

FIRSTNEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 1st WOKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

Autumn Term 2018



Busy, busy, busy....

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all been enjoying a wide variety of activities again this term thanks to their leaders. And so much has been happening outside our standard meetings.

1st Wokingham Scout Group had a fantastic presence at the Remembrance Day Parade, held on 11th November. It was very impressive to see the 60 or so children with their leaders mark this special occasion - so thank you very much to all the families who participated.

Our group has also come together for a number of community events, including litter picks, path building and mega bug hotel constructions. All these activities are helping to build relationships with, and improve the environment around, St Paul's. Our efforts and hard work have been recognised - a double page article was published in the parish magazine, *The Spire*, praising everyone's teamwork and skills.

We have also all enjoyed our wonderful Fireworks extravaganza – huge thanks go to all those who made this possible. A great team effort!

Coming up over the next few weeks, we have two important fundraising opportunities – **Christmas Tree wrapping at Heathland Leisure Centre on 8th December and our Mulled Wine and Mince Pie stall at the Wokingham Winter Carnival on Sunday 25th November.** Please do come along and support your group.

Chairman's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of 1st Wokingham Scout Group and for welcoming me to your group. It is great to be a part of such an active Scouting family which does so much for our young people and in our local community.

Of course, none of this happens without our excellent team of volunteers – so thank you, not only to our section leadership teams and the Executive Committee, but also our willing volunteers who donate so much time behind the scenes.

It gives me great pleasure to confirm that this term we have invested Lizzie Hewitt and Jon Matthews. Both have become fully fledged sectional assistants in our Scout troop. Congratulations to them both!

All that remains is for me to wish a fun-packed rest of term. I look forward to seeing you at the Wokingham Winter Carnival and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Kind Regards
Charles Vickery, Chair 1st Wokingham

Fundraising Update

*****We are currently without a Fundraiser and it is critical to the survival of our Scout Group that this position be filled. If you, or maybe you and a friend, think you could do / share this role, please feel free to chat to any Exec member about it.*****

Despite having no official fundraiser, the group pulled off a fantastic fireworks event. We have received so many positive comments from those who attended – and this year was a bumper year for ticket sales as we sold nearly 200 tickets. A new record! Thank you all for coming and for walking where possible to take the pressure off the car park.

We have two additional fundraising events in the run up to Christmas:

- **Wokingham Winter Carnival stall on 25th November** – we will be selling our usual mulled wine, mince pies, sweet cones and glow sticks. The sweet cones are now made up thanks to your donations and a great cone-making team. Next on the list: mince pies! Please do provide as many mince pies as you can – we always get through everything we take. Huge thanks to those of you who have signed up to help on the day – it would not happen without you.
- **Christmas Tree Wrapping at Heathlands Garden Centre on 8th December** – please sign up by OSM if you can volunteer for a time slot. Last year we raised nearly £200 for our group and all this goes towards great experiences for your children.

Section News

Scouts

Our Scout section is a real trailblazer for elsewhere in the District thanks to Rich, Graham and the rest of the team. We now have 38 Scouts enrolled – and they are very loud!

The programme is ramping up nicely, testing the Scouts. Survival camp was a great success – 7 from our section and 9 from 3rd Wokingham attended. All the scouts built and slept in their own bivouacs. They learnt knife skills and fire lighting techniques. They learnt how to prepare and cook game and fish. They are officially ready for life in the wilderness! Well done to all of them.



In addition, the Scouts have also improved their pioneering skills and have become very creative in their making of some very impressive guys for our group bonfire.

For next year, we are currently looking at a week-long camp in the Wye Valley, along with 3rd Wokingham and the next “February Freeze” is also being planned.

A special request to parents: If you have any skills that we could use you for to sign off activity badges, then could you please let me know. Your help would be greatly appreciated. All the badges are on the Scout Association website:

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64,779>

Cubs

Our Cubs have been working towards a number of badges including the Our Skills challenge badge and the DIY and Air Activities badges. They have had great fun with saws, hammers and drills and have created some great robots. Problem solving challenges have required them all to work together and have pushed them outside their comfort zones.

