekend to at least get rid of what is on the main doors. So if you can help us out in any kind of way please either let me know or your section leader.

The other thing, and I know I am saying the same every time I write one these, but if you haven't done a CRB check please let me know and we will get a form to you. I know that the Cub Leaders are planning to do a Father and Cub camp this June time and if you want to attend you have to have the CRB check. The Scout leaders are contemplating a Parent and Scout camp and they will need the same checks done. So be warned.

Please also can you get a team together and come and join us for the group quiz on the 14th March. It is a great evening which is a good laugh, whether you are brainy or not. We seem to do well in getting people back who have been before but not many parent faces who are part of the group now.

## Scouts

Supplied by Editor

Badge work was the main theme of the term but with some fun added in. The two badges covered were Pioneering and Cyclist. Thanks to Richard, Dick and Keith for helping out on the Pioneering. The fun parts were going Bowling and Ice Skating. The Scouts learnt how to cook a Festive Meal and ended up the term with Christmas Crafts. We are still picking up the glitter!

## Cubs

Ian Winter, Assistant Cub Scout Leader

Last term was very busy with a variety of activities on the programme including making paper animals, finishing off the navigator badge, a wide game, 007 evening, making Christmas Cards and also a very messy cookie creation evening! The term finished with our party and a fancy dress theme of Pantomime Dames. The few cubs who came along made up for the small numbers with an excellent effort in their outfits.

## Beavers

Becca House. Beaver Scout Leader

Last term was a huge success. We worked very hard on our badge work and lots of beavers are on their way to earning their Chief Scout Bronze Award. For Harvest Festival the beavers donated food to the Feed the Children charity. We visited the REME Museum in Arborfield and had a brilliant time snow tubing at the John Nike Leisure Centre for our end of term party. Visit <http://www.wokinghamscouts.org.uk/> to see some of the beavers in action. Big thank you to Penny, Kate, Donal, Jake, David and Harry and all my parent helpers.

## 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.

14th Mar 2009	Fundraising	Quiz Night (HQ)
19th Apr 2009	Young People	St. George's Day Parade (St. Paul's Church) Meet at 1330 in Shute End Car Park, parade to St. Paul's Church. Everyone MUST attend.
4th May 2009	Fundraising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre) We will need some parental help so please plan ahead to be free
3rd Jul 2009	Social	AGM & BBQ (HQ)
25th Jul - 1st Aug 2009	Young People	Scout Camp (Peak District)
29th Aug - 31st Aug or 1st Sep 2009	Young People	Cub Camp (Ellis Hill Farm) Date of last day is still to be confirmed
4th Nov 2009	Social	Group Fireworks

## 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.

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 and up until 7-45 PM on the following Monday.

For the remainder of 2009 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday all day	Sunday, all day	Monday until 7-45PM
1	7 Mar	8 Mar	9 Mar
2	28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar
3	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr

4	23 May	24 May	25 May
5	20 Jun	21 Jun	22 Jun
6	18 Jul	19 Jul	20 Jul
7	3 Oct	4 Oct	5 Oct
8	31 Oct	1 Nov	2 Nov
9	28 Nov	29 Nov	30 Nov

If you can help us the please contact Keith Winter via [email](mailto:email) at [firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk) or telephone on 0118 978 8518 and state:

- i) what session you can do,
- ii) which day and start time you prefer, and
- iii) 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.

## WANTED AD

We are still looking for:

- 1) China Mugs

When we have events in the hut we often need mugs to serve tea, coffee etc. but never seem to have enough. If you have any unwanted mugs, even if it is only the one, then please can we have them.

## 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 young people. 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 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. Cost is £6 per person. 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](mailto: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 Group