

Newsletter - First News - Summer 2009

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

Chairman's report by Bill Forfar

Lease from Wokingham Town Council

This expires on 23rd June 2009 and we have managed to agree in principle to a new 20 year lease with Wokingham Town Council (WTC). The first draft from WTC is promising and I am discussing it with CJ Giles our solicitors in Wokingham. There will be more news on this in due course.

May Fayre Pancake Stall

Thanks to a stalwart band comprised of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, parents, Leaders and Exec committee members we managed to raise over £500 for Group Funds which was well above last year's profit. We have always tried to raise money from outside the Group rather than directly from parents and encourage this approach to be used in the future as well. This event raised the profile of 1st Wokingham in the Town with members of the public, the Town Council and the Wokingham Lions and should help the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers who assisted on the day to gain a badge for Community Service.

Chefs : Alex Spalding, River Phillips, Robert Howell, Matt House, David Race, Will Robson,
Sam Dawson

Helpers : Mary Gillan, Tom and Paul Quinlan, Hugh Spalding, Brian Phillips, Rowan and Charles Paumelle, Graeme Robson, Daniel and Phillip Jones, Graham Dawson

Let's go for another £500 next year as well.

Chairman's Farewell

After 18 years as your Chairman I have decided to resign. When I joined in June 1991 the Group had two Scout Troops, two Cub Packs and one Venture Scout Section (over 16 year olds). Today we have evolved to have one Scout, one Cub and one Beaver Section but with roughly the same number in the Group overall. The age profile has of course reduced in our Group as in the Scout movement as a whole. Agreeing the new lease with WTC has been a major target for me and since I am now officially an OAP the Group needs a younger Chairperson with fresh ideas to lead you onward and upward into the 100th year of 1st Wokingham Scouts. I wish you all well in the future and will give help if I can on any matters where I have specialised knowledge. Finally I want to thank the past and present Exec, Leaders, Parents, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, my wife, life style coach, Tony Blair and of course Peter Duncan (does that cover everyone?)

Group Scout Leader

Debs Parker. GSL

Hope you are all well, and not planning to travel to Mexico!! I can't believe we are in the summer term already and camps are now well in the progress of being planned. I hope the children who are attending them will all have a great time, let's just keep the fingers crossed for good weather.

This term the children will be out a lot more doing the outdoor side of Scouting, so be ready for that but also be ready that programmes may change a lot if we don't get the weather we want.

A thank you to those of you who helped on our stall at the May Fayre. From what I saw the children looked like they were having great fun with cooking pancakes. This is something that does help us raise money to keep everything running, which now is more important, as thanks to Bill he has got the council to agree to another 20 year lease. A big thank you Bill, for all your hard work on this.

Also as you may have seen we have had lots of publicity in the Wokingham Times, from the fantastic photo, which I took, of the Cubs with the daffodils on the front page. To where the Beavers had 2 photos, from St. George's Day parade, where we had one of the best turn outs for a long time. So well done on all fronts it all helps the group. [Ed: see picture gallery on our web site at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/pictures/>]

Later this term (3rd July) is our group BBQ, please can I ask you to put the date in your diary and do come along, it is a great evening. I do know we are cheeky to add the AGM into this, but it is only a little part of the event, and we aren't asking you to attend 2 events.

Scouts

Supplied by Editor

Three Scouts from our group took part in the County Cooking Competition, this was the first time we have ever entered the competition. The Scouts had to lay a table correctly, prepare, cook, and serve their food consisting of a starter, main course and dessert. Unfortunately we did not win but we did get awards for the Best Starter and Best Dessert. Well done. [ED: see pictures at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/pictures/s210209/>]. We also took part in a Night Hike, Donuts at the John Nike Centre and compass work to aid with our walking expeditions.

Stop Press from Sian: The Troop web site has moved and is now attached to the 1st Wokingham Group web site. You can access it via <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk> (Scouts and then Troop).

Cubs

Debs Parker. GSL

We have just had another fun filled term, from learning how to read map reference points around the Headquarters, to a quiz evening, swimming and of course a great evening doing fund raising for Red Nose day. Thank you for my great new look as you can see on the web page. It took me 7 washes to get my hair looking normal again. Though it did help the fund raising, along with the well run side stalls a brilliant £105 was donated to Red Nose Day. Well done Cubs.

