



FIRST NEWS

Issue 92 December 2017

Newsletter of the 1st Northwood Scout Group



<https://www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk>

FUND RAISING PROGRESS - WE ARE OVER £80K!

Progress with Fundraising

Since the last Newsletter, our fundraising total has gone up from £33k to over £80k, a truly fantastic result so far. Recent donations include:

- Bernard Sunley Foundation £10k
- Garfield Weston Foundation £10k
- Middlesex Masons £5k
- Grand Metropolitan Masons £5k
- Northwood Lions £2k
(their second donation)
- Carriers for Causes £2k
- Fassnidge Trust £1k
- Aviva £1k
- Tesco Bags of Help £1k (min)

Plus many more smaller donations from organisations and individuals, and income from many fundraising activities by our own Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Committee and supporters (*see picture of car boot sale of Jumble leftovers*)

We still await responses to our applications for funds from the National Lottery, Santander, Foyle Foundation, Veolia, Nisa, and the Heathrow Community Fund. We are also in discussion with the Council about the possibility of a significant grant from them.

Our most recent large donation was £5,000 from the Metropolitan Masonic Charity, following an earlier donation of the same amount from Middlesex Masons. Leo Mindel, Paul Medlycott and Stephen Plume represented us at Freemasons' Hall on 29th November, where they were shown around the very impressive art-deco building which you would recognise from many films, and met representatives from other charities who have benefited from donations this year. The Metropolitan Grand Lodge make charitable donations of around £2.5 million per year. Past recipients have included the London Air Ambulance and next year they are aiming to raise £2.5 million for the London Fire Brigade to purchase two appliances capable of reaching heights of between 24-26 storeys. We are very grateful to their members for our donation.

If you have any ideas for approaching organisations for funds, please talk to one of our fundraising committee or one of our leaders. We will be only too pleased to follow up any leads.

Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member



Chairman's Chat

Oh what an exciting year 2018 is going to be - a royal baby, a royal wedding and, of most importance to us at 1st Northwood, a new Scout hut. Yippee! Yes, assuming everything goes to plan we will be the proud occupants of a new building in roughly twelve months time.

We will preferably just need a well known person to cut the tape and uncork some suitable fizz to mark the special occasion. Does anyone have any suggestions or perhaps a contact or two who we could approach? Please give this some thought and contact a leader or member of the Executive Committee with any ideas you may have.

This achievement has only been made possible due to the efforts of a dedicated and hard working group of committee members plus some friends of the Group who have managed to accumulate just over £80,000 from a wide range of organisations and people who have made generous contributions to our fund. We are absolutely delighted and feel confident that we will reach our target of £100k on time.

Our forecast is that the existing hut will be demolished completely in June, virtually immediately after a well known Spring event has been put to bed. The new foundations will follow immediately the site is clear with construction of the new building taking place in July. We hope that by Christmas 2018 the project will be completed.

In our last newsletter we asked for volunteers to contact us if they could lend any assistance with electrical work, plumbing or decorating. We do not feel that the tasks required are particularly onerous and therefore repeat our plea to the hundred or so parents out there to let us know whether they can assist in any way.

We hoped to announce in this newsletter the date of the Jumble sale, probably sometime next May but suddenly we hear that there is going to be a royal wedding, and without a day off work apparently. It is all out of our control so please wait patiently for announcements.

We end on a sad note by extending our condolences to David and Gwen Ransom following the recent loss of their son Graham following decades of devotion by them. David was a member of our Executive Committee for a number of years and the family were always loyal supporters, attending the social functions we organised.

I will end my piece by hoping you have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year and that you spare a thought for others less fortunate than ourselves.

Paul Akers, Executive Committee Chairman

The Mayor's Charities

You will remember that the Mayor of Hillingdon, Northwood Councillor Carol Melvin, has chosen our New Scouting Centre Appeal as one of her charities for her year in office. During the year, the Mayor does a lot of fundraising, and at the end of her term in office, she will share the proceeds between her three charities.

Throughout her year in office she will hold five quiz evenings; three have already taken place, and the last two will be on Wednesday 24 January 2018 and Wednesday 14 March 2018. We are expected to support her events, and so far we have been represented at all of them. If you would like to attend and get a group of people together to share a table, please contact me for booking details. richard.plume@bronzesilvergold.co.uk

Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member
01923 827409

New Hut Progress

We are currently assessing the tenders we have received for the foundations for the new hut and going through some "value engineering" exercises to get the price closer to our budget.

