

Group news

Over the last few years we have been working hard to improve our Scout hall and have seen the following improvements since April 2009:

- Installed projection hinges on fire escape door so the doors open fully
- Fitted magnetic door holders on fire escape doors
- 3 extra security lights and mesh on gate
- Installed no parking and CCTV signs to deter customers from the Rose & Crown pub
- Tidied up garden waste and rubble behind the hut
- Replaced the main hall floor and skirting with new flooring and carpet in the entrance, corridor, toilets and kitchen
- New Scout sign at the bottom of the ramp so new members can find us
- Scout leaders room painted

Future projects include:

- Installing a projector so we can show presentations and photos of camps
- Do you know about projectors? Can you offer advice? Please talk to Andy

Hall Hire

We had 2 new regular hirers, Jacqui in the box who was with us from April – September on Monday afternoons and Tiny Acorns which started at the beginning of September and meet on a Monday morning.

Group Scout Leader

I'd really like to thank all the parents who are helping this term. It is very important, however, that everyone has CRB clearance; it helps the leaders to plan and run the programme. So if you don't yet have clearance, **please, please, please**, can you ask your child's leader for a form.

Jo McAulay, 1st Gossoms End Group Scout Leader.

Family Activity Day 2010

We're planning a family activity day on a Saturday after Easter, hopefully at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp - a beautiful location in the Bucks countryside - and which may include an optional overnight camp. We'll let you know the date as soon as we can so watch this space!

Unwanted Wood

If any parents have any unwanted wood/trees that we could have for our camps. We don't want sticks, just logs, bigger the better as long as we can lift them! We are able to collect and chainsaw trees too.

Email - Andy Robinson: Maintenance@1stgossomsendscouts.org.uk

Scout News

Troop numbers have now increased from the mid 20's to 36 with 3 more due to start soon. This is mainly due to our group opening up a second cub pack which is feeding us more children. Due to the large troop numbers we are no longer able to allow children joining directly.



Our summer camp was a week camping in North Wales, near Conwy. 6 Scouts attended and had a great time. Events include swimming; hiking, cooking on wood fires, rock climbing and day trips. Our new portable hot water shower was very popular!

We had a weekend sailing camp in August and 9 Scouts and 4 leaders had a great time.

On the 19th September we competed in the district raft race. We do not have the final results yet but the scouts put in a lot of effort and our raft survived due to some much improved lashings!

October

The first weekend of October we ran a beginners camp for our new members. 10 new Scouts booked and we invited some of the patrol leaders along to help us teach the new kids how to:

- Axe & saw , correct use, how to carry and storage
- Tree recognition - which wood is good for burning / safe to cook food on
- Tent pitching - how to put them up, how to select a site etc
- How to use the petrol stoves, paraffin lamps & gas lamps
- Lighting and cooking on an open fire
- Knots - reef knot, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch, sheet bend, figure of eight, double figure of eight, double fisherman's

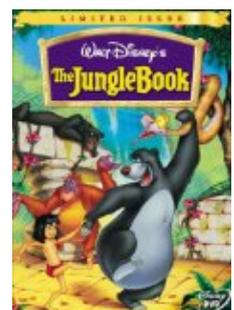
Dates for your diary

- In November we have the annual County Green Beret Competition which will be held at Gilwell Park
- In December we are hoping to run another Patrol Leaders winter camp from 27th-30th
- Our 2010 Easter camp will be 3rd – 10th April - More details will follow soon
- Checkout our group website for more information and view the Calendar of up and coming events. You can also go to and use the online booking form found in the Scouts section
- www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk

Monday Cub News

Monday pack hit the road running this year, embarking on the Athlete and Music badges. That's two different badges in case you were wondering!! We rounded off the Fitness Challenge thanks to the timely intervention (and another first for us) by Charlotte, with a bit of Yoga. (The boys needed to try out another new sport.)

