

Group news

Your Committee needs you!!!

Would all parents please consider contributing to approximately one evening a month to help with our Scout Group Committee. The following roles need filling from June and without a committee our entire Group won't be able to function. Each role doesn't require a lot of input – the sort of things that need doing are listed below - and help will be given by the current incumbents and other Committee members. Please do consider helping out in this way so that our very successful Scout Group can continue to thrive. If anyone would like to consider a 'job-share' then please do contact us to discuss this.

Chairman

- Chair meetings of the Group Executive Committee
- Work with and support the Group Scout Leader
- Brief other members of the Group Executive on their roles
- Ensure that the Group's annual general meeting takes place and help organise with the Committee

Hall Hire

- Organise hall bookings – check diary that hall is free
- Collect forms, deposits and payments
- Open up hall or issue keys
- Check building afterwards

In addition we need help with the general cleaning of the scout hut, plus keeping the car park tidy, looking after the garden and cutting the grass. If no-one is able to help we will need to pay for a cleaner and general help, and this will result in increased subscription charges.

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

Maintenance work done since last November includes:

- 2 new entrance doors fitted and painted - due to insurance reasons we needed solid doors
- Fence has been replaced following neighbours agreeing to pay half. Total cost to replace fence £340
- Repaired lights on the ramp drive using armoured cable
- Painted the fence with preservative
- Blinds fitted in Cubs and Scouts room
- All the gloss paintwork in entrance, corridor and kitchen has been redone
- Replaced the faulty cistern in the ladies toilet and retiled the wall
- This has all been done unpaid by some of the Scout leaders

Fundraising

- £197 received from Waitrose green token charity scheme
- £250 received from RBS owing to a scheme they operate where an employee works X number of hours for charity
- A grant of £4,125 received from Grassroots, administered by Hertfordshire Community Foundation, to replace our hall floor.

St George Parade 2009 - Sunday 26th April 2pm to 4pm

Meet at car park at rear of Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted.

Access via front entrance and follow perimeter road round to left of chapel. You should have had separate details about this but if not please contact your Leader.

AGM – Sunday 28th June

The AGM, to be held in the afternoon, will include a BBQ and an entertaining family event. More details to follow soon. We'd love to see you - please enter this date in your diary for an enjoyable afternoon and someone else to do the cooking!

Scout news

Scout numbers have recently been growing and we are now up to 36 and expect another 16 in batches by October! We are looking to increase our leader team as we need more help to operate an active programme safely with these numbers.

In addition to our Thursday night programme we have organised the following camps between now and the Summer:

Beginners Camp at Phasels wood campsite from 20th – 22nd March. This weekend was an introduction to camping as a Scout and taught the children the basic camping skills which are essential for our Easter or Summer Scout Camps. Activities included: - training in the use of tent pitching, camping, fire lighting, cooking, axe & saw work, petrol stoves & paraffin lights.

Easter Camp was in the **Channel Islands** based at the Scout centre at Jersey where we had warmer weather than we usually get in the Lake District. Activities included blokarting, bike hire, zoo trip, war tunnels trip, banana boat inflatable ride, rib expeditions (ridged inflatable boat), museum visit at St Helier & walks. You can see our camp report and photos on the following website:

<http://www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk/scouts/easter2009campreport.htm>

Backpacking camp on 23rd - 24th May. Walk from the Scout hut to a campsite, spend the night and walk back. Carry your equipment in your rucksack for the weekend. Find out what you need and don't need, learn about lightweight camping and brush up your navigation skills

Camp Cook & Bivi at Phasels Wood 5th -7th June. As a team build your own shelter and sleep in it, cook for yourselves on an open fire for the weekend. This is for Patrol Leaders & those with enough experience to fend for themselves for the weekend.

Rock Climbing Camp – Hathersage 10th -12th July. Climbing weekend for the more experienced Scout.

The weekend is limited to Scouts with enough climbing experience and ability

Our **Summer Camp** this year is a week in North Wales near Conwy. Activities include, swimming, hiking, cooking on wood fires, rock climbing & day trips. Places limited.

Sailing – We have been allocated our sailing dates for this year. They are 17th May, 27th June, 12th July, 26th September & 10th October. Places can be booked via the online booking section on our website.

Scouts Fundraising

Some of the older scouts applied for a £2,000 grant from Big Spend and were successful. Money to be used to purchase new camping equipment.

They are currently applying to Big Spend for a minibus for our Scout Group. This would benefit our entire Group not only for our own use for camps and outdoor activities but would provide additional income by hiring the bus to other groups and users in the community.

