

Scouts

1st Northwood



Group Scout Leader Report

Jumble came and went in the usual fashion, fast and furious. Well, I say usual fashion, but it is the first Jumble for three years, so it did take some time to remember where everything went especially as this was only the second Jumble with the new Scouting Centre in place.

There had to be some changes this year as the marquee company sent the wrong type of marquee. You may ask how it could be the wrong type, well it was too short, too thin and didn't have enough walls. However, as you can imagine it did not stop us using it!

The Jumble was the usual success with a high number of attendees through the gate. Not only that; it also didn't rain which always makes a big difference.

I must thank everyone who assisted in this massive fundraising event including the Leaders, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, parents, friends and family and not forgetting the Committee members.

All the sections have been really busy this term and I am sure you would not be surprised that a lot of the meetings involved getting wet as it seems that we have had a heat wave since Jumble. There have also been lots of trips out onto the lake in Rickmansworth and evening walks, not forgetting some great activities at the Scouting Centre.

I must say that I did feel sorry for the Beavers as they camped at PACCAR in tepees for the weekend. The sky opened up for not much more than an hour but unfortunately the rain found its way into the tepees and some Beavers and parents had an uncomfortable night. Apart from that they all seemed to have enjoyed themselves when I visited on the Sunday afternoon.

I hope you all have had a great summer and look forward to seeing you on our return.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Come to Our AGM

The AGM is coming up soon, **on Friday 9th September at 18.00 hours, in the Scout Centre, followed by a BBQ.** Please consider making this an important date in your calendar, not only for the socialising and delectable refreshments afterwards, but also for the encouragement you will be to the unit leaders and the executive, demonstrating that you are interested in the progress the 1st Northwood Scouts have made in the last year.

We will be glad to hear from you how much you have valued our voluntary work through exceedingly challenging times and be able to share with you how much we have appreciated your support coping with the changes to the delivery of the activities. Come and meet other parents and share your experiences.

RSVP by **2nd September**; roxana.peters@virginmedia.com

Roxana Peters
Secretary.

Below are the members of the Cub football team when competing in the District competition



Chairman's Chat

Due to time constraints, my 'Chat' is a short one this time and I will return to my theme in the next issue of *First News*.

We seem to get a few every year. A few what I hear you ask. A few jumbler enquiring when the next jumble sale is taking place and how many such events do we organise in any one year. You have to smile and then explain politely that the event takes several months to prepare, hold and clear up, after which they smile and continue jumbling.

Later in this issue Richard Plume has explained in some detail the activities that are needed to make the jumble sale a success. Below is a picture taken on the day.

Please catch up with me again in the next issue. Kind regards.

Paul Akers

Executive Committee Chairman

What the Executive Committee Is All About

Every year at the AGM, we try to recruit extra help on to the Group Executive Committee, but we usually forget to tell you what it entails. So here we go....

Informally, the role of the Group Executive is to provide the wherewithal so that the Group Scout Leader and the other Leaders can provide interesting, exciting and safe Scouting for as many young people as we can. In other words, our job is to provide a safe headquarters and the necessary equipment for them to run safe meetings in accordance with the rules of the organisation. We go further than this and have always provided a minibus so that Leaders can take their sections out for activities away from Northwood without having to make special arrangements. So of course, to do all this, we have to raise a lot of money – cue the Jumble Sale!!!

The responsibilities of the Group Executive Committee are spelled out in detail in the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association. It expands considerably on my summary above, to include responsibilities for electing members, presenting and agreeing Annual Reports and Accounts, ensuring adequate insurance is in place, ensuring conformance to POR and so on.

As well as the obvious roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, we also allocate responsibilities for the practical aspects:

- Headquarters maintenance
- Minibus maintenance
- Grounds maintenance
- Scrap Metal sorting
- And we need someone to take responsibility for the kitchen.

We meet once a month usually on a Wednesday evening, in a formal but friendly atmosphere, and we receive reports from all the Scouting Sections, plus reports on finance, headquarters maintenance and minibus. Actions are placed as required.

We would love you to come and join us.

Richard Plume

Executive Committee Member



Cub Collation

As usual the summer term has been a very busy one for the Cubs with lots of time spent out and about, starting with jumble preparations. The Cubs love the challenge of seeing how quickly they can deliver the leaflets on their route; on more than one week they were out last and first back with the leaders struggling to keep up! Thank you to all the parents that supported the leaflets and especially those who accompanied their Cubs to take part in the collections.

Just before the start of term we joined the District with the return of a face-to-face St George's Day Parade. We met in The Drive and walked as a Group alongside 2nd Northwood and Poindexter Explorers to Ruislip Lido. There was a great turn out and it was lovely to see so many young people out together again after the last two years on screens. The event started with an inter-group challenge in which the Beavers had to cross the "river" to deliver one member for the Cubs to bandage up like a Mummy. Meanwhile the Scouts were busy building a stretcher to carry the mummy back again and raise the flag. The Challenge was followed by a short story about St George and then a celebration of top award recipients before each section renewed their Promise.

