



FIRST NEWS

Issue 96 April 2019

Newsletter of the 1st Northwood Scout Group



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

THE WORK GOES ON !

New Scouting Centre Update

Each week this term has seen tasks completed and new ones started. Since Christmas we have made great inroads into fitting out the inside, and as we go to press, we have all but completed the surface drainage and landscaping. The site looks very presentable now we've done away with the mud patch! The most frequent comment from people visiting the new building is "Wow, isn't it big!" This must explain why every separate task is so big and time consuming.

We had the ceilings fitted by professionals, and when we watched them do it, we were very pleased we did – it is difficult work. However, we fitted all the internal cladding to the walls ourselves, all one hundred and ten panels of 8ft x 4ft plasterboard, using volunteer labour from a small hardcore of mainly retired people – my plea for help from parents in the last First News came to nothing, very disappointing that none of you have offered to help. We have also done all the painting ourselves, three coats of emulsion everywhere, so it's looking great inside now.

The flooring has been fitted in the kitchen and toilets, and the plumbing is all but complete. Our electrician has also started the wiring.

We are operating within our current budget of £335,000, and to date we have spent almost £305,000. We have continued with our own fundraising all the way through and have raised a further £10,000 in the last six months, and Hillingdon Council made a further contribution of £30,000 in March in order that we could finish the job to an appropriate standard. We are very grateful to them for this.

The new building will be operational in time for the Jumble Sale on 25th May, but it won't quite be finished – don't be surprised if it still looks a bit rough round the edges. We will finish by about the end of June and expect to have a grand opening ceremony in July.

Richard Plume
Executive Committee Member
Tel. 01923 827409



Make an online donation at :- <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stnorthwoodscoutcenterbuildproject>

Chairman's Chat

It really feels just like a few weeks ago that we published the last edition of the 1st News. Checking back, approximately twelve weeks have elapsed and what a busy period this has been for us. It should not come as a surprise but the main focus of attention has been the various tasks accomplished in connection with our new Scout Hut or, as we now like to call it, our new Scouting Centre. It would not be an exaggeration to say that a tremendous amount of work has been undertaken during the last few months. I have no intention of stealing Richard Plume our project manager's words by informing you of the jobs that have either been completed or are currently in progress. Richard always writes a piece for the newsletter on this subject and I am sure this issue will be no exception.

A job with which I was closely involved was the planting of a new hedge along the entire new boundary facing the Hog's Back. I apologise to various mothers that we chose to do this work on Mothering Sunday but it was unavoidable due to various other commitments. The planting of over two hundred 'whips' (young sapling trees) given to us by the Woodland Trust and the London Borough of Hillingdon was completed most satisfactorily in just a few hours, including the installation of rabbit guards and small stakes. In time it should help blend the boundary into the surrounding open space. All we have to do now is to keep it watered and spread the mulch kindly given to us by Hillingdon Parks Dept.

The Jumble sale is approaching fast and the date set for the event is **Saturday May 25th**. Your children will be receiving a letter from their Leaders so please look out for this as it contains some important details about the event. On reflection, it may reach you via email but whatever means of communication is used, please read it and respond to the points it contains.

The lead-up to the event is always a very busy time for us and while we have some aspects covered we need helpers who are able to lend a hand with straightforward repairs to push bikes as well as some cleaning of the machines. Help with checking electrical goods is always welcome for we receive a significant number of donations in this department. Categorising and sorting our vast collection of books is also a pleasant and interesting task. The Jumble sale will have a different element this year in that you will be able to have a good look at our new Scouting Centre, which we will be delighted to show you.

Lastly we are pleased to be able to report that we have received great support for our Magic Show on April 27th. At the time of writing there are still some places available so if you are fascinated by magic, book your seats without delay.

Here's hoping that a high quality of Scouting will continue at 1st Northwood and one of the major ingredients to achieving this is to have your support and help when it is requested.

Paul Akers
Executive Committee Chairman



Hi! Wonderful People!

Dear Parents, Friends, Relatives, Hangers-on and Loyal Supporters of 1st Northwood, here we are at that moment you have been waiting for (maybe!) to join the merry throng who have already started on the road to the 1st Northwood Scouts Grand Jumble Sale on the 25th May.

We need your help, this year as much as any other but you may be more excited to help as WE HAVE A NEW HUT.

We will have opportunities to thank the team that has achieved this phenomenal success, but for now we must focus on the Jumble Sale in order to complete the interior to match the exterior in quality and splendour!

Please look at the schedule in this newsletter that shows when the hut is open and arrange to come to the hut to help. Why not tear it out now and stick it on your fridge? Even if you can only come once, every bit of help is valuable.

After asking for help with specific areas it is very encouraging to have two ladies to look after the ladies clothing. However, Gents clothing in particular could do with someone to sort and pack.

On the day, we need two hundred volunteers to man the stalls, and we always welcome new personnel to replace those who have asked to be 'retired'. Phone 07732011925 or email roxana.peters@virginmedia.com and let me know you are willing to join us. In the meantime, don't forget to de-clutter!

Yours, gratefully,
Roxana Peters, Group Secretary

Group Scout Leader Report

It is a sad farewell to one of the Scout leaders, our very own Kerry Horgan, who has taken the hard decision to retire. I have known Kerry from the very first day that I joined the Group as a twelve year old (over forty years ago.) He has always been there for the Scouts, using his vast knowledge of hiking and climbing to give the young people the chance to experience activities that they would never otherwise do. He has always astounded me with his energy and enthusiasm and I hope that I am still going as strong when I get to his age. I and all the others in the Group wish him well in his retirement and know that he will pop back and help out occasionally!

The hut is moving on in leaps and bounds and those of you who have driven past will have seen that work has now started on the grounds, which will make a huge difference. We hope to open up the hut one evening for a couple of hours for you to look round before work on the annual jumble sale begins. The date will come out shortly so please come along.

Also, do come along and support our major fundraising event of the year which is the Jumble Sale. May 25th is the date this year but we will need as much help as we can get in the five weeks leading up to this date. Leaflet raids, collections on the Saturdays as well as sorting and setting up and of course on the day itself. Our group secretary will be contacting all parents shortly to see how you can assist.

The whole Group will be attending the St George's Day event at Ruislip Lido on the 28th April and will be meeting up at The Drive by the golf club at 1.15pm where we will walk across the common to the Lido.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Explorer Round-up

Firstly, a warm welcome to Doug Hull who has joined Poindexter as a leader following a move to the area from Bermondsey - definitely their loss and our gain! Also, we must thank William Johnson, Network Scout Co-ordinator for coming to Unit meetings, helping us to run multiple activities on one night. We have been busy since the last edition of 1st News with visits to PACCAR, a group doing the first coat of paint at the new hut, cooking, bowling and more.

Duke of Edinburgh is going strong with Groups planning Bronze, Silver & Gold Expeditions. The Gold & Silver Groups are away over the Easter break to the Yorkshire Dales with both assessed and practice expeditions taking place. We have many Bronze expeditions being planned from June to September. With the Duke of Edinburgh rules changing to allow young people to start in the school year that they turn fourteen, we have linked up with the Scout section and started a younger Duke of Edinburgh group. This is encouraging Scouts to start their Award as a link to Explorers and, as importantly, sign up with Scouting to do their Duke of Edinburgh instead of school where we losing a lot of them to. We currently have about twenty Scouts doing their Award which they will continue as the move up to Explorers over the next term.

In January we were asked if we could support the Scout Sections Chilly Goat Camp by providing some helpers. Half a dozen volunteers joined a few Scout Young Leaders and made themselves exceptionally useful over the course of the weekend. A group of fourteen took part in the annual February Freezer Weekend Camp at PACCAR (*see picture*). They took part in a wide range of activities and enjoyed their weekend. Many thanks to 6th Northwood for providing the catering for the weekend.

March saw a group of Explorers and a group of leaders take on Monopoly Run 2019. It's played similar to the board game with you receiving a fictional amount of money and a list of properties to visit (the same as the original board game.) When you arrive at a property, you acknowledge your presence and then can buy it if it's available and receive rent every time someone else lands on it. If it's already sold you pay rent. There are fines for not visiting properties, extra money for completing challenges during the day and a lot of fun to be had.

The game starts at 9 o'clock at Waterloo station and automatically ends at 5 o'clock. Over a thousand people took part this year, playing multiple games. Our two teams were in the same game with five others - the Explorers finished third and the leaders fifth so the leaders had to buy the refreshments on the way home. Thank you to Paul for doing the paper work.

Christine Bennett
District ES Commissioner



Scout Summary

A busy time has been had in Scouts this term. Ben started the camping season by being our sole representative at the District Chilly Goat Camp joining 1st Eastcote Scouts for a chilly survival themed camp. Jack and Malike attended two weekends in Gloucestershire completing their Expedition Challenge Award (Jai completed the first weekend.). Eight Scouts are preparing for the survival camp after Easter.

We have continued to meet at 2nd Northwood Headquarters and for that we are very grateful.

We have given the Scouts some time to learn DIY skills which they put to good use in building bird boxes to go up in and around the Scout compound.

The Troop attended the District swimming competition and although we didn't win, all the boys won a medal for coming in the top three in their individual races.

The troop looked at Global Awareness and in particular the role of disaster relief. We learned about Shelter Box, a disaster relief organisation and how they assist and what they send and also constructed shelters out of general household rubbish.

For the final activity of the term the Troop had an evening walk from Mad Bess Woods back to Northwood via the Lido. I am not sure what was enjoyed more, the walk or climbing up into the pirate ship on the beach. What did go down well was the portion of chips at the end of the walk!

We were very pleased to present Ewan with his Chief Scout Gold Award during the term. It's the top Award in Scouts and shows commitment and achievement throughout four and a half years in the Troop. A few more will hopefully complete their Award before St George's Day.

During February half term a small group of Scouts visited the National Army Museum in Chelsea with some of 6th Northwood's Scouts. We were invited by the Army Liaison team to mark Founders Day and had a very informative visit finding out about Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting. I think the highlight for the Scouts was dressing up and handling old rifles. We'll try and go back with more Scouts another time.

A number of the Scouts have now moved up to the Explorers so it is a sad farewell to Ronnie, Jack, Liudvikas, Malike, Gianluca and Ewan. I do hope that they enjoyed their time in Scouts and that they go onto bigger and better things in Explorers.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader



Above we see the Scouts enjoying various activities including 'Crab Football' at 2nd Northwood.



Cub Collation

The Cubs are keeping Parina and I busy. Thankfully we have Joseph and Connor as our Young Leaders to keep up with the Cubs.

This term we have had a construction challenge when the Cubs built bridges from Knex that had to support a weight. They even managed to tidy up at the end!

We decorated pancakes and tossed cardboard pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and made chocolate crispy cakes for Easter.

The Cubs went on a discovery walk around Northwood to find local services - if you want to know where a phone box, a bench or other useful services are, ask a Cub!

Despite some swimmers missing the practice session due to Tuesday night snow we had a good team for the District Cub Swimming Gala earlier in the term. We had some strong swimmers and finished 5th overall - well done to all who took part.

At the end of term we were pleased to present Rohan and Jai with their Chief Scout Silver Award - the top award you can earn in Cubs. They've now said goodbye to Cubs and will continue their Scouting journey on Friday nights with the Scout Troop - we wish you all the best.

Christine Bennett
Akela



Magic Show

A poster for a magic show. At the top is a small circular logo with a tree and the text "THE SCOUTS". Below it, the text reads "AN EVENING OF MAGIC & MENTALISM WITH" in white, followed by "PAUL NEWTON" in large, bold, red letters. Below that, "SATURDAY 27TH APRIL - 19:30" in white. Further down, "TICKETS COST £15.00" in red, followed by "TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS" in white, "PLEASE CONTACT IAN STAPLETON" in white, and the phone number "07957 538 520" in large red letters. Below the phone number is the email address "chewie76@googlemail.com" in white. To the right of this text is a photo of Paul Newton, a man with a shaved head, looking at the camera. A large flame is superimposed over the right side of his face. Below the photo, the text reads "PRICE INCLUDES CHICKEN & CHIPS FISH & CHIPS OR VEG PIE & CHIPS BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS" in white. Below that, "FAIRFIELD WINDSOR CLOSE NORTHWOOD HA6 1PD" in red. At the bottom left, "IN AID OF THE NEW" in white, with "NEW" in large red letters.

