



First News Spring 2010

Chairman's Report

Graeme Robson & Shane O'Reilly, Co-Chairman

Welcome again to our Newsletter, the first of the new decade and to keep everyone up to date with events and progress within First Wokingham.

This is a very exciting year and in addition to the usual calendar of events, there is a very special milestone to celebrate. 2010 represents the centenary for scouting for 1st Wokingham and will be marked with a district-wide camp in May for all the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. The camp will include a huge variety of different activities for everyone; places are limited and demand is already high so please don't delay in reserving a place!

Before this we have the quiz night on the 13th March, a longstanding and enjoyable event where Shane and I look forward to meeting and challenging you all to the spoils! We hope to see you there.

As always we are very keen to encourage your involvement with 1st Wokingham Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. We would be glad to hear from anyone who can give their time, expertise, support or ideas; we constantly strive to offer a varied and engaging programme and if you have an exciting job or hobby that could be explored one evening then please get in touch.

Scouts

Sian Gates, Scout Leader

During the Autumn term our badge focus has been the Fitness Challenge. As part of this badge we have held our first ever indoor Olympics and also done some rather energetic activities outside. It's now March and once we've completed our sponsored event in aid of Sport Relief we will have achieved our goal. It's taken a while but we have stuck with it!

During the winter months we are more hut based because of the weather and lack of daylight. This year we have tried to focus on more traditional Scouting skills such as map and compass work, pioneering, camp cooking activities and teamwork skills. We've played bingo, built trebuchets, acted pantomime sketches, built bonfires, cooked a meal patrol meal, traded in cocoa beans to make chocolate bars and made woggles.

We have of course also had some fun. These very popular and unforgettable events have included the Halloween party and of course the Christmas party.

In early January a small group of very enthusiastic Scouts even had the opportunity to camp overnight outside the hut. Did we mention the 2ft of snow! This is something that all those will undoubtedly remember for a very long time.....

Coming up we have a sponsored event for Sport Relief, paddle making (we will use these when the weather gets better), cookery competitions, bike rides and of course SUMMER CAMP.

Camp this year is between the 24th July and 31st August. Only 24 places are available and there are two Troops going (we always go with 4th Wokingham). If you want to book a place then email firstwokinghamscouts@yahoo.co.uk or speak to David/Sian. As a Group we are going on the District Activity Camp which is at the end of May (28th-31st). This is a group event so it will be open to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. More information will be available during February.

Cubs

Debs Parker, GSL

First night back the boys had the joy of hearing reports of cub camp from the boys that attended and saw for themselves the joy on the boys faces, plus heard some stories that i think will be with some of them forever. We have done the fitness challenge badge. Funny to see how they think their pulses work and why they go up and down.

We then also had 3 weeks where the boys did their DIY badge. This was originally planned to last just two weeks but with sawing, sanding, hammering and painting going on the boys really got into it so we just kept going! Some of the output may have gone home wonky but it was their handy work so well done!

The Group held it's firework night on one of our Cub evenings which was great fun!, A BIG thank you to Brian Phillips for sorting it out and to us cub leaders for lighting all the fireworks. It is very hard to try and set off 250 rockets as quick as you can without going up with one. I hope you did enjoy it too.

We went on a night walk, which was interesting and very muddy but luckily no one fell over, though one leader didn't see the hole that the rest of walked round and did go down that! I was scared that at the end of one lane the puddles were so big I was going to do a Dawn French on the Vicar of Dibley!!

We did try and do our local knowledge badge by rebuilding Wokingham in the scout hut, which didn't go very well, the boys did struggle with knowing roads and local interesting points so we have decided that we will try and do a bit more once the light evenings have arrived. They did enjoying burning Wokingham down in a fire of London way though!

We also did decorations for the Christmas week parties, but we have to say sorry, all the boys hard work got torn down by a youth group that hired our HQ. They know we aren't happy. Nevertheless it didn't stop us having a great evening with rolling Sams and fat Tonys. We all dressed up as gangsters for the end of term party and had a great big jelly fight outside. 22 pints of strawberry flying jelly got used up very quickly! Can I also thank all the mum's that provided the food.

AKELA

Beavers

(Report supplied by The Editor)

During the Autumn term we worked on the Promise Challenge badge by writing poems that were read out in church. We collected food for "Feed the Children" charity. For our Wild West Evening we built wigwams and made headdresses. We did woodwork with Dave from Scouts and did code cracking during our James Bond evening. A night hike, where we were all wrapped up in warm clothing, helped towards the Explorer's Badge. We ended up the term with a Christmas Party and sang Carols.

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.

13th Mar 2010	Fund raising	Quiz Night (HQ)
25th Apr 2010	Young People	St. George's Day Event
3rd May 2010	Fund raising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre)
29th May – 31st May 2010	Young People	District Camp (Binfield)
3rd Jul 2010	Social	BBQ & AGM (Hut)
24th Jul – 31st Jul 2010	Young People	Scout Camp (Hay-on-Wye)
28th Aug – 30th Aug 2010	Young People	Cub camp (Ellis Farm))

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.

For the remainder of 2010 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
2	6 Feb	7 Feb	Volunteers found
3	6 Mar	7 Mar	Volunteers found
4	3 Apr	4 Apr	
5	1 May	2 May	Volunteers found
6	29 May	30 May	
7	26 Jun	27 Jun	
10	11 Sep	12 Sep	
11	9 Oct	10 Oct	
12	6 Nov	7 Nov	
13	4 Dec	5 Dec	

If you can help us the please contact Keith Winter via email at info@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.

Thanks in advance
Keith Winter

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

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