The quiz night got a great team of Cole, Ben and Glynn who represented us at the District Cub Quiz, and came in with the best place (that ´s what I think anyway) second in the district, so well done to them.

We also did the same at the Cubs District Swimming Gala, thanks to Sam, Oliver, Daniel, Callum, Tom, Jake, Matthew, Ben and Matthew. It was an evening that finished my voice off, but it was worth it to see the Cub ´s faces when they finished their races

Beavers

Supplied by Editor

During the spring term we completed lots of activities that made up parts of the various Challenge Badges. We also had a great night hike, armed with wellingtons and torches, that was part of the Explorers Badge ending with drinks and biscuits at the hut.

The Experiment Activity Badge allowed us to; make a volcano, make lava lamps, Celery that changes colour and have fun with eggs.

Circus Scene visited us and everyone enjoyed learning circus skills like juggling and using a diablo.

Cooking skills were practised when we all made Pancakes which we then cooked and ate. [ED: see pictures at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/pictures/b240209/>]

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.

14th Jun - 15th Jun 2009	Young People	Father & Cub Camp (HQ)
3rd Jul 2009	Social	AGM & BBQ (HQ)
11th Jul - 12th Jul 2009	Group Participation	Scout Hut 3 yearly Spring Clean
25th Jul - 1st Aug 2009	Young People	Scout Camp (Peak District)
29th Aug - 31st Aug 2009	Young People	Cub Camp (Ellis Hill Farm)
4th Nov 2009	Social	Group Fireworks

Hut Cleaning Help

In the last issue we asked for parent ´s to volunteer to clean the hut. Many thanks for those people who have already completed their session and to those that are still to do their session. We still have a couple of sessions to fill so please step forward and fill in the gaps.

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!

Cleaning Session	Date	Child	Volunteers
1	Sat 7 Mar		No Volunteers, Dick and Keith
2	Sun 29 Mar	Beaver Daniel Cub Callum	Claire & Patrick King
3	Sun 26 Apr	Scout Daniel	Vicky & Mark Allen
4	Sun 24 May	Scout Nicholas	Heather & Mike Thurston
5	Sat 20 Jun	Cub Elliot Scout Jordan	Anne Bains
7	Sat 15 Aug		No Cleaning required this month
8	Sat 5 Sep		No Cleaning required this month

11	Sat 28 Nov	Beaver Joseph Cub Matthew	Ruth & Jim Carless
12	Sat 26 Dec		No Cleaning required this month
Cleaning Session	Saturday all day	Sunday all day	
6	11 Jul	12 Jul	HUT SPRING CLEAN see below

We STILL need help on the following dates:

The hut will be available for cleaning all day on Saturday, all day the following Sunday and up until 7-45 PM on the following Monday.

Cleaning Session	Saturday all day	Sunday all day	Monday until 7-45PM
9	3 Oct	4 Oct	5 Oct
10	31 Oct	1 Nov	2 Nov

If you can help us the please contact Keith Winter via email at firstnews@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.

HUT SPRING CLEAN

Approximately every three years we hold a belated spring clean of our hut over a weekend and this year it is due. We will be holding the spring clean on 11th and 12th July and need as many people as possible to come and help out. Even if you can only spare an hour it will be great.

I am currently generating a list of everything that needs to be washed down, dusted etc. and will put this up in the hut soon. The biggest challenge we have is that the ceiling of the main hall needs painting. Due to its height this will have to be done via a tower. We have secured the usage of two towers and two people can work up each tower at once. For this painting, only over eighteen year olds can help and you must not be afraid of heights!.

Please book this date in your diaries and when the volunteer sheet goes up in the entrance hall please add your name or contact Keith Winter via email at firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk or telephone on 0118 978 8518 and join Scout Daniel and Heather Bennett who have already signed up.

WANTED AD

We are still looking for:

- 1) We now have a sufficient number of tea towels in the kitchen but we are very short of hand towels. Do you have any unwanted hand towels that you can donate? If you do please bring them along and give to a Leader.

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 young people. 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.