
Welcome to the current edition of First News, the newsletter of the 1st Wokingham (St Paul's) Scout Group.

Chairman's report by Bill Forfar

Building changes

Well it was quite a summer for the HQ, the roof was cleared of accumulated moss and then the new windows and grilles were put in. John Allen spent a couple of days decorating the rooms on the back corridor. Thanks John that is quite a backbreaking job with an arm overhead for lengthy periods.

Raising Money

All this cost us quite a lot of money from our reserves so we need to run some money making enterprises this year to replenish the coffers. The first one will be the May Fair Tea Tent on Monday 7th May from 10am to 5pm. Please make a note in your diary to help us on the stall for an hour or two. Another way we raise money is from hiring out the HQ for parties or to other groups for regular meetings. There is a Dance Band on Mondays, Morris Men on Thursdays and Crusaders Youth Group on Fridays. This leaves the weekends available for children's parties or other events. If you know of a group who could use the HQ regularly at the weekend then please give me a call on 0118 961 9655. Day time use is also a possibility as long as it doesn't overlap the Beaver, Cub or Scout sessions. Hire of tables and benches for your home BBQ is another possibility so remember to ask a leader about borrowing things, we can probably help you as long as Cub or Scout Camps do not preclude it

Success

The boys have been successful again at the District Cub Quiz where they came third. Well done.

ADO – Alcohol Designation Order

The two summers has seen more and more under-age drinking at Redlands Park and Leslie Sears Park (near Craill Close) in the evenings. At a public meeting in Sept 2006 I and other local residents have asked the Wokingham Town Council to pursue an Alcohol Designation Order which would effectively ban alcohol in an open container from certain areas. The Police also support this action. There is not too much cooperation between WTC and Wokingham District Council (now Wokingham Borough Council) and now it appears that WDC/WBC will NOT immediately support the initiative and insist on a study. Here is the reply to Keith Abnett, Wokingham Town Clerk, who has steadfastly supported the initiative to get the ADO. It was sent from Helen Grimbleby on 12th Dec 2006. Sorry it is so long but I felt you should all see the full letter. This foresees a delay until AT LEAST DEC 2007. The request was passed to WDC/WBC in Sept 2006 after a public meeting in the Town Hall.

Letter to Town Clerk

Dear Mr Abnett,

I have been asked to respond to a letter from you to Paul Turrell about alcohol designation orders. As you will be aware, the local authority may make orders to curb the problems brought about by irresponsible drinking in public places. The effect of such orders is to make it an offence for adults both to continue drinking and to fail to surrender alcohol in an open container when so requested. The order also gives powers to destroy alcohol which has been surrendered. Enforcement is by the police.

The police have the same powers for under-18s without the need for the local authority to make such orders.

The effectiveness of any orders depends both on the local authority's willingness to designate public places and the police to enforce the orders therefore, this matter was considered by the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership on 7 December 2006.

It was agreed that alcohol designation orders may have a place amongst other measures to tackle disorder and anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that the proposal to consider such orders should be considered but would need to follow two key developments both planned in the next few months:

1. Anti-social behaviour strategy group for Wokingham
2. Building capacity for crime and anti-social behaviour analysis

The partnership was very clear that the work to look at such orders should be on a district wide basis focusing on hotspot areas. I would like to draw your attention to guidance on this matter available at www.crimereduction.gov.uk.

Some key features of the guidance are :-

1. It is not possible to make blanket orders and the local authority must be satisfied that public nuisance, annoyance or disorder has been associated with public drinking in the areas and that the powers to make the order are not used disproportionately
2. Consultation with the police is required before an order to seek views on the nature of the problem and the appropriateness of the powers giving consideration to issues such as displacement
3. Consultation is required with a number of other bodies including licensees, residents in the area and neighbouring parish and town councils
4. Public notices are required to be published and responses considered

In summary, the community safety partnership is willing to undertake the first steps towards designation orders across Wokingham District by carrying out and considering analysis and undertaking consultation amongst its stakeholders. This cannot be done immediately as there is no analytical capacity or appropriate strategy group to take this forward within the Partnership at this time. These matters are being addressed and will be resolved in the New Year.

Once this work is completed it would be appropriate for the Council's Executive to consider the findings and consider the merits of further expenditure upon consultation and publicity as required before orders can be made.

Should the open spaces you highlight prove to be appropriate for such orders we would not expect to be able to follow the full procedure to have orders in place by summer 2007. The end of 2007 would be a more realistic timetable.

Helen Grimbleby Community Safety Manager Wokingham District Council

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A third summer of disturbance and damage is untenable for the residents near Leslie Sears and Redlands Farm and I shall be working with them to get this ADO passed asap. PLEASE PETITION YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUPPORT AN ADO FOR REDLANDS FARM PARK AND LESLIE SEARS PARK. The other areas of Wokingham can be studied by WDC/WBC and a decision for them taken later.

Bill Forfar

Scouter in Charge report by Debie Parker

[As we are still looking for a new Group Scout Leader (GSL) Debbie is acting as Scouter in Charge. Ed]

Being involved in all 3 groups has shown that it has been a hectic time since our last reports and from what I've seen all sections are enjoying themselves

Well done to the Scouts section as for the first time in a long time they have worked towards, and have

achieved merit badges. So well done Sian for coming up with the programme and for carrying it out.

Well done to those that are joining in the Centenary Camp and lets hope for good weather as there are lots of outdoor activities.