Progress with the new lease is slow, but we're getting there. The issues with the draft document were fairly trivial, and have all now been agreed. I hope to get it signed by Christmas, so that we can move the perimeter fence in January or February.

We will need lots of temporary storage while we build the new hut. Do you have an empty garage where we can store some Group equipment or an elderly neighbour who has an empty garage that he or she would like to hire to us for a small fee? We are investigating all options for storage at the moment, but they all work out quite expensive, so please help us if you can.

Don't bother taking your Old £1 Coins to the Bank!!!

We all know that we can still take old £1 coins into the bank and get them exchanged – I bet you all have some hidden away in the cubby hole in the car, on the dressing table, in your old wallet, bottom of the shopping basket etc. But you don't want to be bothered with the bank, do you? Why not put them into an envelope and hand them to one of our Beaver or Cub or Scout Leaders at the next meeting? One of our leaders works in a bank and he will be quite happy to take a small bucket full of old £1 coins in and get them changed, to contribute to our New Scouting Centre Fundraising Appeal.

PS. You can throw in your old £10 notes too!

Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member

Group Scout Leader

Merry Christmas to you all. The run-up to Christmas is anything but calm if our house is anything to go by. Choosing and buying the presents, not forgetting to wrap them and then writing all those Christmas cards to your friends and relatives. There never seems to be enough time in the day or night (internet) to get everything done.

All the section leaders are getting ready for Christmas with their Christmas parties and games nights a highlight for some of the children. They are already planning for the new year and all the exciting activities that they are going to put on for the sections.

We celebrated Guy Fawkes's attempt to blow up Parliament on a very wet and windy night. The night went well with a healthy turnout of parents and children. The night started with a hotdog and bun and then out into the wind and rain to see the fireworks which just went on and on.

Sharon and the gang of zombies ran the Halloween event this year with record numbers through the gate for a third year running. It always really does amaze me how they turn a wooden Scout hut into something out of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Sharon and her helpers spent most of the half term getting everything ready in the hut. They are really a dedicated band but I am sure you will agree that all the hard work is worth while. This is not something that just comes together overnight and Sharon starts planning for the next year almost before the current event ends.

The new hut fundraising is continuing and is going in the right direction. More details will be elsewhere in the newsletter. Some of you may be wondering where the sections will be meeting during the planned rebuilding of the hut. Never fear as plans are underway to ensure that scouting at the First Northwood will continue during the absence of a hut.

My last words for 2017 are a big thank you to all the leaders, helpers, committee members and young leaders who have made the year so memorable. Without you all this Group would not be as successful as we are. We have big plans for 2018 and will need help from you all to make it a year to remember.

Mike Bennett, GSL

Poindextor Explorers

The term started with three teams taking part in the annual Sky Camp at Paccar campsite. The aim is to build a platform amongst the trees to sleep in and cook on. There is a set height from the ground and a max height you can build to (for safety reasons). You win points for your building and lose points for not following the build rules. Throughout the weekend there are challenges to gain more points.

I have been before, this year seemed there were more teams. I like Sky camp as it challenges my pioneering skills, opens up your mind to what you can build, improves your problem solving and team skills and I get to sleep in a tree with my friends. We sleep in tents on Friday night with the main Sky Camp starting on Saturday morning. As it was one of the group's birthday we planned to decorate with balloons.

Out of the three build areas Poindextor were given, ours was the smallest but we could work with it. We had a selection of wooden poles to build the frame for our platform, wooden boards for our cooking area and lounge area, a large amount of orange rope, a ball of sisal, ratchet straps new for this year and tarpaulin for the roof, birthday balloons to decorate and hammocks.

We had to finish our build by 4.30pm and everything had to be off the ground .

We also had to allow time for our challenges throughout the day; if you don't turn up to challenges you get minus points. Chris, Adam, Luke and Doug visited us in the afternoon. Everything was built, hanging up or tied up in time. A small area was a good thing in the end.

Dinner was a chicken dish and one of the adults from the Sky Camp team marked us on presentation and taste. It went down well and we had Birthday cake as pudding. When it got dark we put on blue rope lights, played cards for a bit and fell asleep in the hammocks. Sunday much like Saturday. After breakfast more challenges. Camp closed. We didn't win but had a great time.