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

Monday Cubs News

Greetings all, from the burgeoning Monday night Cubs. We have just hit the figure of 30 Cubs, which is quite daunting as we have a max. of 24. Has there been a baby boom, or was there a just power cut in May 2000?

Cub camp will be interesting this year if everyone turns up. Last summer we took 22 to **Phasels** for a relatively dry camp, and huge amounts of activity. This year will see a couple of new activities introduced.

In the last year, when the sun was shining we managed to visit the **Boxmoor Trust** for pond dipping and bug hunting, and a variety of sports on the field

Who will ever forget the marvellous **fluorescent curry and fish paste cakes** we made for the quiz night? Certainly no-one who tasted them. Missed out? Just let us know and we will cook up a special batch for you.

The boys have been working on a variety of badges this year: **Global Challenge, Fitness Challenge, Air Activities**. And we had our first ever **Swimming Night**, with everyone achieving **Swimmer 1 or 2**. Well done. And well done again to the team for **2nd place in the W Herts Gala**, and **4th place in the Herts County gala**. Wow!

My perennial favourites are the **Conkers evening**, and **Pancake Night**, complete with **Baked Bean Tin stoves**, and extractor fans to remove more smoke than I have ever seen before! And along the way we also managed to celebrate **Divali, Halloween, Christmas and Mothers Day** (crafts), sorry Dads, but we do give you Fathers Day Cub-free, as it coincides with **Cub Camp**, again.

Lastly, a quick thank you to our band of regular helpers, and especially to Paula Storey who does so much behind (and in front of) the scenes.

Friday Cubs News

Hello again from the 1st Gossom's End Friday Cub Pack. We are now moving in leaps and bounds and would like to thank everyone who has helped us make the pack such a success. We are a mixed pack with girls and boys and now we have 23 members and are attracting more all of the time.

We have had some great meetings and the new recruits seem to be enjoying themselves. We are currently coming to the end of the **communications badge**, which we have done as a pack and lots of the pack are well on their way to getting their **hobbies badge**, a great start I'm sure you will agree.

We recently held a **paper plane competition** with two prizes; one for distance and one for design. Although there were some strange and wonderful shapes and everyone had great fun the final winners were **Ben Stockton** for the paper plane that flew the longest distance and **Charlotte Towler** for the best design.

For **Red Nose Day** we decided to do something funny for money and for a donation of £1 **we all came to the meeting in our pyjamas** and brought along our cuddly toys. As you can see from the photographs everyone joined in the spirit of Red Nose Day and had a terrific time. We had an **egg and spoon obstacle race** and played some other games.

On another note we have our first Cub moving on to Scouts; **David Scoot** is currently linking. We are looking forward to David coming back to Cubs and telling us all about his experiences of moving on to Scouts. As always if you know anyone who would like to join please ask them to get in touch. (howardscoot@hotmail.com or 01442 877930).



Beaver News

St Georges Parade: there was a very good turnout from Gossoms End Beavers for the Parade last April. We marched through Berkhamsted High Street - a proud moment for us to show the public our strength as an organisation. Our flag was carried by **Benjamin Iskaros**.

Our **annual District BBQ** at Wendover woods in July had an **Olympic Games** theme. Gossoms End's base was Australia so we did **Kangaroo Racing**. Though it was too wet for a tug o' war, the Beavers, parents, siblings and all Leaders had a great time - most of us went home covered in mud!

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** and everyone soaking wet.

During the last few months we have done various badges e.g. **healthy eating** – making soup and sandwiches etc, **hobby badge**, **Promise Challenge** and also working towards our **Outdoor Challenge**.

In November we celebrated the Japanese festival **Shichigosan**.

For **Chinese New Year** in February we made and tasted Chinese food, and **learnt to do sums in Chinese**. We made & sold biscuits for **Children in Need**, and raised £35. We have also made paper planes and kites recently.

During the end of March the Beavers have been doing a **Spring Watch**.

Planned future events:

26th April – **St. Georges Parade** at Ashlyns

27th April – **Pond dipping and mini beast hunting** at Boxmoor Trust. (Outdoor Challenge)

5th July – **BBQ at Wendover Woods** – theme American Independence Day

10th July - **Herts 100** at Tolmers - Cuffley

13th July - **Summer BBQ** at Phasels.

27th/28th September - **Paradise Wildlife Park**

4th December – **Christmas Hike**

I would like to extend my thanks to Shirley White and Erica Carter for assisting me during the last year and making my job easier. Have a good summer. Judy Grundy