Can I please ask you to join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 3rd July at 7-00 PM, it does make it easier if we have people there. Details can be found at [Events](#).

Can you all please take note that we do have a healthy waiting list of boys for all three sections desperate to join us. Therefore, if your son misses 3 nights in a row with no contact to the leader in charge of your section, then we will assume that they have left, and will give another boy a chance to join.

Scouts

Leaders

Sian has now gained her provisional Warrant, so she is able to run Scout sessions without help from the Cub leaders. Our thanks go to the Cub leaders who have supported us unconditionally during this difficult time.

Parent Rota

The parent rota which was introduced when Sian took over the group has been a great success. Our thanks go to all those parents who have kindly given up their Tuesday evenings to help us. Many of you have helped several times and we hope that you will continue to support us in this way.

Many of the events we have run over the last term have required a significant amount of adult helpers in order to provide a good level of discreet supervision. Without your help some of these events would not have happened. THANK YOU!

Patrols

The new patrol groups are now up and running. We now have 6 patrols instead of 4. Most of the patrols have 5 boys in them. Deciding upon the patrol groupings has taken time and involved rather a lot of experimentation to see how different boys worked together. Each patrol has a range of ages from experienced Scout through to new members who have just arrived from Cubs.

Badge Work

The theme for last term was Emergency Aid. We ran several sessions which aimed to give boys the skills necessary to calmly help at the scene of an accident. Fourteen of them have now successfully achieved their Emergency Aid badge.

At the Hut

The boys are always happy when they are eating, so Shrove Tuesday was a really good excuse to indulge in some pancakes smothered in various sticky sauces. As usual the boys made the pancake batter and cooked it on the gas burners. There seemed to be far more edible pancakes than in previous years, so I can only assume that they are getting the hang of this cooking caper.

To challenge our cooking skills further, Sian managed to persuade a very helpful butcher in Hook to supply us with a sausage making kit for 32!. This very kind gentleman even gave us some instructions on how to make them. It was messy and stuffing the mixture into the skins was a real team effort. The results looked good and were surprisingly tasty.

Outdoor activities

We held two wide games in the dark during the term. The first was Capture the Flag at Limmerhill and the second Capture the Leader on the local field.

Out and About

In the first half of the term we all went skating to the Bracknell ice rink, well the boys and two brave parents did. Everyone enjoyed themselves and thankfully they all returned home with only a couple of minor bruises.

In the second half of the term we went to Coral Reef. This was great fun, although it did take some time for the boys to get over their fear of going down the mist filled flumes in the dark. Once they managed this with some coaxing from their friends, there was no stopping them!

Cubs

We had an exciting spring term with lots going on as normal. We have been running with 28 boys and lost a couple more as they moved up to Scouts at the beginning of term which we were upset about as they were great characters, and their parents gave lots of support. Our loss, Scouts gain.

We have done the first part of the Scientist badge and will complete the second half this term, so don't miss one evening or you could lose out on a badge. The boys have learnt about saints, flags and how scouting has changed in 100 years. Thanks to Chill and Kaa who together clock up 120 years of scouting.

We have cooked pancakes and raced with them, made lots of Easter nests which we hope you enjoyed, and Mum's, that you enjoyed your Mother's Day card. Sorry about the rugby theme on a few, we did try and get them to do hearts and flowers, honest.

As you can see we have planned this term's programme and please be warned that things could change around, just pray that the weather is kind to us .

Beavers

Becca House is now Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) and with the help from the other leaders, as well as continued support from the Parent's Rota, look after 18 boys at Colony meetings. The number of boys remains constant as those that "swim up" to Cubs are quickly replaced from the waiting list.

The spring term went very well and included evenings on Road Safety, Keeping Healthy and Science. Another exciting programme has been planned for the summer term including a day at the Centennial Camp.

Forthcoming Events

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

7th May 2007	Fundraising May Fayre (Wokingham Town Centre)
26th - 28th May 2007	Boys District Centennial Camp (Binfield)
3rd Jul 2007	Social AGM (HQ)
7th Jul 2007	Social Reunion BBQ (HQ)
28th Jul - 5th Aug 2007	Boys Scout Camp (Hay-on-Wye, Wales)
25th to 28th Aug 2007	Boys Cub Camp (Ellis Hill Farm)

QUIZ - held on 10th March

The Quiz in March was really well attended. Our thanks go to those of you who filled the tables and waged intellectual warfare for a few hours. We are all better informed thanks to Carol and Keith Winter for the insight into some strange snippets of knowledge, especially about the National Sports of Mongolia (wrestling), Cuba (baseball) and Bhutan (Archery). The food was ably produced by Mary Gillan who really needs more help, sharing the cooking and serving for 60 people makes it a less onerous task so please volunteer to her for the next we run a Quiz. The evening raised about £260 for Scout Funds so it was well worth the effort.

Are you a budding Quiz Master?

Is there anyone out there who would like to set next year's mental test? By changing the Quiz Master(s) it ensures the subjects are varied. All it takes is 8 rounds of 10 questions and a longer one for the "marathon". Don't be shy just contact one of the leaders.

PLEASE HELP

at the May Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

We need your help at the May Fayre to staff our stall selling refreshments. This is our major fund raising event of the year and importantly it brings in money to the group from outside of the group.

The longer you can help the better, but even if it's only for one hour it will be great.

If you can help out please fill in the rota on the notice board inside the hut or call Mary Gillan on 0118 978 9737.

Online at: <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk>