



# First News Spring 2012

## 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. This Newsletter is bigger than usual as we have combined the Autumn and Spring issues together so we will keep our report brief.

Event dates for this year are given below, the first of which is the Group Family Camp which many of you have signed up for and even if it is not good weather this is a great event. Thanks to all those that volunteered to help at the May Fayre, unfortunately there were too many food stalls and we lost out. This has always a good fund raiser for us and so we need to make the most of this years Group Summer Fayre. This will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July starting at 4PM. It will include stalls, fun football, BBQ and a very short AGM.

Please note below the article on our Beaver Colony that has a major leadership issue and may cause it to closed without help from our parents.

Finally, a request for cleaning 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.

## Scout Report Winter 2012

[Editor]

No Scout report was supplied this term.

## Scout Report Spring 2012

Richard House, Assistant Scout Leader

The spring term saw us starting off with an interesting evening of buying and selling raw materials in a trading game where the winners with the most profit and having bought all the required items got prizes. This was some what hectic and revealed some very interesting bartering techniques, such as "I saw that first, it's mine!" or "no one was using it so I thought it must be mine!". It would appear that a lot of the scouts shouldn't consider accountancy as a career, unless it's creative accountancy. I have to say it was very good fun and well worth doing.

We have concentrated on several badges, including Community Challenge, Promise Challenge, Chef, DIY, Fire Safety and Cyclist. I am please to report that most of the scouts seem to have taken part fully, understanding that there is a serious side to everything as well as fun. For example they

behaved themselves when discussing DIY safety, Fire Drill and food hygiene.

The DIY badge is now just about finished and those that pass should be able to rewire the house and plumb in a bath with out much problem and with the other hand build an extension. Failing that they can build a bird table.

Most of the scouts can cook to a certain extent, so breakfast in bed is not impossible, but the group will not be held responsible for any food poisoning. Well done to the team that took part in the District Cooking Competition. You did really well. Next stop Masterchef!

Fire Safety badge was interesting, several games were played blind folded to mimic what it would be like to get around a building full of smoke. A simple obstacle course is not that easy when you can't see. Fire Drill went well and they did manage to spot who was left in a burning building. Well done to the victim who did not panic when I asked him to stay in the kitchen while the HQ burnt down around him.

We also have started the Cyclist Badge, maintenance this term and 'not falling off' next term. Bits of bike everywhere. Don't rely on your scout repairing a bike if you're in a hurry! Also apologies to anyone that brought a bike along that looks slightly different now, we may have got the bits mixed up.

In addition to this, we have also cooked pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and had a Wide Game in the dark in the woods. Very scary, particularly with 20 plus scouts chasing you!

We've also had a purge on uniform, as scouts they should be proud to be part of scouting. A requirement is that they come to troop night in uniform. The leaders have agreed that this means shirt and scarf and that they should look presentable i.e. tucked in shirt, badges in place, scarf on straight etc. So please make sure that unless told otherwise, uniform is worn to all troop evenings.

Next term we get to go outdoors more, so look out for the programme, it's full of exciting things.

## **Cub Report Winter 2012**

Deb Parker, Cub Scout Leader

This term saw a few changes. Firstly we moved cubs back 15mins to help leaders have a chance of getting there. We also set up a parent rota which thanks to those who put your names down worked well. It gives you a chance to see what we are up to, plus also ensure we are well covered with adults vs children. We also have dropped numbers by 6 which doesn't seem a lot but it is a lot quieter that is for sure.

This term saw us doing the Promise Challenge Badge, it was quite interesting seeing them do a forum and talk through their finding and the other badge we did was Personal Safety badge. We had a mad evening of running round the top field in the dark. Not sure who was more tired out of the two dads that join us. We had a good evening of bashing conkers together and had no injuries. 2 weeks before half term saw them playing with black wool, cardboard and elastic, It wasn't until the last moment they realised what they were making and even if I designed them myself, I have to say they did look really good once complete and on the back wall, Halloween bats. We did a hike round Dinton Pastures and star spotting. We had a great talk form Keir's dad on St Andrew's night, and then did a mini highland games. Then the last night of term saw the HQ with film stars in it.

