



# First News Spring 2011

## Chairman's Report

### Graeme Robson & Shane O'Reilly, Co-Chairman

Welcome again to our Newsletter keeping you up to date with events and progress within First Wokingham Scouts.

We would take this opportunity to thank all those listed below that helped us replace the main hall carpet. I am sure that you all agree that this is an improvement and makes the hall look bigger!

Event dates for this year are given below, the first of which is the **Group Quiz Night on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February**, a longstanding and enjoyable event where we hope to see you all.

If your child has not yet entered the competition to design a mural for our hut wall then it is not too late. Everything is explained within this issue of the Newsletter.

Looking towards sunnier times, we are progressing with plans for a group family camp so look out for more details that will be coming your way soon.

Finally, a request for help! Our hut is only kept clean and tidy by regular monthly cleaning carried out by parent volunteers. Please review the dates available, it only takes 2 hours, follow Shane's lead and sign up!

## Scouts – Autumn 2010 Report

There is no Scout Report this issue.

## Cubs - Autumn 2010 Report

### **Debs Parker, Cubs Leader.**

Last term was a short but busy term. We became a full pack and **now have 35 cubs**, so thank you to all those who say they have friends that want to join but there is no room at the inn for now!

Baloo has finished off his NVQ which you can do now as a Leader, this meant that an examiner visited First Wokingham to see how he ran an evening. Baloo did the map readers badge, so it was great to see everyone immersed in looking at maps all **over** the floor even if we did look a bit silly with our bottoms in the air! Though to give the examiner his due he was just as much into it as the children. So, well done Baloo! The examiner also mentioned how impressed he was with such a large group of children, their behaviour and respect to all, so well done cubs!

Autumn Highlights: We had a evening of bashing **conkers** around and also did some junk model building. We filled the hall with black smoke whilst trying to make toffee apples (which failed!) but the Cubs still took them home. We did our normal group fireworks to music, who knows what we will try this November! We made Christmas cards and had the annual fancy dress party, How Ewan came in only a pair of red swimming trucks I still can't believe as it was freezing and I was cold with 4 jumpers on!

The biggest thing we did this term (and again a BIG well done to all those who took part) was the night hike where we raised money for 'Children in Need' and it was a whopping just short of £200. Well done also to Dan Jones who on his own raised about £50 for this. Plus Max who couldn't do the hike but did school cross country instead, hopefully he didn't take a diversion and get himself a little confused like us! All in all a great term! So here is to 2011 and what we can do this year.

## **Beavers – Autumn 2010 Report**

### **Kim Linden Assistant Beaver Leader**

**With 24 Beavers, the Colony is very busy** and a mostly ‘inside term’ has seen them gain their Safety and Emergency Aid badges as well as working towards various Challenge Badges. We have also been able to give out Bronze Awards to some of our older Beavers. The Spanish themed evening with quizzes and a Piñata proved a big ‘hit’, as did the fancy dress Wild West evening – where the Indians were sorely outnumbered by cowboys, and the Beavers made newspaper wigwams which they enjoyed hiding in.

A collection was again held for Harvest Festival which was gratefully received, we wove tartan bookmarks and threw the ‘hammer’ for St Andrews day, played party games, turned 4 Beavers into snowmen, made ‘sparkler biscuits’ and made the guys for the Bonfire among other things.

We look forward to a new year and another term of fun at 1st Wokingham Beavers.

### **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.

<b>12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011</b>	Fund raising	Quiz Night (HQ)
<b>2nd May 2011</b>	Fund raising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre)
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b>	Young People	St. George’s Day Event
<b>28<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b>	Social	Group Camp (Provisional)
<b>8th Jul 2011</b>	Social	BBQ & AGM (Hut)
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Jul – 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011</b>	Young People	Scout Camp (Hay-on-Wye)
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Aug – 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011</b>	Young People	Cub Camp (Ellis Farm)
<b>2nd Nov 2011</b>	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.

For the remainder of 2011 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
1	8 Jan		Carol & Keith Winter
2	5 Feb	6 Feb	Sylvie & Shane O'Reilly
3	5 Mar	6 Mar	Georgina & Hugh Spalding
4	2 Apr	3 Apr	
5	7 May	8 May	
6	11 Jun	12 Jun	
7	2 Jul	3 Jul	
8	Aug	Aug	No cleaning as full of camp kit
9	10 Sep	11 Sep	
10	8 Oct	9 Oct	
11	5 Nov	6 Nov	
12	3 Dec	4 Dec	

If you can help us the please contact Keith Winter via email at [keith@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:keith@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

## **Main Hall Carpet**

The old carpet has been successfully replaced and a grand opening was held on Sunday 9th January. Thank you to all those below who helped us lift the old carpet, take it to the tip and mend the concrete floor.

Kay Maynard	Martin Ogden	Mary Martin
Darren Hewitt	Brian Harrington	Jamie Martin
Steve Price	Bethan Martin	Georgina Spalding
Heather Bennett	Keir Martin	Hugh Spalding
Andy McBain	Graeme Robson	Luke Spalding
Keith Winter	Sylvie De Groote	Shane O'Reilly
Richard House	Tyler O'Reilly	Cole O'Reilly

### **Background information:**

*The carpet in the hut was 29 years old and we have had some problems with the carpet in the main hall for a few years and have successfully made it safe for usage by removing broken concrete in small areas, re-concreting and patching a different carpet into the holes. The main hall is made up of three large concrete slabs with a thin concrete screed over them to make it like one and the carpet is glued to this.*

*Unfortunately the three main slabs have moved a little and the screed along the joints has broken up and made the carpet surface bumpy and has cause the carpet to cut up a bit. It is getting to the stage where the carpet/floor will not be totally safe for children to charge about on and something major has to be done. In anticipation of this, the last few years capital replacement fund has been ear-marked for the carpet as you would have heard at the AGM's.*

## **Termly Subscriptions**

**Payment is due at 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. At the request of parents, a box has been placed on the wall just inside the main hall doors on the right hand side. If you have subs. payments or payments for events then feel free to place your envelope with the payments and information slip into the box. For security reasons the box will be emptied at the end of each session.

## **Mural for Scout Hut Wall**

As many of you know we have been having problems with graffiti on the scout hut for many years but this has mainly been on the back wall that only we see. However, this year we have had the front wall "painted" where it is seen by all. We have managed to remove the worst of the paint but it is still visible and given past experience we would expect more to be added during the coming year.

Exec agreed that 1st Wokingham would set out rules for a competition to design Scouting scenes for the wall facing the car park. The Wokingham Times has started the competition in the paper and has also put it on their web site. Your children have this chance to design a scene for the wall and have their scene permanently displayed. Please take this opportunity to enter. The rules that must be followed will be in the paper and can be found online at [http://www.getwokingham.co.uk/news/s/2084091\\_youngsters\\_urged\\_spruce\\_up\\_graffitiplagued\\_scout\\_hut](http://www.getwokingham.co.uk/news/s/2084091_youngsters_urged_spruce_up_graffitiplagued_scout_hut)

A Street Artist, who has been used by the Council for this work within the Borough, will merge the murals together and do the rough outline on the wall. Local youths supplied by the Community Wardens plus entry winners will do the filling in. Street artist then finishes off. We are expecting the painting to happen in April.

## **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](mailto:firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk)