



# First News Spring 2013

## Chairman's Report

Shane O'Reilly Chairman

Happy New Year to all, I hope you all had a great festive time and break.

I am extremely pleased to announce that we have two new Beaver leaders, Jennifer Moynihan & Joanna Walgate who have kindly helped our group in its hour of need!

We very much welcome Jennifer & Joanna to the team and wish them both all the best.

A special appreciation goes to Kim Linder & Penny McBain who have supported our group so well over the years; they have run an excellent Beaver colony always providing a fun, fulfilling and interesting environment for our Beavers.

Lastly I would take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the recent fundraising events.

In addition not forgetting our Beavers, Cubs & Scout teams, the executive team and supporting volunteers plus all the parent helpers who have made 2012 a success.

I wish you all a fun, healthy & prosperous 2013.

## Scout Report Winter 2012

Richard House, Assistant Scout Leader

Summer term started with the usual mayhem of sorting out patrols and introducing new troop members and settling the scouts back into scouting mode. Most of them seemed to have forgotten about the Code of Conduct, dress sense and generally how to behave.

Silly games on the field including Danish Long Ball, Dodge Ball and team building games soon got them back into the swing of things, along with a few well chosen words from the leadership.

Graham took us on a lovely walk along the Blackwater Valley and up into The Ridges, this was just after all the flooding so in places a canoe would have been helpful. Taught the Scouts how to tell the time with 2 pieces of grass and the sun, they seemed impressed when announced it was 8:14. Watches can be so useful and scouts can be easily fooled.

We've also done an incident hike around the HQ, which was very interesting and highlighted the need for team work. Backwoods cooking on an open fire trying to make chips, and giant pioneering to make very large catapults, they sort of worked, but don't rely on 1st Wokingham scouts to defend the UK.

After half term, we did orienteering at California Country Park on a very pleasant sunny evening, bivouacs at The Ridges and climbing at Reading Climbing Centre. If any one wish to learn how to climb I would recommend the Reading Climbing Centre, it was absolutely great. Special mention must go to Bethan, who is our very own Spider(wo)man.

On 24 June Graham took some of us and some parents for a little cycle along the Thames towpath from Reading to Windsor, a quick spin on the wheel, an ice cream and back on the train to Reading. Like a fool I volunteered to go along and regretted it before we got to Sonning, shortly after that I gave up and joined the support team in the van. Having not ridden a bike for 20 years, it showed.

Badges covered this term were, Creative Challenge, Entertainer, Hiking, Adventure Challenge, Cyclist and Fitness Challenge.

Thanks to all the leaders for their efforts, but in particular to Graham for going that extra yard with his programmes.

## **Scout Report Spring 2013**

Richard House, Assistant Scout Leader

The Autumn term started with the usual silly games, reminders of the behavior we expect and a bit of jiggling around with the patrols. We then swiftly fell into the usual routine of mayhem which we leaders believe is called a programme.

This included various exciting evenings:

Mini Olympics run by one of a new leaders Harry with his glamorous assistants, Matt, Jordan and Lee, doing a variety of silly events that vaguely resembled the Olympics. I believe Team Elliott won the whole event.

Pioneering, building various dodgy looking platforms 3 foot off the ground then joined together to create a long, wonky and slightly unstable bridge from one end of the HQ to the other. The scouts were then encouraged to 'walk the plank' without falling off.

Go-karting, home made go-karts built at the HQ and then raced around the HQ and car park, through chicanes and all other manner of obstacles including scouts and leaders. No serious injuries to report but don't let your scout drive your car.

Treasure hunt in the dark at the Ridges, tags were hidden using GPS and the scouts had to find them and note down a code. They were hidden so well that we couldn't find them afterwards even with the GPS locator!!

Fire lighting mechanisms, trying to light a campfire with out actually putting a match to the fire. This included swings, bombs and flaming rolling logs. Most of the scouts succeeded to some degree or another. It sounds scary, but there was no danger as the leaders were standing in the HQ!!

Electronic trip wires, built with various components, including wood, fishing line and electronics, when the trip wire was broken, an LED would come on. These were then used to booby trap the HQ and the scouts were encouraged in the pitch black to try and get across the hall with out setting them off. This failed miserably as scouts have no sense of direction, suffer severe memory loss and found

it more fun to set them off.

Graham arranged for us all to visit the Fire Station in Wokingham, which proved very enlightening for all, and included a demonstration by the scouts of how check if a victim is conscious. Apparently you kick the victim in the head!!

We have also been 10 Pin Bowling followed by 2 games of Laser Quest. This was a lot of fun and got a good response from the scouts. There was also little work involved for the leaders, so this is number 1 programme to be used every night if we can get away with it.

