

1st Gossoms End Scout Group

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2008



Group news

Hut improvements Over the last few years we have been working hard to improve our Scout hall and have installed **central heating** and **replaced the roof**.

We have just had **cavity wall insulation** installed to reduce our heating costs. Early indications are that we may be saving up to a third already! Our very grateful thanks to the Berkhamsted Community Partnership for a grant of £100 towards this cost. Their letter advising of the grant award is displayed in the main hall.

Future plans include

Replacing the main hall floor, which is now old and starting to break up

Re-roofing the pole store

Insulating and cladding the outside of the small stores

Insulating the table and chair room

Build a porch-type roof over the fire escape doors.

If you can help with any of these projects, either with doing the job or fundraising for it please let Andy know - 07885 966570.

Scout news

Scout numbers are up this year. We had 18 in January last year and we now have 26.

We have reorganised the patrols from 4 into 6 to cope with the increasing numbers.

We entered a team in the **County Green Beret competition** last November and came 64th out of 110.

The Patrol Leaders had a **winter camp** in north Wales from 27-31 December.

We were hoping for some snow but ended up with wind and rain. During this camp we had the first attempt of the 'camp report' for the website. The idea was that the leaders would write up a report for the day describing the activities we did, add in some photos before letting the scouts add some comments, then upload it onto the scout website for the parents to see.

District swimming gala The juniors came joint 1st and the team came overall 2nd

Easter camp planned for Lake District

The Night of Lights celebrations that were cancelled in December due to bad weather have now been organised for Saturday 12th April 6.00pm start. The Scouts will be running a camp over the weekend from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime for the Scouts that were booked on the one in December

Football The district 5-A-Side competition is being held on 10th May 2-5pm at Hemel sports centre.

Summer camp this year is a 2-week camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland. We have 33 going and the activity plans are well under way.

Cub news

Cubs numbers are down a little at the moment, as we await a hoard of Beavers to join us over the next few weeks.

We have all been very busy doing the **100 Challenges**, in celebration of the **100th Anniversary last year**. The boys have all had great fun with challenges at home and with the pack. We have built the solar system, made marzipan fruits and origami boxes, **cleaned and polished** shoes, done pioneering with spaghetti and marshmallows, which had the great advantage of being edible once it collapsed. We've learned 3 knots, walked the hall balancing a plastic cup on our heads, and **ate 3 cream crackers** without a drink!

We have done a few badges (badges coming soon honest): Map Reader, Communications and Fitness Challenge; and are hoping to do 1st Aid after Easter.

In three weeks we have the **swimming gala**, and this year **Cub Camp will be June 13-15th**, which we will be combining with the **Giant Sleepover world record attempt**. **Don't miss it!**

See note at the end of this newsletter re a possible new Cub pack.

Beaver News

Here are some dates for your diary – some very exciting events coming up so please make a note of them so that the Beavers might be able to attend.

Saturday 12th April **Night of Lights** at Phasels Scout Camp

Sunday 6th July **W.Herts District BBQ and Annual Tug of War** at Wendover Woods

Monday 14th July **End of Year BBQ and Water Pistol Fight** at Phasels Scout Camp

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September **National Beaver and Cub Weekend** at Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne, Herts, where we will get a chance to see real Beavers

Friday 5th December **Christmas Hike to find Rudolph** and unite him with Father Christmas at Phasels Scout Camp.

Currently our two Beaver Leaders, Judy Grundy and Shirley White, have family requirements that make it difficult for them to provide the full service that they would wish to for the Beavers. For the time being it's not always possible for both Leaders to attend the Monday session, or for them to prepare for the sessions to their usual high standards. To help Judy and Shirley, and all the Beavers, could we please ask for any parents who are able to commit to regular help to contact Judy. If you would like to train to become a warranted leader the training is short and simple. Or if you would like to just be present on Mondays to help out that would also be very valuable. If two or three people were willing to come forward then we could arrange a share of responsibility, making the commitment a little less for each. Please do consider this as Judy and Shirley desperately need the help. Thank you. Judy's number is 865379



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR

FOOD AND DRINK?

COME TO OUR FAMILY FOOD AND DRINK QUIZ
AND FIND OUT!

SATURDAY 15th MARCH

6pm-8pm

bar till late

(alternative food can be provided for non-curry lovers –
please let us know at time of booking)

Would you like a curry cookery lesson? Five people attending the **food and drink quiz on Saturday 15th March** will be invited to join our own Judy Grundy, who is providing the curry for the event, while she prepares the food that afternoon. This is free of charge and on a first come first served basis. Please phone Lily if you would like a place (879916). The quiz night will include four wines to try and identify and two beers as well as various soft drinks for the children, and we're delighted that **Majestic Wines** will be along to provide the wine and beer samples. There will also be foods to identify along with quiz questions and a challenging marathon round. Tickets are just £6 for adults and £3 for children to include the curry and a glass of wine/beer/soft drink. The bar will stay open later for anyone wishing to stay a while! Tickets from Lily on 879916 or from your Beaver/Cub/Scout leader. Hope to see you there!



..... for great food and wine!!

STOP PRESS!!

A meeting was held with potential new parents concerning the possibility of starting a new cub pack. This is due to a high demand and theoretically there are enough boys to warrant starting a new pack. However, as pointed out at the meeting this is dependent on a number of parents coming forward to volunteer as either a warranted leader or a regular helper. Forms were distributed and it is hoped that sufficient will be returned to start the pack on a trial basis soon after Easter. A follow-up email will be sent out shortly. Any parents wishing to see how a session operates is welcome to attend any cub session (6.45-8.15pm Mondays) or a scout session (7-9pm Thursdays). Phone ahead to make sure the activity is hut-based that evening. All potential parents and families are welcome to attend the above event, where Beavers, Cubs and Scouts get the chance to socialise together along with their families. Call the above number for tickets.