The other big event was the half term expeditions on the Marlborough Downs. Three Silver and three Bronze groups camped near Marlborough for the first night. Bronze were being trained before their two day practice expedition while the Silver groups had a three day assessed expedition. We were lucky with the weather; the Scouts at the beginning of half term had to contend with Storm Brian - we had bright blue skies but very cold!

One unit night some parents and friends discussed their careers with groups of Explorers, a chance for them to find out about opportunities they might not hear about at school. It also made some Explorers realise that the leaders aren't just Scout Leaders! Thanks to those that gave up their time. Before Christmas we help Ruislip Round Table with their Santa Sleigh and have Ice Skating to look forward to before we start delivering the Christmas post for the year.

Doug Horgan, AESL

Save £££ on your Christmas Post

Our Explorer Scouts will be running their popular Christmas Post service again this year – please let your family, friends and neighbours know!

Simply post your cards with 30p per card into the boxes in local libraries and shops and the Explorers will sort and deliver them to anywhere in Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood.

Post Boxes will be available from **1st – 16th December**, the Northwood ones are at :-

- Just Sew,
- Northwood Health Foods
- Oaklands Gate Library
- Northwood Hills Library
- Scout HQ

For more details, including locations of post boxes and a map of the areas covered, please see <https://www.renxfmaspost.org.uk>

Stephen Plume, District Commissioner



Beaver Colony

After a lovely Summer holiday break all the Beavers returned full of energy and eager for the new term.

So far this term The Beavers have:

- Learnt about flying in a role play airport and aircraft.
- Music night - playing instruments and putting on a musical show for a Scout Factor panel of leaders.
- Pumpkin carving... Amazing designs!
- Taking part and helping prepare for the Scout Hut of Horror - We had well over 200 victims..... I mean visitors and successfully scared half of Northwood Hills - Thank you to all who gave their time and helped so much, Sharon and I are eternally grateful.
- Halloween fancy dress party
- Making bottle Poppies
- Attending the Remembrance day parade in Northwood - I was incredibly impressed and proud of the Beaver excellent behaviour, even with it being arctic conditions, (Well! That's what it felt like) - Thank you and Well Done Beavers.
- Raised £142.79 for the New hut fund by attending a fantastic comedy evening at the Hut with comedian Mark Jones. Again I am super proud of the great behaviour of everyone who attended and made it so successful.

We have some exciting meetings now planned, gearing up for Christmas, which we are all very much looking forward to.

Wendy Wiggins
Beaver Scout Leader



Christmas WRAP?

What is WRAP? WRAP is a treasure trove, an Aladdin's cave, an invaluable resource for creativity and fun. Situated in Ryefield Crescent, close to Northwood Hills Met station, its unprepossessing red door leads to a huge variety of materials from industry, commerce and manufacturing that have been diverted from landfill.

1st Northwood Scouts have been paid-up members for many years and have kept costs down while using unusual components for craft and activities of all sorts. WRAP is so close it is worth a visit just to peruse with no commitment, and if you and your family like making things you are bound to be challenged and delighted by what you see - not available on the High Street!

OPEN; Tues 14.00 - 16.00, Wed & Sat 10.00 - 12.00 and Thurs 14.00 - 18.00.

Roxana Peters, Group Secretary

<https://www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk/>

Does the title above look familiar? It should do, it's the address of the 1st Northwood Scout Group website. If you haven't discovered it already, please do pay the website a visit, then add it to your Favourites.

On there you will find lots of information about the different sections at 1st Northwood as well as news of the Fund-raising Appeal and links to District, County and the Scout Association.

Ros Plume

Scout Update

We've had another busy term. We did pioneering and knotting one evening, and making survival kits and trying out different stoves and lamps on others.

We had a busy camp at Chalfont one weekend and a few Scouts took part in the district hill walking weekend to Snowdonia on another.

We took part in the district activity day and district night hike and the Jamboree on the Internet.

One evening as an environmental project we cleared lots of apples that had fallen/would soon fall from trees at Hillside School. We were able to bring in a fruit press another week and Scouts were able to take fresh apple juice home with them.

Also, we ran our Halloween Hell House again and had many visitors on the Saturday evening. We were able to put some of the surplus from this towards the new hut fund.

Finally we've done Christmas crafts and been ice skating at Watford and have singing carols and a Christmas party still to attend.

**Jon Miller
Scout Leader**

'Easyfundraising' Really IS What It Says!

I bet about 80% of those reading this newsletter shop online, even if it's just a CD from Amazon for a Christmas present? You can help raise loads of money for the New Hut Appeal if you register at *easyfundraising* by clicking on this link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/TLHI6S/> and select "1st Northwood Scouts New Hut Appeal" as your good cause. Then whenever you make an online purchase at any of the stores listed on their site, such as Boots, Amazon, John Lewis, Expedia, Argos, Ebay and hundreds more, you place your order via *easyfundraising* instead of going direct, and we get a donation. It costs you nothing, and gains YOUR SCOUT GROUP a lot of money.

Having registered yourself, please pass the idea on to everyone you can think of who might use online shopping. That way we should build up a good list of supporters. When I wrote in the last *First News* we had thirteen registered supporters and set a target of a hundred supporters by the end of the year. Since then that number has crept up to nineteen! Come on, we can do better than that!

When you do sign up, please click the Donation Reminder facility, then if you were to forget to use *easyfundraising* and go directly to a site that qualifies, it will prompt you to activate the donation. How clever is that! Don't forget a number of stores have 'click and collect' options which are usually free – I love ordering from John Lewis and collecting my goods from Waitrose.

Ros Plume

Autumn Camp

Allan was waiting for us at the site, fire lit, tent up. He took the trailer onto the pitch with his 4x4 and we put the tents up by the headlights after clearing the ground of four inches of leaves and sweet chestnut cases. As it was drizzling it wasn't too cold.

After a very unhealthy breakfast under the gazebo, a large number of tree logs were collected, sawn up and stockpiled.

The High Ropes course is a challenge without cold hands and wet boots but the Scouts new up from Cubs battled on, slipping and sliding on wet logs up in the air (all had harnesses and hard hats on). Others appeared to be swinging along on the safety harnesses. A long zip wire was the final challenge and stepping off after hanging on for so long took a lot of courage.

After preparing dinner we went to the firework display at Gerrard's Cross which was "fantastic" and came back to dinner and the fire. It was now quite cold in the wind.

Sunday breakfast was very unhealthy again and we went off to try the small climbing wall. Everyone had at least two climbs before we had lunch and struck camp. It was cold but sunny and the Autumn colours were wonderful.

Kerry Horgan, ASL



Cub Catch-up

As the Cubs start their preparations for Christmas with a craft night, helping Ruislip Round Table with their Santa Sleigh and a special Christmas activity, it's difficult to remember what we did back in September before it was cold and dark during Cub meetings.

For all our meetings, the Cubs have been enthusiastic and always remember that having a go and doing their best is as important (if not more) than completing a task easily. This was particularly evident in our earlier meetings when we undertook Rachel's teamwork challenges on the Hogs Back (getting the whole Six across the "ravine") and again when we went climbing at PACCAR.

We've enjoyed the Group fireworks and been entertained by comedian Mark whilst raising money for the new hut. Mark needed to film one of his shows to support his application to tour China so the Beavers and Cubs were his willing audience.

We've had lots of discovery nights too. We started with local knowledge and map reading which helped us on our night walk up to Pinner Hill. Then it was a night learning about Antarctica and the importance of being able to do simple tasks like tying shoe laces with thick gloves on. This activity was linked to finding out about the Ice Maidens, a group of six female military personnel who are aiming to be the first female group to cross Antarctica. We're going to check in on their progress over the coming weeks. Our final discovery night was for Thanksgiving when an American family from Northwood Base told us about the history of the event and shared their favourite games with us. They also treated us to some pumpkin pie and sweet potato pie which most of the Cubs willingly tasted.

With all that going on, we should be able to present quite a few badges at the end of term!

Alongside running these meetings, Rachel and Liz have found time to complete their leader appointment meetings and the first part of their training. One review meeting to go and they'll both be warranted leaders able to run meetings without me or a leader from another section present. Roger remains out of action following his accident in May but keeps in touch. His leg is improving slowly and he hopes to be back to Scouting around Easter. We still need more help as Rachel's work takes her away quite regularly so if you're looking for something to do on a Tuesday evening do get in touch.

Enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to another busy term in the New Year.

Christine Bennett, Akela



Above we see the Cubs climbing, achieving the Chef badge, watching Mark the comedian and learning about Thanksgiving Day.



**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year to All Our readers**