



# First News Summer 2011

## Chairman's Report

**Graeme Robson & Shane O'Reilly Co-Chairman**

Welcome again to our Newsletter keeping you up to date with events and progress within First Wokingham Scouts. Wow what a start to spring!! We hope you have been enjoying the sun, long may it continue with all the outside activities planned.

We would take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the recent events and all the parent helpers past and present who help either on a one off basis or on a regular basis, we simply can't do it without you. A special thanks to Debs, Keith and Dick for all the hard work in delivering the mural, also the design winners and painters. I am sure you will all agree it makes a big difference.

The first event of spring (May Day Pancake Stall) went very well, a beautiful sunny day with the odd tornado at 08.00! Thanks to all that helped, especially securing gazebos, those days/years learning knots came in very useful!! It's always great to see the cubs, scouts and parents having fun and mucking in, it was a really good day in both fun and creating revenue for our group,

A number of exciting activities followed including the group family camp in Windsor Great Park. We are now looking forward to the midsummer madness fete, summer BBQ, and camping for scouts and cubs incorporating some amazing activities. All events dates for this year are provided at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/events/>

Now the sunnier times are here and you want to get out and about we thought we would send out a request for help! Our hut is only kept clean and tidy by regular monthly cleaning carried out by parent volunteers. Please review the dates available, it only takes 2 hours. We always welcome any support so ask us or anyone involved in the evenings at scouts, cub's and beavers.

Some news from earlier this term, the 1st Wokingham cubs came third in the county quiz.. A team is 3 cubs; a 10, 9, and 8 year old. Our great team was made up of Cole O'Reilly (10), Josh McBain (9) and Tyler O'Reilly (8).

Also a great turn out for the St. George's Day Parade everybody looked so smart. As part of the service Debs Parker was presented with the Medal of Outstanding Merit. An award for outstanding service to the Scout Movement, very deserved, well done Debs!

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## **Scout Report Spring 2011**

### **River Phillips - Scout**

This term all of the scouts achieved their DIY activity badge when they spent 4 weeks working on a tool box. This included making the box from pieces of plywood, designing the art work, which they then painted and finished by varnishing the box.

They also spent one evening hiking at Swinley forest which all the scouts thoroughly enjoyed. Even if we had to end the evening looking for a missing dog (which was fortunately found!).

Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders had the opportunity to go on a weekend away to PGL (a training facility), in Lymington with the district; to learn valuable leadership skills which will benefit them in all aspects of scouting. All the scouts had a great time doing all sorts of action packed activities; ranging from raft building (where we all got soaked!) to the giant swing and a vertical assault course.

## **Cub Report Spring 2011**

### **Deb Parker Cub Leader**

This term has seen another busy one. We have done our Global Challenge by which involved fantastic talks about 5 different countries. The cubs did some great research and presented it well in their sixes with everyone having a go at talking in front of people. Baloo, King Loui, Rikki and I were very impressed.

We also have done the home-help badge where the cubs cooked savoury pancakes, learnt how to iron their scarves properly (no reason for them to look a state now), lay a table and polish their shoes. I have never known polish to go in so many places but not on a pair of shoes! A definite skill that they all need to practice! St David's Day saw the most incredible leeks and daffodils made out of newspaper and yes one did just about touch the ceiling which was the plan. We have also done the highway man hitch, bowline, with 36 in the pack that is quite a achievement that's for sure, although how many of them remember them now I am not sure! We'll have a re-test next term.

The Sixers and Seconders took part at the district annual Sixers supper which we hold every year around Lord Baden Powell's birthday. Baloo and King Loui said they were very well behaved which was a good thing as they were invited in to the mess at the garrison.

Max, Cole, Ollie, Josh, James and Sam took part in the district quiz for us. One team (of 3) came 6th and the other won it so well done to them.

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Last thing was the swimming gala where 9 took part, Mark, Matt, Jon, Luke, Ewan, David, Jen, Alex and Daniel represented us. Yet again I couldn't have asked for more as we came 2nd. The district are now asking what we feed 1st cubs on!! The first year we came 2nd, last year 1st and this year 2nd again. No other pack has been that consistent in their results. Well done.

This term we will be out and about more so if you haven't got a cub t-shirt please can you wear a plain blue or green one under your jumpers, that way when you are hot you can take your jumper off.

## **Beaver Report Spring 2011**

**Kim Linden - Assistant Beaver Leader**

We are still running with a healthy number of beavers, the spring term was another mostly indoor (and noisy) term.

The beavers had a Swedish night learning facts about the host country for the 2011 Jamboree, they made 'grass heads' and a giant 'good turn tree' which can be seen in the HQ, We celebrated Chinese New Year, St David's Day and of course Pancake day, making pancakes with help from parents and young leaders.

We also had a visit from 'Circus Scene' who came to teach the beavers some circus skills. We also made personalized clocks, built some fantastic wooden planters with Dave (which turned into wonderful mothers day gifts when planted and decorated with a ribbon and a card), buried a time capsule and learned about the solar system.

However I think the evening that really stands out was the 'Sailing' night. Two Optimist sailing dinghies were rigged up in the HQ and the Beavers learned about the different parts of the boats. They were then pulled up and down the HQ in the boats dressed in their 'Pirate' gear having cannonball battles! Thanks must go to the helpers that night who definitely worked hard but were able to introduce the beavers to something completely new in a really fun way!

Thanks to this programme we were able to give out several challenge badges and a chief scouts bronze award.

## **Urgent Special Request**

**Alison McRae Treasurer**

We are looking for an Independent Reviewer for the accounts prepared for the Scout Group. Each year our accounts need to be reviewed to ensure that we keep proper accounting records and that there is sufficient paperwork/cross checks to ensure they are correct. It normally takes about 2-3 hours work per year and involves a bit of accounting knowledge to carry out. Our accounts comprise income, expenditure, bank and cash. We would be very grateful if anyone would volunteer or know a relative who would volunteer to check our accounts. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alison on 0118 979 5241. Thank you.

## **Fascias and Gutters**

Our hut has been in use for over 30 years and the fascia boards have rotted and the gutters had become brittle and had many breaks causing leaks that were making the wall damp. During the last term the fascia boards have been replaced by UPVC boards and all the gutters and down pipes replaced. On behalf of everybody at 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham, many thanks to Dick and Keith for doing all the work and saving the group £1200.

## **Mural for Scout Hut wall**

We hope that you have visited our hut recently and seen the magnificent mural that is now on the wall, if not then do so?

We ran a competition with the Wokingham Times and they collected in the entries for a scouting scene for our wall facing the car park that was blighted with graffiti. The entries were judged and the best five selected. These entries partially duplicated each other and so we did not hold a formal judging competition to select the best one but we did award 5 prizes of a £5 W. H. Smiths voucher to Bethan Martin, Jonathan Dain, Harry McBain, David Price and Mark Johnson. The five winning entries were given to our Street Artist Tom, who then merged them into a single scene which you can see. If you want to see the various stages of the work look at the pictures at <http://www.firstwokingham.org.uk/group/pictures/g120411>

This has taken a lot of effort and our thanks go to:  
Akela (Deb Parker) and Keith Winter organised it all. Jennie and Harun who cleaned off some of the worse of the graffiti. Dick Moodie and Keith who power washed the wall. Dick, Keith, Deb (with Beth and Emily), Shane (with Tyler and Cole) who painted the wall with masonry paint. Tom and Adam the graffiti artists along with our competition winners and many others that turned up and helped to paint the scene. Dick and Keith for covering it all up with two coats of anti-graffiti varnish.

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To make this lovely scene has cost the group about £600 with the spray paint being donated free to us.

### Remaining Hut Walls.

You will have noticed that the other walls of our hut are also covered in graffiti and need tidying up. Group Exec has decided that these walls should be painted in one colour (eg brick colour) and that we will be holding specific fund raising activities this year to enable this. When they happen please give them you full support. The first is our Mid-Summer Madness Fete at the hut in the afternoon of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

To paint the walls cost about £80 per wall. To cover this with anti-graffiti varnish will cost £200 per wall.

## **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.

<b>28<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b>	Social	Family Camp
<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b>	Fund raising	Mid-Summer Madness Fete (HQ)
<b>8th Jul 2011</b>	Social	BBQ & AGM (Hut)
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Jul – 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011</b>	Young People	Scout Camp (Hay-on-Wye)
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Aug – 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011</b>	Young People	Cub Camp (Ellis Farm))
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2011</b>	Social	Group fireworks

## **Hut Cleaning Help**

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.

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For the remainder of 2011 the cleaning sessions that we are seeking volunteers for hut cleaning are:

Cleaning Session	Saturday	Sunday	Response so far
6	11 Jun	12 Jun	
7	2 Jul		Deb & Joe Parker
8	Aug	Aug	No cleaning as full of camp kit
9	10 Sep	11 Sep	
10	8 Oct	9 Oct	
11	5 Nov	6 Nov	
12	3 Dec	4 Dec	

If you can help us please contact Keith Winter via email at [keith@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:keith@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".*

*Thanks in advance  
Keith Winter*

## **Where to buy Uniform**

There are 2 places which will give us 10% of what you spend back, so please do buy there if you can.

First is the Scout shop at Rivermead School Woodley. Open: Thursday 3 - 5pm and 7 - 9 pm, Saturday 10 - 12am (not open during school holidays)

Please say that you are 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Scout Group and the shop will do the rest.

Second is the Scout shop at 163 Northcourt Avenue Reading RG2 7HG  
Open: Tuesday 7 - 9pm, Wednesday 4 -5pm, Saturday 10 - 12 or 2.30 -5pm

For this shop the group has to sort out the discount so can you please get a receipt and place the receipt in our collecting box at end of the hall and we will do the rest.

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## Help get £200 for the group

Most houses in Wokingham get two free newspapers a week, The Wokingham Times and the Wokingham Mid week. These newspapers are owned by the same company and are currently running a scheme whereby you can enter vouchers and maybe get £200 for the group. All vouchers go into a draw and one is picked, so the more entries we have the better our odds of winning. The vouchers **MUST** be originals from the newspapers.

Please cut these vouchers out and fill in as follows and then send in or Place in our collecting box at end of the hall and we will do the rest.

Your name: ***your name***

Your Tel No: ***your tel no***

Name of nominated group or organisation: **1st Wokingham Scouts**

Its address/meeting place: **Scout Hut, Redlands Farm Park, Wokingham, RG41 4DX**

Name of group's nominated representative: **Deb Parker**

Representatives Tel No: **0118 978 8750**

## Wanted

The grass around our hut is cut regularly but the grass and nettles around the edge do not get cut and are encroaching onto the play area. Does anyone have a petrol strimmer that can spare an hour to cut them back for us? If so then please contact Keith at [keith@firstwokingham.org.uk](mailto:keith@firstwokingham.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk)



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