



FirstNews Summer 2013

Chairman's Report

Shane O'Reilly Chair

Welcome again to our Newsletter keeping you up to date with events and progress within First Wokingham Scout Group.

Summer is here, even though it doesn't feel like it yet!

All our sections are doing well; our young people are having fun and enjoying the great activities thanks to the dedication of our team.

Lastly I would take this opportunity to raise your awareness that we are a charity all run by volunteers. We closed our books March the 31st 2013 and we are in good shape. However our subs are the lowest in the area and extremely good value, we have been able to keep them low for some time due to the fund raising events organised by our executive.

Unfortunately we have recently had to cancel some events due to poor response, I would appeal to everyone to please get involved and attend as many events as you can. The fundraising is essential to the wellbeing of our group; we always welcome any help or ideas on fundraising so don't be shy. All assistance is greatly received and appreciated and further details on events and general assistance needed can be found on our website.

"The real way to gain happiness is to give it to others."
Baden-Powell

I wish you all a fun and warm summer.

Scout Report Spring 2013

Richard House, Assistant Scout Leader

Spring term saw us welcome 2 new Scouts and 1 cub, all 3 of which will be invested after the Easter Holidays. This will now swell us to 17, with 2 more scouts joining after Easter. We do currently have vacancies for scouts so if anyone knows of someone who would like to join, then please speak to a leader.

The term started with the usual games evening and a quick reminder of what uniform looks like and what behaviour we expected. We also sorted out patrols and had a general move about of personnel.

The programme for the term consisted of the following badges:

Craft Badge

Global Challenge

Creativity Challenge

Community Challenge

Swimmers Staged Badge

Hikes Away Staged Badge

I am currently trialling a new records system, so once I am fully operational, badges will be awarded in abundance. Please be patient in the meantime.

So what did we get up to....

Graham ran a woggle making evening, which actually took most of the evening. This involved using coloured wire to weave into a woggle shape, which can then be used with the group scarf. This was a very good way of challenging the scouts and getting them to focus and concentrate on the task in hand. Not all succeeded!

The following Tuesday saw us starting the Global Challenge, one of the badges that a scout has to complete to gain their Chief Scouts Gold Award. This was predominately based about understanding Global issues and how some issues are universal but other are unique to certain areas of the world. Again they were all challenged to think in a different way or from a differing point of view.

We also had a presentation from Matt (one of our Young Leaders) and some of his fellow Explorer Scouts regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. This was a great presentation with lots of info. I hope it encourages a few of our older scouts to think about doing the Bronze level and then move towards Gold.

Pancakes for the following week. Thankfully I wasn't there to see the mayhem or risk food poisoning, but as all returned for the next meeting and no one complained to me, I assume all went well and the scouts were happy. The HQ is still standing and all leaders are present and correct. All in all a success.

Graham and Harry arranged a hike/ramble. Which went on a little longer than planned due to a detour to avoid extreme danger. Humble apologies for being late back, but sometimes you can't account for changes in conditions, terrain or circumstances.

Sian ran a Mothering Sunday Evening and finished the Craft Badge, so I hope all you mums appreciate the hard work by your scout.

Last evening of the term saw us swimming down at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. Every one passed at least 1 stage, so well done to everyone and a special thank you to who ever it was that found Bens shoes and socks.

Cub Report Spring 2012

Deb Parker, Cub Scout Leader

I can't believe a term has gone already. Camping season is here, and outdoor activities hopefully every Wednesday night, if the weather plays ball.

Last term saw us start the term with a late Christmas party where Sausage and Chips went down very nicely. We did two nights out in the cold where we did Astronomer badge identifying different stars and learning about how we fit into the universe. We even managed to impress the District Cub Scout Leader with our knowledge. We completed our Creative Challenge Badge and have been on a Town quiz, which saw us finish the Local Knowledge badge too. Parents, don't worry I know that we haven't given them out yet with a few from last term and I have been promised that it will be sorted soon. Rikki does all the badges so if you do think your cubs has some that they can gain or has proof they have achieved some then please speak to him on a Wednesday, you also have his email so drop him a line.

We had a great night testing ourselves from making paper aeroplanes, writing our names upside down and backwards, tying knots, working out codes and even see how many smarties you can move in a minute with chopsticks. It may sound odd but with the noise in the hall it went down well and the four parents that helped that night really enjoyed themselves.

We had a night where we learnt about the saints. We been swimming and as always finished the term with chocolate. So what more can you ask for.

Now here is the not so good bit. Without YOU and your support this cub pack and Scout Group as a whole is struggling at the moment and it may even close. Which for me is a horrible thought as it has been part of my life for nearly 30 years, but I or the other leaders and Exec can't do it all. I know that there are other notes and bits going around on this topic, but I am hoping if you see it from a face you know it may go in. We need parents to support our fund raising, fill our CRB forms so that we can call on you from time to time to help out, and even help keep the hut going ie clean it. So please if you see something don't just push it aside and think someone else will do it so no need to worry about it. Do the opposite.

Beaver Report Spring 2013

Jennifer Moynihan Beaver Scout Leader

The Beavers had a great spring term with a lot of craft activities, including making bird feeders, decorating pots and planting bulbs. We successfully worked towards 2 badges - Health and Fitness and Faith.

At the end of term we went to visit St James's Church in Barkham as part of our Faith badge work and we had a great evening learning about the history of the church, the Easter story and having a paper aeroplane competition from the pulpit.

This term we hope to get out and about a lot more as the evenings are lighter and it will hopefully be warmer.

Many thanks to all the parents that have supported our evenings and in particular the 4 new volunteer Assistant Beaver Section Leaders.

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: We normally attend the Wokingham May Fayre, which is a major fund raising event for the group. As we had nobody come forward to help out we did not attend.

25th May – 27th May 2013	Young People	Cub Camp
15th June 2013	Fund Raising	Beetle Drive
12th July 2013	Social	BBQ
24th to 31st August	Young People	Scout Camp

Beetle Drive

Come and join us to make a beetle. You are in teams of 2. You will be given a game sheet and pen. You will be playing against 2 other teams. Each person takes it in turn to throw a dice and whatever you or your partner throw you start to draw a beetle and continue as long as you get the throw the dice right. Then it's the next teams' turn. Just as exciting as bingo with who's going to get the right number.

After the winning team have drawn the beetle then we will be swapping teams around.

So it an hour of family fun, chance to meet other families and mainly really good fun.

More explanation on how to play will be given on the day. It's easy so don't be put off by my explanation.

This is a fund raising event and monies made will help keep termly subs from rising.

Hut Cleaning Help

Since the Dodd's family cleaned the hut in January, nobody has volunteered to do a clean.

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
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 or telephone on 0118 978 8518 and state:

- what session you can do, which day and start time you prefer, and the 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

1st Wokingham Scout Hut

Redlands Farm Park

Evendons 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