Steve organised a blood and bones evening, where by using flour, water, food colouring and some graphic imagination, the scouts had to recreate a horrible injury. Cole managed to lose an arm at the elbow. Max nearly had his leg severed and Jake looked like he had caught a tropical disease. Very messy but good fun.

Last but not least we did a Christmas cook out, which involved cooking bread twists with Mincemeat filling or chicken and cranberry. Some interesting combinations were used. As much filling as possible was rolled into these twists, so much so that they generally fell apart. I can only assume that the scouts don't get fed at home or have no idea when their next meal will be!! No one was food poisoned, which was a bonus!!.

On top of all this, we have also done the Global Challenge, Electronics Badge, Promise Challenge and finished the DIY badge.

A very good term with a lot of effort made by all.

## **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 from 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 Alannah 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.

Akela

## **Cub Report Spring 2012**

Deb Parker, Cub Scout Leader

Last term mainly saw saws, drills and hammers and paint brushes working hard, as the cubs did their DIY badge. Their faces were fantastic when they were wrapping them up for Christmas. We hope you liked them. Earlier in the term they made some great models of different places in Wokingham. Then we laid out a road map of Wokingham town centre on the floor in the HQ, that's when it got a little worrying about where they think buildings are. Hopefully we will be able to clarify things a little better when we go for a town visit this term.

Toffee apples eventually worked really well, once Akela got the amounts right in the ingredients. Other things we did last term were senses evening, group fireworks and quiz night.

## **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 2013**

Kim Linder, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and  
Penny McBain, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

As was agreed 18 months ago this was to be our last term as Beaver Leaders and yet again unfortunately the colony was at it's smallest for a long time. However we had another great term of activities planned and with the finding of two new leaders we were able to take on a couple of new Beavers who have settled in well.

As a colony the Beavers worked on their Science badge with two evenings of very interesting experiments. Other indoor activities included games, creating edible campfires, a visit from circus scene, Christmas crafts, guy making for the annual bonfire and a code breaking evening learning Morse code.

Away from the HQ we did a couple of hikes, one of which around Dinton Pastures made us realise what a great bunch of Beaver Scouts we have at 1st Wokingham. They all followed instructions and behaved brilliantly in a very difficult situation, which prompted us to award them all with certificates and badges of merit. Our thanks go to the parents with us on that evening in particular. A further, thankfully much less eventful, hike near the hut had the Beavers playing wide games in the dark and trying out their 'night vision'. Some of the Beavers also attended the Remembrance Parade in Wokingham and again were a credit to 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham.

We finished the term with a fantastic evening 'Sno-tubing' at John Nike where everyone had a great time and Penny and I were able to say 'goodbye' as leaders. We were both truly touched and overwhelmed by the lovely 'goodbye and thank you' gifts and cards from the Beavers and their parents. The flowers and calendars with quotes and pictures from the Beavers were such a lovely thought and I know that we will both miss you all.

Jo and Jen the new Beaver leaders have been attending our meetings for the last half of the term and have got to know the Beavers and vice versa. We are sure that they will enjoy their roles and that 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Beavers will go from strength to strength.

This term we had cause to question on a couple of occasions the medical, information and contact sheets filled in for each child on entry to Beavers. It is imperative that the information the Leaders hold is correct so that they are aware of any potential risks and indeed able to contact people in case of emergency. I know that all the forms were checked last term but I would request that all parents make sure the information held remains up to date.

A HUGE thank you has to be said to all those parents who have helped us by coming along to our meetings. Penny and I couldn't have done it without you and have really appreciated your support.

## **Fireworks and Winter Carnival**

The Group Exec would like to express their thanks to all who took part in the Group Firework Evening and the Wokingham Town Winter Carnival. We had Leaders from all sections, parents and children all playing their part to make sure both these events were successful.

The Winter Carnival made a profit for us and special thanks are due to Darren Hewitt and Barclays Bank. 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.

## 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.

NOTE: The list below includes the May Fayre which is a major fund raising event for the group. This year we need a parent, or parents, to take charge of this event. Exec members that have done it in the past can pass on the plans and experience to whoever comes forward. Without a volunteer this event will not happen.

<b>9<sup>th</sup> March 2013</b>	Fund raising	Group Quiz
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April 2013</b>	Young People	St. George's Day Event
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>	Fund raising	May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre)
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>	Young People	Cub Camp
<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2013</b>	Fund Raising	Beetle Drive
<b>12<sup>th</sup> July 2013</b>	Social	BBQ

## 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 2013 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
1	16 Feb	17 Feb	
2	23 Mar	24 Mar	
3	18 May	19 May	
4	22 Jun	23 Jun	
5	7 Sep	8 Sep	
6	12 Oct	13 Oct	
7	16 Nov	17 Nov	

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

## **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 101 and the hut address is  
1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Scout Hut  
Redlands Farm Park  
Ewendons 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)