

## *FIRSTNEWS* THE NEWSLETTER FOR 1st WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

### Spring Term 2018



### Bring on 2018!

We hope you are ready and raring to go.... Our section leaders have a jam-packed programme for you all – full of adventure, interest and challenge. We hope you enjoy it.

Thank you so much to all of you who helped to clean and re-paint our hut. It was a great team effort and the results speak for themselves. We now have a much cleaner and smarter hut to gather in. Thank you to you all.

The rollout of OSM across our group is proving very successful. Feedback we have had from you shows that it is much easier for parents to pay for subs, camps and activities – and to keep track of what is coming. Thank you for your patience with any teething problems and please do remember that you can also use this system to track progress towards the gaining of badges.

We had a great turn out at Wokingham's **Remembrance Day parade** on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you for your support – particularly with the chaos we are all currently enjoying in the town centre.

## Chairman's Report

Happy New Year to one and all. I hope your festive time was fun.

A big thank you to all of our teams and supporters for everything we've achieved in 2017. It was a very successful year - both in Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and for 1st Wokingham as a group, with the valiant effort of raising the necessary funds for our new roof.

We hope you enjoy 2018 as you did last year. We are certainly moving forward as a group and I look forward to seeing and hearing all the activities for 2018.

Kind Regards

Shane O'Reilly, Chairman 1st Wokingham

## Fundraising Update

We had two major fundraising events last term: the famous 1st Wokingham Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display held on Tuesday 7th November and our stall at the Winter Carnival on Sunday 26th November. A number of our group also had great fun packing Christmas trees, whilst raising money. Both of these events were a big success – in terms of raising much needed funds (which help us run our fantastic programmes) and promoting our group to the wider community. Thank you to all those who helped make these events a success.

Our next major event will be the **Wokingham May Fayre on 7<sup>th</sup> May** – watch this space for how you can help.

Fundraising is essential to our group and we are always grateful to those who help. If you think this is an area you are able to get more involved in to support our group, please email [lizziehewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:lizziehewitt@btinternet.com).

### Party Time!

#### Did you know?

You can hire the hut for children's birthday parties. It's a great space for running around in and is just as suitable for a disco as it is a football party. Rates are extremely reasonable too!

Contact Anna Birrell for more details and bookings:  
[anna.birrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anna.birrell@hotmail.co.uk)

### Get the latest

#### news

Our website is regularly updated. Have a look at [www.firstwokingham.org.uk](http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk)

## Section News

### Beavers

At the end of the Autumn term we said goodbye to 5 Beavers who swam up to Cubs, 4 of whom were awarded with the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Big congratulations to James W, Edward R, Eshan and Alex J. We were also very proud that many of our Beavers completed all the activities for, and were awarded with, the Berkshire County *Project Africa* Badge towards the end of last term.

At the start of this Spring term, we welcomed 8 new Beavers to our colony. We now have 26 Beavers. Welcome to Callum, Nathan, Joshua, Harriet, Alex, Reuben, Timo and Leo.

This term we are focussing on the Global Issues Activity Badge, looking at fair trade products, clean and safe water, endangered animals, recycling and conservation.

On 30th January, we welcomed *Oojamflip Circus*. It was great fun and all Beavers got stuck in, trying to spin plates and juggle balls, hoola hooping and having a go at many other activities.

During the second half of the term, the Beavers will be testing their football skills with a difference - doing deaf football. We will be joining in with the Six Nations, trying out rugby, and getting into this year's Commonwealth Games with our Australia Evening.

We are currently planning our schedule for the summer term and it's looking to be very busy both in and around the hut. We will also be joining the other sections of 1st Wokingham for the Family Camp.



### Cubs

Cubs are focusing on the Teamwork Challenge badge this term. As part of this, the Cubs were given the opportunity to choose what they'd like to do one evening. They unanimously chose Gravity Force! We are also going to Wokefield Park in February to do laser tag, which has been our most requested repeat activity by the Cubs.

It's also good to see that our Cubs' gardening efforts can now be seen – our bulbs planted around the hut are starting to make an appearance for Spring!