22 Cubs attended the Paccar camp in September. It was great fun and led to some very tired little people at the end of the weekend!



Our Cubs were also very busy in September at St Paul's church. Fuelled by lots of drinks and delicious cakes, they filled our Mega Bug Hotel (constructed by the Scouts) with all sorts of natural products - grass, leaves, bamboo and twigs. The end result, as you can all see, is something truly brilliant! The children also helped create and lay new paths around the churchyard with wood chippings and assisted their parents in the filling of over 90 bags of wood chippings.



Beavers

Our Beavers have had a great programme this term. They experienced a fun evening learning about cycling, maintaining our bicycles and what to wear. Our Beavers also spent two weeks learning about the Green Cross Code and doing a walk around Arborfield. It was also lovely to see them use their imaginations to invent machines and watch them have lots of fun dressing up and making ghoulish crafts for Halloween. In addition, a lot of work has been done towards the Navigation Staged Activity badge and we were able to welcome ex-marine Chris Hunt again - keeping the Beavers busy with a mix of fitness and team games, as well as a memory test and meditation.

Our Beavers have also supported our community events - on parade for Remembrance Day and helping construct the mega bug hotel in the grounds of St Paul's church – and joined Cubs at the Paccar Elements camp in September, working towards their Space and International Activity badges.



Coming up, we are looking forward to welcoming Oscar back for our Christmas party – and we're keeping our fingers crossed that Father Christmas will be able to find time to join us then, too.

Party Time! Did you know?

You can hire the hut for children's birthday parties. It's a great space for running around in and is just as suitable for a disco as it is a football party. Rates are extremely reasonable too!

Contact Anna Birrell for more details and bookings:
anna.birrell@hotmail.co.uk

Get the latest news

Our website is regularly updated. Have a look at
www.firstwokingham.org.uk

Remembrance Day Parade

With the town centre having a greater semblance of normality, this year's especially poignant Remembrance Day Parade was well supported by 1st Wokingham Scout Group.

Thank you to all of you who attended for representing our group – it was a fantastic turnout.



World Scout Jamboree in 2019

Update from Harry McBain

Well it's almost a year since I went on the Jamboree selection camp on a very cold weekend in November 2017. Time has flown by and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support.

My latest fundraising effort was the selling of my unit jamboree badge at £3 each. I still have some if you are interested - just let me know via the 1st Wokingham Facebook page.

My next event is the Quiz Night on Saturday 24th November 8pm at our hut. The questions are ready, but we still have room for a couple more teams – are you up for taking on the Leaders? Again, contact me through the Facebook page for more details.

My unit went to Gilwell (scout headquarters) for a rather chilly weekend at the end of October. We took part in Scarefest – a camp for scouts and explorers with a Halloween theme. We did lots of activities including Bushcraft, Circus skills, Scout radio, axe throwing and giant swing to name but a few.

We now have our travel dates for the Jamboree and will be setting off on 20th July, returning on 9th August. Uniforms have been ordered and our kit list is on its way!

Quartermaster Requests for Help

Vandalism:

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

If you have any questions, then please call Keith on 0118 978 8518. Thank you in advance.

Useful Information

Termly Subscriptions

Payment is due at or before 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.

Gift Aid: We have registered to claim back Gift Aid on subscription payments. If you have not already submitted your form / given permission for this on OSM, please do so as soon as possible. (It costs you no extra payment; the government pays us on your behalf on presentation of the form).

Dates for Your Diary

Please save the following dates. More information can be found at the events calendar on our website.

Sunday	25 th November 2018	Wokingham Town Winter Carnival
Saturday	8 th December 2018	Christmas Tree Packing

If you wish to submit material for the next edition of the newsletter, or have any comments about this, then please contact us at firstnews@firstwokingham.org.uk