We had from Bart Simpson to a lot of Harry Potters to John Wayne, Kermit the frog, Puss in Boots and even one of the 4 four musketeers. Good way to end the term.

At the end term we had to say goodbye to Bageera (Kirsty) who has moved to USA and also Alan-nah our young leader who has completed her service for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, though I do think that it may not be the last we see of her once her exams are out of the way. What I haven't told her is that how I joined 27 years ago that may scare her.

## **Cub Report Spring 2012**

Deb Parker, Cub Scout Leader

Last term saw us as normal do a lot of things which we all have enjoyed, and I will quickly run through it in a bit.

Firstly we have taken part in the district sixes supper which a large group of boys attended. It was at Arbofield garrison in the mess hall. Every group sent some representative and I have to say not only noted by me but also others, they were the best behaved cubs there. So well done. As well as a meal we also had a talk from one of the majors who had just returned from Afghanistan, he showed what he carries now as a soldier to what you had it World War II. It was very interesting.

We had two teams in the district quiz and I have to say well done to one team as we came 2nd my favourite place. It was an event that I organise with Keith and Carol, and like always we had a lot of teams that had a great afternoon activity. Then in the evening I entered the group quiz, which Rikki and King Loui organised and it was great fun. Shame that not more parents support the event.

Rest of the term saw the boys complete their 1st stage badge for first aid. Take part in a group quiz to sort out teams. Do a lot of knot learning, from reef knot, highwayman hitch, clove hitch, bowline and sheepshank. All these are very useful knots when you are a scouter and this term we will be testing them on what they have learned. Had a great pancake race after spending the evening cooking them. That evening an old cub leader of the group was there to see his grandson get invested and he commented on glad he was to see the cubs still having great fun. We did a lot on the fitness challenge and we will be finishing that in a couple of weeks. Last night of the term was cooking nest and hope it all went OK, as I wasn't there.

## **Beaver Report Winter 2012**

Kim Linder, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

The autumn term was as usual a busy one with a full compliment of 24 Beavers on the register.

The '25<sup>th</sup> Beaver Birthday Bash' – a district wide event celebrating 25 years of Beaver scouting was held at John Nike Leisure centre. A full day of activities included ice skating, broomball, snow tubing and skiing in mixed groups from colonies across the district. This was a fantastic success and all those that attended gained their Adventure badge.

The Beavers gained their Air Activities and Imagination badges, thanks to a fantastic evening by Russ Dodd a pilot (and parent) and some great imaginative artwork and junk modelling by the children respectively.

They learned about New Zealand, the country hosting the Rugby World cup and created some sand art pictures. We made the guys for the group firework display and thanks to the help of Dave Shortland we enjoyed a very dark 'Night Hike'.

Following some lovely comments about the cork boards that the Beavers made and wrapped as Christmas gifts, thanks have been extended to Laithwaites Wines who provided us with the corks and wine crates free of charge.

Finally a night out bowling finished off the term which proved to be very popular.

At the end of the term 2 Beavers swam up to cubs – both of which were awarded their Chief Scouts Bronze Award.

## **Beaver Report Spring 2012**

Kim Linder, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

24 Beavers had another fun term, with activities ranging from learning about Baden Powell and the history of scouting, to completing the 'Safety' badge and learning about 'Fair Trade' thanks to Cadburys chocolate!

We enjoyed a fantastic visit to the new Fire Station in Wokingham where the Beavers all behaved well and were a great advert for our group. The fire fighters split us into smaller more manageable groups of 6 and showed us all round the station and the fire engine, before teaching the Beavers some valuable skills in 'Stop Drop and Roll'.

We also made mothers day gifts and cards, decorated 'Beaver Biscuits' and wrote our own prayers allowing the Beavers to work towards their challenge badges.