It really is a fun packed term with team building activities, archery, a hike, pancake making, a visit to an ambulance station and a District swimming gala on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.



### Scouts

We had an interesting term before Christmas, doing all the following: Outdoor Cooking, a visit to Coral Reef, Wide Games, Woggle Making, Pimping Go-karts, Bonfire night, Pioneering Challenge Evening, plus a variety of crafts. No doubt the scouts told you what was involved and what they got up to. We issued approximately 45 badges. As a result, some scouts are well on their way to getting the Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Unfortunately, this term we have lost a lot of the experienced older scouts due to school and other activity commitments. However, this has allowed some of the younger scouts to gain promotion into roles of Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. We have every confidence that they will rise to the challenge and prove how great they are.

This term, we will be doing a lot of different activities, ranging from cooking to Laser Quest, hikes and a science evening. We have also gained 2 new leaders who will take up the roles of Sectional Support Assistants – so a big welcome to Lizzie and Jon. They will be a great asset to the troop and group as a whole.

**A special request to parents:** If you have any skills that we could use you for to sign off activity badges, then could you please let me know. Your help would be greatly appreciated. All the badges are on the Scout Association website:

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64,779>

Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the team Graham, Harry and Matt plus the whole of the Exec for their continued support.



## Quartermaster Requests for Help

### Vandalism

We have experienced some episodes of vandalism recently. Apart from being a great nuisance, it costs money to repair the damage made to our hut.

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:

1st Wokingham Scout Hut  
Redlands Farm Park  
Evendons Lane  
Wokingham  
RG41 4DX

If you have any questions, then please call Keith on 0118 978 8518. Thank you in advance.

### Any unwanted pillow cases?

When the children go to camp we always have a first aid tent with equipment ready. Part of the equipment is made up of sleeping bags and a pillow. Whilst we have the sleeping bags and a sealed sterilised pillow we have run out of pillowcases. For some reason, they always get lost...

If you have an old pillowcase, of any colour, then please leave it at the hut and let Keith know it is there. Many thanks.

## World Scout Jamboree in 2019

We are very pleased to let you know that Harry McBain has been selected as part of the Berkshire Contingent to attend the World Scout Jamboree in the USA in 2019. We believe he is the first Scout from 1st Wokingham to attend such an event. To attend he must personally fundraise £3950 to not only pay for his own camp fees and flights, but also to help a scout from a less developed country to attend.

Harry's fundraising is going well. He has secured enough money for his next instalment due in March. Next up is the June instalment of £800. Harry is planning a **concert on 9th June at Wokingham Methodist Church and starring The MillsTones Band**. This jazz and swing band practise at our hut and played for us last year when our group was fundraising for the new roof. They were fantastic and the concert was enjoyed by all ages. Tickets will be £10 each. Please send Harry a message if you would like to support this event.

Harry is also thinking about running some movie nights for Beaver and Cub age children on a Saturday late afternoon/early evening. The price will include a packed tea, so once you pick up, your child will be ready to go home to bed! Please let Harry know your thoughts on this one...

On a personal note, Harry is going to walk the length of the Thames Path, with his family, over several weekends – to improve his fitness and give himself a challenge. He is looking for companies who would sponsor him and, in return, he and his family will wear t-shirts with their logos on. If you think this may be something your workplace could be interested in, please let him know.

Harry can be contacted via [harry@harrymcbain.co.uk](mailto:harry@harrymcbain.co.uk)

## Useful Information

### Termly Subscriptions

**Payment is due at or before 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.

**Gift Aid:** We have registered to claim back Gift Aid on subscription payments. If you have not already submitted your form, please do return it as soon as possible. (It costs you no extra payment; the government pays us on your behalf on presentation of the form).

### Dates for Your Diary

Please save the following dates. More information can be found at the events calendar on our website.

Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2018	St George's Day Parade
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Wokingham's May Fayre
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Gillwell Funday for Beavers and Cubs
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Family Camp weekend and AGM

If you wish to submit material for the next edition of the newsletter, or have any comments about this, then please contact us at [firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk)