



FIRST NEWS

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Newsletter of the 1st Northwood Scout Group



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

1st Plant Sale at New Scouting Centre

Thank you to all who supported our plant sale over the weekend of 13th / 14th July. We took almost £2,000, a portion of which has been donated to the Northwood Live at Home Scheme and the balance will be used to buy a specific item of equipment for 1st Northwood – details later!

The event starts with a trio of volunteers driving to central London in the District van specially fitted out with two levels of folding tables. They collect all of the professional donations – this year they managed to squeeze in a hundred and sixty trays of top-quality plants in two trips.

Then the real work begins. Plants have to be unloaded and arranged on tables in some semblance of order i.e. annuals together, preferably in colour order, then all the perennials, vegetables and so on. Identifying, pricing and labelling everything takes quite a lot of time, but is well worth the effort as it makes both choosing and selling much easier.

This year we were a little overwhelmed by the vast area at our disposal; the enlarged compound really came into its own with space to set the plants out, room for customers to move freely plus ample space for a refreshments area.

Wendy and Sharon did a great job serving delicious home-made cakes, quiches and teas from the kitchen hatch.

It was lovely to see a queue of about twenty-five customers waiting for us to open the gate at 2pm on the Saturday – not quite up to Jumble Sale standards, but most encouraging. I guess a lot of people came as they were curious to see the new premises; in between selling plants, we conducted a number of private guided tours!

Though we did very well over the weekend, we still had lots of plants left. Most of these went at the Group BBQ the following Friday and then we donated the final few trays to the Northwood Lions Den.

For those interested in statistics, this was our twenty-seventh annual plant sale, and we have donated £31,563 to our Scouts and other local charities.

Ros Plume



Chairman's Chat

What a difference a spell of good weather can have on our activities. This is certainly applicable when one reflects on this year's jumble sale. As we have discovered from many decades of experience of running this event, when the sun is shining, as it was this year, it results in a vastly greater number of people attending. More people almost certainly means that a greater number of items are bought and this, of course, makes a dramatic difference to our takings. Whilst it is true to say that we always do well, this year was exceptional in that our takings exceeded £15k, which is more than we have ever taken at a jumble sale previously. Various amounts of money continue to come in thanks to sales on the internet of selected items considered to be of a quality above what you would class as 'jumble'.

This result is good news and a welcome tonic to our sometimes overworked helpers for it boosts their morale to witness jumlbers leaving with a satisfied expression. This is an appropriate opportunity to express our thanks to four groups of people, starting with all the mainly local residents who donate an incredible amount of jumble from their homes. Secondly our helpers, from those who distribute the fliers advertising the event to the folk who clear up on the Sunday morning after the event. I include in this group those who collect the jumble and the helpers who sort it out once received, including the folk who check the electrical items, examine and repair the bikes and check and test the motor mowers.

Those who set up the stalls are to be thanked along with our virtually resident cook for two days (Ruth Stapleton) ensuring all the troops are adequately fed, also all the stallholders on the day who work tremendously hard and encounter some interesting customers and remarks.

Lastly we must pass on our appreciation to all the jumlbers who support us on the day and in many cases have done so for a number of years, often queuing at the gate for several hours before the event opens.

Anyone running an event staffed by volunteers will testify that obtaining good helpers is one of the biggest challenges we encounter. If you measure success by the quantity of people who help at the sale on the Saturday afternoon we are good at it. However there are other times during the pre-jumble period when we are desperately in need of more help. This is a very hard nut to crack but we will persevere so that the present momentum continues.

No sooner was the jumble sale over than we were making preparations for another one of our fund raising initiatives. According to my most reliable informant, this year's plant sale was the twenty-seventh consecutive plant sale we have held. Like jumble it was the first we have held at the new Scouting Headquarters (Note. No longer known as 'the hut'!). Whilst we didn't break records in terms of takings we sold a considerable amount of plant material over the two days.

As always there was material left over and we found good homes for it at Northwood Lions and in wooden planters, courtesy of Steve Tysoe, which now embellish the surrounds of our HQ.

I cannot resist adding that if we had been selling trees instead of geraniums at our plant sales they would, in the quarter of a century and more of the sales, have become quite large and be making a difference to the appearance of the local townscape.

Whilst these events have been taking place numerous tasks have been completed, such as establishing a lawn between the HQ and the Hog's Back which should, after a few cuts, be in tip top condition.

Do you remember that a group of us planted a hedge of mixed species on the outside of the new railings? Well I think that every single plant has taken and they are becoming well established.

After a lull during building work we have started collecting scrap metal again and taken several loads to the recycling company. They pay us based on the weight of the material so if you have any scrap metal (not fridges, freezers or cookers) or electric cable, please take it to the HQ.

A sharp-eyed observer spotted a nest of the Oak Processionary Moth in our oak tree. As the caterpillars of this species can cause severe irritation we felt it prudent to remove the nest. Our in-house tree specialist Stephen Chapman undertook this delicate task for us without being affected and we are grateful for his help.

Another year has literally flown by and that reminds us that it is time to hold our Annual General Meeting. This will take place at the Scout HQ at 18:30hrs on Wednesday September 18th. I am pleased to report that all of the members of the executive committee are standing for re-election.

Would you like to join us? If so please contact one of our Leaders who will be happy to explain what is involved and pass on your details to our secretary Roxana Peters.

Chairman's Chat (continued)

The District AGM was a suitable opportunity to present awards for long service in the Scouting movement. Awards were presented to Roxana Peters (twenty years), Paul Akers (thirty years) and Richard Plume (fifty years). This is an incredible amount of service and all three are to be thanked and congratulated for all they have done towards making Scouting an extremely worthwhile and rewarding experience.

What were you doing on the evening of Saturday April 27th? Those who were unable to join the one hundred or so of the Scouting fraternity at the Fairfield Church in Northwood Hills missed an excellent evening. Ian and Ruth Stapleton arranged for a friend of theirs - Paul Newton, a professional magician - to spend the evening entertaining everybody.

He was on his feet practically the whole evening and had the audience spellbound with a great variety of tricks and trickery. The event raised around £1,000 towards the new HQ. We tend to have a good social occasion each year and thank those who attended this one for their support. If you require a good magician Paul can be contacted on paul@paul-newton.co.uk.

I am afraid that I finish with some bad news. Our dear friend, helper on numerous occasions and long time committee member Allan Hardwick passed away on the 6th May. Despite it taking place a day before the jumble sale, a number of us managed to attend a celebration of his life at Breakspear Crematorium along with his wife Margaret and many of the family. We send our condolences to them all and will be sending a donation to the Dementia Society.

Paul Akers
Executive Committee Chairman



Allan Hardwick 1933 - 2019

New Scouting Centre Update

A lot more progress has been made since the last newsletter. Most of you will by now have been into the new building to see for yourselves what we have achieved.

We were operational in time for Jumble Sale in May, and once we had the flooring down in the main hall the first Section meetings took place in June.

We have continued with the finishing touches – window sills, architrave, skirting boards, painting and varnishing etc. We've also built a set of emergency exit steps.

We still have to finish fitting out the disabled toilet, fit a shutter to the serving hatch in the kitchen, and fit doors to the loft hatch over the kitchen.

Richard Plume
Executive Committee Member

Are you interested in:

- What the committee does on your behalf?
- What activities the young people have enjoyed in the last year?

Then be sure to come to the

AGM

1st Northwood Scouting Centre

Wednesday 18th September

at 6.30pm

followed by a BBQ

GSL Report

The seemingly endless Scouting year ended with sections finally back in our very own Scout Headquarters. It has been a long haul but I am sure that you will agree that it is well worth the wait. I must thank everyone involved during the fund raising and the build. Without you it would never have been possible.

Talking of fund raising, I must mention the Magic evening that Ruth and Ian Stapleton put on. They invited magician Paul, a friend of theirs, to put on an evening for us. He had the audience on the edge of their seats. I still haven't worked out how he did his tricks. It was a great evening.

The Jumble came and went and very successful it was too. The weather was everything that last year's wasn't. Some said it was too hot. Long may that continue. The number through the gate was up on last year and they came from near and far. Croydon, East Thurrock and Hemel Hempstead being mentioned to me. There were some changes in the layout this year. You would have thought that with a bigger hut things may have been easier but no, it was just as crowded as ever. I must say a big thank you to everybody who assisted on the big day and also of course in the build up.