*Why not join us for this superb show in aid of the new Scouting Centre. Tickets are still available and it promises to be a great night's entertainment. Tickets are £15 each, including a meal and should be booked with **Ian Stapleton** who is available on **07957 538 520** or at **chewie76@googlemail.com***

Beaver Blog

Firstly I would like give a huge welcome and thank you to our new section assistant Gabrielle Einstein, she is absolutely wonderful and does so much, so fantastic to have her onboard.

The Beavers have been excitedly watching the progress of our new Hut. They come and tell me every week what they have seen and can't wait for it to be ready.

Some of the exciting activities we have been up to are:-

A spooky but fun night hike, well, we ended the hike in the dark anyway!

Celebrating Burns Night, Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Day with lots of yummy food, activities, games and lots of dressing up.

The Beavers have been doing lots of cooking - omelette in a bag, cooking hotdogs on fire, also learning about fire safety and how to light fires sensibly - sorry parents!!

The Beavers have been caving in the caving bus. I must say this year's Beavers were the bravest yet - a huge 'well done' Beavers. They have earned amongst many others their Navigator Badge, so hopefully now they can help their family if they get lost... fingers crossed. They have also been learning knots.

Thank you so much Alan Kershaw for all your expertise and wisdom as always. We are looking forward to Jax Kershaw returning after Jumble and hope she is feeling much better. All the Beavers send their best wishes.

We are very much looking forward to next term's jam packed activities and events, including our Wild West Camp in June, a Funday at Phasels Wood in July and our Grand Jumble Sale.

A huge thank you to Jack and Emma our young leaders for being so awesome every week.

Lastly I would like to thank all the Beaver parents for everything they do to help every week, you are all Amazing THANK YOU

Wendy Wiggins
Beaver Scout Leader



Here we see the Beavers enjoying Chinese New Year, a spooky night hike and an omelette (!) cooked in a bag



April	20	H	Set up hut	Sat	May	11	3rd collection	HO	H	Holiday
	21	H	Set up hut	Sun		12	HC			
	22	BH	HC	Mon		13	HO		HO	Hut Open **
	23	BOT	1st leaflets* HO	Tues		14	no leaflets HO		M-Th	18.30 - 20.00
	24		HO	Wed		15	HO		Sat	14.00 - 18.00
	25		HO	Thurs		16	HO			
	26		HC	Fri		17	HC		HC	Hut Closed
	27		1st collection HO	Sat		18	no collection			
	28		HC	Sun		19	HC		BOT	Beginning of term
	29		HO	Mon		20	BH	HO?		
	30		2nd leaflets* HO	Tues		21	HO		BH	Bank Holiday
May	1		HO	Wed		22	HO			
	2		HO	Thurs		23	Marquee			09.00-16.00
	3		HC	Fri		24	Set up			09.00-18.00
	4		2nd collection HO	Sat		25	Jumble Sale			08.00-18.00
	5		HC	Sun		26	Clear up			08.00-.....
	6	BH	HC	Mon						
	7		3rd leaflets* HO	Tues						
	8		HO	Wed						
	9		HO	Thurs						
	10		HC	Fri						

****NOTE; HO = Hut open FOR DELIVERIES FROM THE PUBLIC.**

(The hut will be open outside these times for the smooth running of other preparations.)

*Leaflet Raids on Tuesdays; Beavers and Scouts - meet at 5.30pm; finish around 7pm

Cubs and Explorers - meet at 6pm; finish around 7.30pm

SATURDAY COLLECTIONS START 13.30

JUMBLE SALE HUT OPENING TIMES