Now the keen eyed amongst you will have noticed some new faces on Monday. Marie and Charlotte are currently trying out the Monday pack, and we hope the boys don't scare them off. Richard and Richard bid them welcome.



As if that wasn't enough change, we have chosen to take Jungle Book names, so we are now Akela (Richard S), Baloo (Richard F), Shada (Charlotte) and Mor (Marie). The boys seem to have picked up the names quicker than we have, so we sometimes don't know who they are talking to.

Next couple of months

Looking forward, we are planning to complete the Promise Challenge by Christmas (ish), and with that in mind after half term things look set to turn decidedly sticky for the boys. That's all I'm saying.

Friday Cub News



Hello again from the Friday Cub Pack. This newsletter will coincide with our 1st anniversary and to open, may I say a huge thank you to every one who has helped us make our 1st year such a terrific success. Especially the leaders and parents who stepped up to the mark when we needed help; it sounds a terrible cliché I know – “but we couldn’t have done it without you”.

Over the year we undertook a great many number of things and our / your Cubs seem to have had a great time along the way.



Since our last newsletter we had our first camp. We had a weekend camp with lots of activities at Phasel’s Wood including Climbing, Abseiling, Archery and even some singing around the campfire, the weather could have been a little more kind to us but judging by the amount of dirt they picked up, and the smiles on their faces, they all seemed to have a great time:

We have also done quite a lot of badge work during the year. We completed the cycling badge as a pack and are now working on completing the aviation badge as a pack. We have been having a great deal of fun making paper aeroplanes and also making hovercrafts out of old CD’s and balloons.



As we started the new term seven of our Cubs moved on to Scouts and we had some new Cubs join to fill the gaps they left behind. Here are some of Cubs at the last meeting before they became Scouts and a photograph of the pack they are leaving behind.

Once again a huge thank you to all of those people who helped us to make our first year such a great success.



Beaver News

The Beavers attended the ‘Herts 100 Camp’ at Tolmers Activity Centre near Cuffley in July. This was held to celebrate the centenary of Scouting in Hertfordshire; the circus-themed camp was attended by over 2,800 young people from across the county, with Cubs and Scouts camping all weekend and the Beavers joining in on the Saturday.

Following the opening ceremony on the Saturday morning, the Beavers had the opportunity to choose from a huge list of 100+ different activities which included a fun fair, wild west show, archery, sports,

crafts, rock climbing, outdoor cooking etc, etc. The picture shows one of our beavers, Millie Russel climbing to the top of climbing wall.

The camp carnival took place on Saturday afternoon and our Beavers all dressed up as animals to join the fun. Following the carnival the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers said goodbye to the Beavers.

Our annual West Herts District BBQ was held on the 5th July at Wendover Woods. This year it had an American Independence Day theme. The Beavers also constructed a shelter in the woods with the help of the parents and leaders. There was an excellent barbecue with burgers, hotdogs, sweetcorn and baked potatoes finished off with toasted marshmallows. The tug of war championship was closely contended but sadly Gossoms End Beavers didn't make it into the final. The Beavers, parents, siblings and all Leaders had a great time and this year with added bonus of no rain!



Also in July we had our very well attended annual end of year BBQ at Phasels where parents and siblings were invited. The evening finished with the usual water pistol fight where everyone got soaking wet.

Recently we have been concentrating on the Fitness Challenge and the Outdoor Challenge badges. Recently the Beavers went to the park to collect conkers.

The beavers have learnt about British trees and we also discussed changing seasons. Some of the planned program for this term is discussing harvest when we shall do apple tasting and apple dipping.

Dates for your diary

- 19th October - Diwali - learning about other faiths
- 30th November - St.Andrews day
- 4th December - Christmas Hike at Phasels Woods
- 14th December - Christmas party

Finally congratulations to two of our Beavers, James Carter and Archie Holben who have achieved the Chief Scout's Bronze award. This badge is the highest award available in the Beaver Scout Section.

