

Newsletter - First News - Summer 2008

The newsletter of the 1st Wokingham (St Paul's) Scout Group. See us online at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk>

Be there or miss out

Our next event is the Wokingham Town Walking Quiz on Sunday June 8th. This is an easy Sunday morning walk to see how much you know about our town. Takes a maximum of two hours. See [Wokingham Town Walking Quiz](#) for full details and entry form. Entry form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Chairman's report by Bill Forfar

A	Leadership and Committee	How you can help
B	Quiz	Join us next time
C	Costs and the future	How can we contain them?

A Leadership and Committee

Leadership

We had an eventful spring in leadership terms. Beavers are running well again with Becca and the new leader Penny McBain. Please keep helping on the Parent Rota for Beavers to reduce the workload on the leaders.

Change of Quartermaster

Thanks go to John Allen for his stint as QM. Now Keith Winter and Dick Moodie are sharing the work of cataloguing, tidying, cleaning and repairing.

Leaders and Committee

Remember that your Leaders and Committee members are unpaid. See the booklet titled "First Info" for their names, contact details, session times and what each section aims to provide. By the way if you haven't got this please email me for a copy – bill.forfar@ntlworld.com

We need and welcome help from parents/guardians in running the Scout Group. Please give this some thought before the AGM for we need current parents to take over from the "Old Guard" before very much longer...

The main areas are –

- I Parent Helper at a Beaver/Cub/Scout session to assist the Leader in running an activity. Don't worry if you were not a Scout/Guide because you will be given instructions on what to do
- I Giving a chat to Beavers/Cubs/Scouts about your hobby or business
- I Joining the Committee. We are preparing outlines for the jobs your committee do and these will be posted on the web site as soon as they are complete. They will be ready and on display at the AGM. We will welcome your help with fundraising, maintenance, etc..

Please contact any one of the Leaders or Committee if you can offer help.

B Quiz in March

This was a successful event won by a former Scout parent (Peter Burden) and team. He has agreed to set the next quiz for Feb 2009. My thanks go to Dennis and Christine Artus for setting the quiz and to Mary Gillan for preparing the food. We would like to encourage more of the current parents to participate so if you cannot make up a 6 for a table then NEXT TIME, just add your name to the list on the notice board in the section "Needing Partners", the organisers will pair you up with others for this excellent social event (with a bit of competition as well of course).

C Costs / Subs / Fundraising

The Scout HQ was built in 1981 and is owned by 1st Wokingham Scout Group but the land is leased from Wokingham Town Council (This is the lot in the middle of town NOT at Shute End remember). Since we own the building then we are responsible for the insurance, heating, cleaning and maintenance. Our income derives from

1. Subscriptions
2. Letting the Hall
3. Fundraising
4. Occasional donations

We have three regular lettings to a Band who practice on Monday, Morris Dancers on Thursday and a Youth Group on Fridays. If you know of a group who needs a meeting place please let one of the committee know.

Fundraising helps keep the subscriptions low. Our major event is the May Fayre when we run a Tea Tent on Elms Field. My thanks go to all who manned the Stall and Baked-A-Cake. Unfortunately the profit has dropped over the last three years.

Therefore we are asking for
NEW IDEAS TO INCREASE THE INCOME
FROM FUNDRAISING

Please give us your ideas and suggestions.

The ideal way is to generate money from outside the group rather than have to increase subs – remember that

electricity is set to rise steeply and that's how we heat the HQ.

Lease from Wokingham Town Council

This expires on 23rd June 2009 and we will have to start negotiating with WTC for a new lease or extension by the end of 2008. The last one ran from 1981, a curious length I know, and we shall be using the Legal Dept of the Scouting Association to help during the process. Is there any parent/guardian who has expertise in this area?

Future Major Expenses

This does not cover the replacement of Tents and Camping Equipment which is taken care of separately. Your committee recently spent money on new windows and security grilles which cost over £4,500. We build up a reserve for such expenses and are now adding to it for the next repair which will surely arise. Things we have identified for future replacement include –

- I Floor Screed. The cement floor covering under the carpet in the Main Hall is beginning to crumble again in places and will need re-laying soon. The last such problem gave us the yellow and black patch in the middle of the floor.
- I Roof. We are not sure how long this will last and, with tongue in cheek, are wondering if a handy tree could damage it. Not that we would want the upset caused by an unplanned hole in the roof of course.

Group Scout Leader

Debs Parker. GSL

It has been an exciting start to the year that is for sure. The boys have dealt really well with all the leader changing around and hopefully they haven't suffered. Thank you to all those parents who came forward with ideas on how to make things better and also giving up the odd evening or two to help out. It has made a massive difference to Beavers, along with the three scouts who have become young leaders and help out before going to scouts. We are grateful as leaders for your help and who knows it may rub off onto you and we will see more of you, fingers crossed.

St. George's Day Parade, well done to all those who turned up, we were one of the largest groups there and the practice marching definitely paid off. I had quite a number from outside the group mention how good we looked, which is lovely to hear. So for the Scouts Sian is sorting your prize, and for Beavers and Cubs we are doing an afternoon of activity along with tea and finishing with a camp fire on the 21st June so put the date in your diaries.

Look forward to see you all on the Town Walk on Sunday June 8th and again at the Group BBQ and AGM on the 4th July and lets hope we have good weather soon for all the outdoor activities we have planned this term.

Scouts

supplied by Editor

During the spring term we did lots of activities and worked on badges. We started to build go-carts and with those that had been completed had a race around an obstacle course. Thanks to Dave for his excellent design and pre-fabrication of the carts. These have been made in such a way that we can reuse them in future years. Shrove Tuesday pancake making was a great success and the results were all eaten up.

Cubs

Debs Parker. GSL

Last term went off well with a great entertainment evening, never knew we had such actors in our midst. We also did all the normal things like St. Patrick's evening, pancakes and Easter; which all went well. The boys did a quiz evening and 6 boys represented us in the District Quiz in 2 teams. So well done to both teams and congratulations to the team that came 2nd, the best place to be. Yes I do know we run the event but promise there was no cheating going on. I know that the winning team from 4th who represented the District in the County Quiz, won that as well so we were up against a hard team to beat.

Beavers

Becca House. Beaver Scout Leader

Unfortunately I did miss the start of the spring term, but after a short break I am now back and in the swing of things. Thankfully our Group Scout Leader Debbie Parker, having been thrown in at the deep end, took over, ran the show and did an excellent job. Thanks also to our Scout Leader Sian who came and ran several evenings. We also managed to recruit Penny McBain as my new Assistant Beaver Scout Leader who is currently in the process of becoming a warranted leader. Well done Penny! I still have invaluable help from ex Scout Donal McKormack who always manages to make us laugh. Also 3 new Scouts attend regularly to help and one other Scout is about to become invested as a Young Beaver Leader. However, we still couldn't do it without help from our parents/carers! At the start of each term I am holding meetings at the HQ for about 10 minutes just to run through our programme so that you can see exactly what we are doing and whether you can contribute anything on the night. It allows me to highlight any particular activities that require extra adult support such as on off-site visits etc..

Last term the Beavers all took part in the "Health and Fitness Badge" which is one of their Challenge Badges. They

had to learn about healthy food, monitor their heartbeat, and take part in games and exercises. We also went for a walk to Maiden Erleigh Lake in Earley (and managed to find time to go to the park too.)

Also the local Circus dropped in to teach us Circus Skills so we had lots of fun learning to juggle and spin plates.

On St Patrick's Day we celebrated by making up limericks and finding Shamrocks. Penny came up with the fabulous idea of the beavers dressing as Leprechauns.

Quiz Night

Once again our group quiz night was a huge success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all the parents and leaders that helped make this successful event.

In particular we thank Dennis and Christine Artus for setting the questions.

The winners of this years quiz led by Peter Burden have volunteered to set next years quiz for which we thank them.

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.

8th Jun 2008	Social	Town Walking Quiz (Wokingham Town Centre). A gentle stroll around Wokingham Town Centre looking for answers to the provided clues.
4th Jul 2008	Social	AGM & BBQ (HQ)
26th Jul - 2nd Aug 2008	Boys	Scout Camp (Isle of Purbeck, Dorset)
23rd to 26th Aug 2008	Boys	Cub Camp (Ellis Hill Farm)
5th Nov 2008	Social	Group Fireworks

WANTED AD

Thank you to the family that donated us a replacement Microwave. It was much appreciated.

We are still looking for:

1) Someone to organise the sale of Second Hand Kit

When the boys grow out of kit, shirts, jumpers, waterproofs, etc., the under-sized kit usually gets thrown away. We are looking to start up again, a second hand kit stock so that others can benefit from good quality unwanted items at reasonable cost. To do this we need a parent to take charge of this for us. Is anyone willing to do this? If you are please contact one of the leaders.

DATA PROTECTION

In order to facilitate the electronic dissemination of termly subscription reminders the 1st Wokingham group has collected email addresses of most of the parents/guardians of our boys. Please note that this information is used solely to communicate with you and will never be supplied to any third parties. We will not disclose your email address to any other email recipient.



Walking Quiz around Wokingham Town Centre

This is an easy Sunday morning walk to see how much you know about Wokingham Town Centre.
If you would like to take part, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

We would like to join in the Wokingham Wander on Sunday 8th June.
Please complete and hand slip with £5 to any leader.

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

Please make cheques payable to 1st Wokingham (St. Paul's) Scout Group



1st Wokingham Centenary Tea Towel

Our Group Centenary tea towel, made from unbleached cotton and supplied in a cellophane sleeve, is still available at £3.50 each, or £3 if you buy 2 or more. A sample is on the notice board in the entrance hall of the hut.
If you would like to order, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

I would like to ordertea towel(s).

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

Please make cheques payable to 1st Wokingham (St. Paul's) Scout Group



1st Wokingham Centenary DVD

Our Group Centenary DVD, is still available at £7.50 each This contains pictures of the group and boys covering the whole of our history.

If you would like to order, please fill in [this form](#) and hand completed form and payment to any leader.

I would like to orderDVD(s).

Name:

Telephone Number:

Section: Beavers Cubs Scouts: (please tick appropriate section)

Email:

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