The final night of the term saw a visit from Nick Colgate of Bytomic Taekwondo a local Martial arts academy. He spoke to the Beavers a little about the origins of Taekwondo and what it is used for before putting them through their paces kicking and punching at pads. The beavers certainly didn't have a problem with the 'Kihap' (shout) as they punched and it proved to be a very loud and enjoyable evening.

Thanks to those parents who have helped out recently – we will be asking for more volunteers next term. There will be a sheet in the entrance of the hut so sign up and join in – it's actually quite fun!

## **Barclays Bank Donation**

When we held our Firework Night in November and Darren Hewitt was instrumental in the organisation and running of the event. Barclays Bank, who Darren works for, has a wonderful scheme of matched donations. This is where Barclays matches any money an individual raises for a charity. Our thanks go to Barclays Bank for their donation and their support of local good causes.

## May Fayre

Due to unforeseen complications, 1st Wokingham could not participate with its pancake stall in this years Wokingham May Fayre on the 7th May. [Too many food stalls]. We would like to thank all the volunteers who kindly came forward to offer help on the day it is much appreciated, sorry to the young chefs who can always make pancakes for their parents on the bank holiday morning! We have some other fun fund raising activities planned soon, we always welcome any fundraising ideas that anyone may have for our group, don't be shy.

## We Need Your Help

We need a parent to help us with the upkeep of our Membership and Waiting Lists. This job does not take up more than 15 minutes per week. A basic knowledge of Excel spreadsheet is required. If you can help then please contact Keith at [info@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:info@firstwokingham.org.uk)

## Family Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Thanks to all those families that have put their names down for the Family Camp. Everyone taking part should have received a letter from Deb Parker (Akela). If you believe you are attending but not received anything then please do get in touch with Deb on [d.parker447@btinternet.com](mailto:d.parker447@btinternet.com) to check it out.

## Beaver Colony May Close

As many of you are already aware both Kim and Penny will be stepping down from their roles at the end of the year.

While they have thoroughly enjoyed the rewarding role of running Beavers they are unable to continue past Christmas due to family commitments. Both have seen their children and indeed the whole colony benefit a great deal from the activities and structure that Beavers and Scouting provides. To this end we at 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham are in need of some enthusiastic replacements to run our very successful Beaver Colony.

So what we are looking for are people who may feel able to take on this role (no previous experience needed!!) parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, friends - in fact anybody who would enjoy the opportunity to be part of a supportive organisation centred on benefiting children.

In an ideal world the 'new team' would work alongside Kim and Penny for a while as a form of handover. This would ensure support for the new leaders and continuity for the Beavers, which we are sure you will agree, can only be a good thing.

If you are interested, or want to find out more information without any obligation to commit, feel free to come and chat to Kim or Penny or email either of them at [kim.linder@btinternet.com](mailto:kim.linder@btinternet.com) or [penny.mcbain1@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.mcbain1@btinternet.com)

## Forthcoming Events

For full details about these events then please visit our web site at <http://www.firstwookingham.org.uk/group/events> or look on the notice board in the entrance hall to the HQ.

### **NOTE: Change of date for “Fun & Games, AGM and BBQ” now 14th July.**

If you have ideas for a stall that can raise money and/or if you can help staff a stall on the day please contact [firstnews@firstwookingham.org.uk](mailto:firstnews@firstwookingham.org.uk)

2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Social	Family Camp
14 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Social	Fun & Games, AGM and BBQ
28 <sup>th</sup> July to 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	Young People	Cancelled due to lack of support

## 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. NOTE: we have had no volunteers this year yet!

For the remainder of 2012 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
1	19 May	20 May	
2	23 Jun	24 Jun	
3	15 Sep	16 Sep	
4	13 Oct	14 Oct	
5	10 Nov	11 Nov	

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

## **Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour**

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 0845 8 505 505 and the hut address is  
1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Scout Hut  
Redlands Farm Park  
Evendons Lane  
Wokingham  
RG41 4DX

## **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.

## **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)