It was good to see so many of you at the end of year BBQ. Even with so much rain on the night it didn't affect the evening as we had a large new building to present badges and top awards to the young people and see members move from one section to the next. Thank you to those who helped cook.

Finally, I hope you all enjoyed your summer break and I must thank all of the leaders, assistants and parents who keep the sections so busy each term and the committee who support us in all we do.

Mike Bennett, Group Scout Leader



Beaver Blog

The Beavers have had a packed programme of which a few highlights are:

- Bike safety with the local police.
- Health and fitness which the young leaders planned and ran brilliantly.
- The Beavers made and served high tea to their parents for the Queen's Birthday (some very inventive sandwich fillings!) yum!
- We held a very successful Wild West Camp at PACCAR. We had amazing weather, all seemed to have enormous amounts of fun - and that was just the parents!!! Thank you to all that came and gave so much help. The next weekend we had a Beaver Fun Day at Phasels Wood with bouldering, spider mountain, aeroball, archery and cresta run. With all that activity I certainly hope the Beavers slept well, I know the leaders did!
- We had the annual water fun night, with water-based games then Alan's famous water slide. Thank you so much Alan and to Emma and Jack for doing the rope pull for them, then finished off with a huge water fight... yes I was targeted and was totally soaked... thanks Beavers!
- At the end of term Group BBQ badges were awarded. Four Beavers earned their Chief Scout Bronze award... well done Daniel Shipman, Emily Keylock, Eden Elshtein and Joshua Malde on your fantastic work.

Thank you to Gabrielle Einstein who has now been invested - congratulations Gabrielle and to Jackey Kershaw. Have a great Summer holiday and see you in September for more adventures.

Wendy Wiggins, Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Collation

The Cubs have had another active term - we try to wear them out but it just doesn't seem possible!

The term starts with jumble preparations; the Cubs love running up and down the drives to deliver the jumble leaflets - they don't mind if it's Hillside Rise or Lichfield Road with steep hills, they run just the same with the leaders and parents trying to keep up.

We had a disappointing attendance at the District St George's Day, those that attended enjoyed the District challenge to wrap a Beaver in "bandages" (toilet roll) for the Scouts to transport on their homemade stretcher. We then all renewed our promise and congratulated young and old who had received top awards during the year.

Back to weekly meetings where we completed the Athletics Badge in the park and had a visit from Liz and Richard to learn bike maintenance and complete the Cyclist Badge.

We went climbing at PACCAR and had a very informative visit with a train ride on the Ruislip Lido Railway.

The local police joined us for our first meeting in the new Scouting Centre and agreed with the Cubs that the hall is very long when you're playing running games!!! Our term finished with the annual trip to HOAC for Wobble and Paddleboards which the Cubs love - they may even have been worn out by the end of the session...

At our end of term group BBQ we presented lots of badges and said goodbye to Harvey who has moved on to Scouts; we will welcome Eden and Kai from Beavers when we start in September as they couldn't make the BBQ.

Many thanks to our two Young Leaders, Connor and Joseph, for their help during the term even when they were doing the GSCE's they came when they could; fingers crossed for your results which you will have by the time everyone is reading this.

**Christine Bennett
Akela**



Above we see the 1st Northwood team at the District Cubs Sports Day. Below left the Cubs are at Ruislip Lido and below right they are climbing at PACCAR.



Scout Report

As is common practice with the Scouts, most of the summer term was spent out doing lots of activities making the most of good weather and light evenings; we were so focused on going out we had to plan a meeting to use the new Scouting Centre!

So what have we got up to? The Scouts have abseiled, climbed, taken part in archery and rifle shooting. They have cooked on fires down at 6th Northwood and been for a walk including a section along the Grand Union Canal. To make use of our new HQ we had a curry night led by Alan and enjoyed by all. We also completed our Global activities adding to the badges earned by the Troop.

Some of the older Scouts attended a Survival Skills weekend with Alan run by the Gloucestershire Scouts; Mike Zulu joined a District Weekend camp and completed his World Challenge Award; and a small group led by Thomas and Samuel enjoyed a weekend at PACCAR practicing Scouting skills.

A small group also took part in the District Water Day at Bury Lake and had great fun getting wet on a very warm Sunday.

Our last meeting of term was to the Chiltern Open Air Museum who hosted an evening for uniformed groups. As it was just as schools were breaking up only five Groups attended which meant that we didn't have to wait for any of the activities that were on offer.

The Scouts took part in archery, milled some flour to make flat breads, turned cream into butter with a bit of hard work and made clay pots.

They also found out about the blacksmith's trade and had a go at archaeological digging. It was definitely an event enjoyed by all and one to repeat in the future.

We were very pleased to be able to present Samuel and Thomas with their Chief Scout Gold Awards at the end of term BBQ and wish them well as they move on to Explorers.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

*Below we see Scouts 'rescuing' a 'bandaged' Beaver.
To the right are District flags on St. George's Day
parade and archery at Chiltern Open Air Museum*



Explorer Round-up

We've had a busy time since the last 1st News article.

Duke of Edinburgh Award has been central to our programme. Planning expedition hikes, learning how to cook on Trangiers (lightweight cookers), looking at what food is best to take when hiking – e.g. porridge is good for energy for breakfast; think about baked beans in plastic tubs rather than the cans you have at home. We've practiced pitching hike tents and improved map skills. For those doing their Bronze Award, they had a navigation training day.

Gold assessed alongside Gold and Silver practice expeditions took place in Yorkshire over the Easter weekend; the assessed groups are now well on their way to completing their Awards. Bronze practice expeditions were completed in the Chilterns near Ivinghoe Beacon – the groups will prepare and undertake their assessed hikes in September.

Outside of Duke of Edinburgh Award we have taken part in kayaking at HOAC; climbing at Phasels and Laser Tag in the woods on Haste Hill. We have also learnt first aid, fire safety and improved (well maybe) our cooking on fires.

Gilwell 24, an exhausting weekend at the home of Scouting! Twenty Explorers joined Doug for the early start to be at Gilwell by 9am. Some had been before and knew what to expect but for many, it was their first time. As is often the case with Explorers, their first visit after registration was to visit Chubby's Catering for breakfast! Once energised they were off to discover the vast selection of activities that were available – everything from five a side football to miniature tank driving!

As well as activities there were demonstrations from all of the Armed Forces, the Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and RNLI. There is large stage with bands to entertain; a chance to improve (or learn) circus skills or go on a trapeze.

Once the sun goes down coffee and more food keep the Explorers and me on going. Overnight is more like a festival with music playing but there are still activities to do.

There is no sleep at Gilwell 24. If you need to rest there will be a film to watch or a quiet corner to rest in; I managed to crack my pocket solitaire game! I think some of the Explorers had a kip as it's the first time I can remember some not sleeping on the way back.

Thank you to Ray for driving the bus both ways; the parents who provided extra transport; Paul and Christine for keeping on top of the admin and Doug for staying up all night.

We were very pleased that Paul Catchpole, Explorer Scout Leader and County Young Leader received his Silver Acorn this year, recognising the amount of time that Paul has given to Scouting. We are particularly grateful for his experience and leadership of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the District.

Also this term, Tom and Alice received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards following Sam who received his earlier in the year. A lot of hard work led to them achieving these Awards on which they should be congratulated.

Rosa and Lewis have just completed their Awards which will be presented next year. With several more following close behind our next target is for some (or all?) of them to achieve their Queen Scouts Award - watch this space

At our end of term BBQ we wished seven of the unit (who had been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree as part of the UK Contingent in North America) a Bon Voyage and await tales of their adventure next term.

We also wished three other members, who were going as part of the County contingent to the Jamborette in the Netherlands, a successful camp.

Finally a big thank you to all the parents who have helped with transport this term. With over sixty Explorers in the unit we regularly run multiple activities on the same night with some at the hut and some out and about – without the parents this couldn't work.

Doug Horgan - AESL



Here we see Tom and Alice receiving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Paul Catchpole receiving his Silver Acorn and Explorers on a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition.

