

Group news

Since September we have had a new 2nd Cub pack. They meet on Friday evenings at the Scout hut and currently have 16 members. This is a fantastic achievement - thanks to everyone who is helping to make this possible, including David Rowland, Howard Scoot, Jonathan Hawkins and Marie Johnston-Ward.

Waitrose Funding

Our application has been successful and we've been chosen as one of this month's 3 charities for a share of the £1,000 donation by Waitrose. If you're not familiar with the scheme, you get a token each time you shop there and on the way out vote for a nominated charity by choosing one of 3 boxes to put your token in. The more tokens each charity gets, the larger the share of the funding, so please do ask for a token and put it in our slot! It will go towards our new floor. **Just a few days left to get your tokens in – please shop as much as you can!!**

Renovations

This year we have made the following improvements to the Scout hall

Installed cavity wall insulation

Purchased a new set of pioneering poles

Fitted electric hand driers in the toilets

Insulated the small stores

Insulated & painted table store

Installed gutter on small stores

Ladies & Gents lights now on sensors

Installed gutter on fire escape porch & pole store

Ramp lights now have low energy bulbs

Built lean-to roof over fire doors

Re-roofed pole store

Modified the boiler control wiring so that the radiators don't come on with the hot water

Fitted Frost stats – so heating can be turned off when hut not in use and pipes don't freeze over winter.

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

Cub news

New Pack

Hello from the newly formed second Cub Pack.

A huge **thank you** from all of the new Cubs, Parent Helpers and Assistant Leaders to all of those people - too numerous to mention - that helped us get things up and running; we are now well and truly on our way with **18 new Cubs, 4 assistant leaders** as well as **lots of willing parent helpers**. We meet at 6:30pm on Fridays - please contact us if you know of anyone who would like to join the new pack, new members are always welcome. (howardscoot@hotmail.com or 01442 877930).

We had a great time preparing for our **Halloween party**, we decided to make some **scary Halloween masks** out of papier-mâché, but alas there was a **vandal** in our midst. David put the finished masks in the store cupboard and unfortunately they were eaten by a **Glis Glis**, much to the amusement of the cubs. Maybe we could have the Glis Glis as a **mascot** for our new pack! But as you can see from these photographs it didn't stop us have great fun at the party.



Beaver News

We have had a rather busy term having a full house of **22 Beavers** - the most we have had for some years.

The beavers have been working on various badges involving some very interesting activities, as follows:

At the beginning of the term we **measured their weight and height** and **compared shoe sizes**.

We aim to take these measurements again at the end of their time in Beaver Scouting.

The Beavers also made **kites** which created a lot of excitement.

The **healthy eating badge** coincided with harvest time and we examined and discussed different types of vegetables. The **beavers made a very nourishing soup** from these vegetables which they all ate heartily.

The Beavers went out **conkering**, which they do every year in October.

We're worried that the horse-chestnut trees will soon be lost to disease and we will lose this tradition.

Soon we are going to **talk about Africa, learn a little Swahili** and **play volleyball**.

On the 17th November we'll be **baking biscuits** to support **Children in Need**.

The biscuits will be on sale to Parents and Guardians, so please remember to bring some cash with you.

Christmas party will be on **15th December**, when we plan to have a **snowball fight!**

Scout news

Scout numbers are up to 27 and Leaders are up to 5 with the recent addition of Karl Dewey who is now an assistant Leader.

Easter Camp this year was at **Great Towers in the Lake District**. This year some of the parents came on the camp to help as a number of the Scout leaders were unavailable. Thanks to Mark Bailey & Graham Aiton & family for making this camp possible. This camp we managed to update our blog every day. See the **Camp reports** in the Scout section on our website.

Our **summer camp** was at **Kandersteg** in Switzerland for 2 weeks and 11 Scouts, 14 Explorers and 8 Leaders had a great time. Events included camping, swimming in an Alpine lake, trip to the top of the Jungfrau (3454m above sea level), sleeping in a mountain hut, various mountain hikes & Swiss National Day celebrations.

Sailing – We now have our own **Sailing Instructor**. Thanks to Mark Bailey for managing to juggle family life (with new addition) with attending the necessary courses to become qualified. We had a good session on 13th September with 10 Scouts having a great time. The last sailing this year was on Saturday 18th October.

District Raft Race - 5 Scouts took part in the raft race this year and we came 6th.

Recently we had a **fire and pig camp at Phasels** where we dug a pit fire and cooked a leg of pork. We also did some pioneering and built a tower and one of the older scouts put a tent up on top and slept in it over night. *(See pic 1 below)*

Green Beret Competition. This year the county competition will be held at Lees Wood Watford and we are hoping to enter two teams before the 110 places are all booked.

If you want to go but haven't booked with us yet please do so asap.

PL's Winter camp planning is under way and we are currently looking at different areas for the winter camp. The dates will be 27th December - 30th December.

Next year's **Easter camp** will be in the **Channel Islands** based at the Scout centre at Jersey where we hope to have warmer weather than we usually get in the Lake District. Activities include blokarting, bike hire, zoo trip, war tunnels trip, banana boat inflatable ride, rib expeditions (ridged inflatable boat), museum visit at St Helier & walks *(pics 2-5 below)*.

For more details have a look at the group website, mainly the Calendar and the Online booking in the Scouts section www.1stgossomenscouts.org.uk