After jumble, the Cubs spent many meetings away from the headquarters. They enjoyed following the space walk at Ruislip Lido and discovering trees and wild plants on a walk around Oxhey Woods. We had two visits to Walter Davies Campsite near Gerrards Cross for archery and air rifle shooting - new activities for many of the Cubs which they adapted to very well. Another new activity for many was the water activities at Bury Lake. This year saw them out in small groups in a Katakuna boat which let them play games and practice paddling and the favourite, paddleboards.

As well as Pack nights we joined two District meetings this term. At the start of the term a team participated in the District Football. We might not have won but they all tried their best, worked well together and enjoyed the challenge despite the weather (it rained back in April!) Towards the end of term was the District Cub Sports Day. All who took part did very well with some individual medal winners. We were short of members for a few relay events but lent Cubs to other Packs so that scratch teams could take part.

We had a few nights using the grounds of the HQ (it was too hot to go inside!) where the Cubs learnt some basic knots, had a go pioneering, went on a litter picking walk and shared what they knew about healthy eating. The final meeting of term in temperatures of 40 degrees was, not surprisingly, a wet night. We started with some investitures and badge presentations before enjoying an ice cream (thank you Linda and Waitrose). Then we went on the Hogs Back for water relays; a water fight with syringes (surprisingly powerful) and then concluded with small groups trying to balance a bucket of water on their feet - not as easy as it might sound.

In our end of term presentations, we invested four new Cubs; presented sixty badges and said goodbye to our four oldest Cubs who will be continuing their journey in Scouts next term - have fun, Leeya, Matthew, Eden and Asiya. One of the badges presented was to Eden who completed his Chief Scout Silver Award, the top award in Cubs - Congratulations Eden. We had one extra meeting in the summer this year with a visit to RAF Northolt Fire Section. The Cubs who attended had a great time finding out about the role of the section and inspecting their vehicles and equipment. Now it's time to enjoy the rest of the summer and recharge the batteries ready for another busy term in September.

Akela (Christine) and Baloo (Parina)

Below we see Cubs walking in Oxhey Woods, at the RAF Northolt Fire Section and enjoying water challenges



Scout Report

The Scouts have had a busy term with lots of activities away from our base due to the preparations for jumble and the weather was so nice.

A Sunday afternoon at Bury Lake in Rickmansworth for a session Paddle Boarding was enjoyed by all. Several trips to the local camp site at PACCAR where the Scouts tried Archery, Rifle Shooting, Abseiling and Crate Stacking. The Troop also visited the Swimming fun pool at Windsor which is much more fun than the local swimming pools as they have several slides.

The Leaders thought it would be a good idea to show off our fire lighting skills, so we took the Scouts to Walter Davies camp site in Gerrards Cross. Although our competence had seemingly dropped significantly as it took forty-five minutes before we achieved any significant flames and established a small fire – the problem of Scouting online so much over the last two years!

During the preparations for Jumble, we assisted on the Tuesday evenings delivering the leaflets and collecting the Jumble on the Saturday. I lost count of the times the Scouts came up to me and said “Wow. Look at this”. For many it was their first experience of jumble collections; we hope to see them and their families again next year.

What with HS2 being in the news so much and it being on our doorstep, a visit to the site at West Ruislip was arranged for a Friday night. It was really interesting with a walk around part of the site with several guides including a tunnelling manager who described what all the equipment does. A quick visit to a conference room where we watched drone footage of the HS2 works from West Ruislip to Harefield and then it was up onto the room of the visitor centre six floors up which gave a great view of the site. Every piece of equipment they have on the site is very big!

The term ended with games and a BBQ. Thanks to the Leaders, Explorers and to all the parents who assisted during the team.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Here we see the Scouts on the HS2 viewing platform and busy with end of term cooking



Beaver Blog

The Beavers have had a fantastically adventurous term with two visits to Paccar, doing crate-stacking and orienteering, a visit to the new Bouldering Wall at 4th Ruislip, and a canoeing session at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

We joined the District for both St George's Day and the Beaver Bonanza to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Both events were a lot of fun.

To prepare for our first camp in three years we had a Pirate-themed sleepover in conjunction with 3rd Northwood Beavers, which was very successful. Then we had a two-night camp in Roy's Reservation at Paccar, camping in Native American-style tipis. Unfortunately, it rained on the second night, but it cleared up in time for campfire and the Beavers' spirits were undampened.

Back at the hut we learned how to tie our shoelaces, we memorised our addresses and parent's phone numbers, did a litter-pick, played board games, made playdough, played a game of Quick Cricket and learned the fundamentals of the Indian game of Kabaddi. Then we finished the term with our traditional home-made waterslide.

We gave out around two hundred badges this term! Very well done to all the Beavers, we hope you enjoyed your term!

A huge thanks to all our parent helpers this term. We couldn't run such a brilliant programme without all of you. And another huge thanks to our Young Leaders who work really hard to build their leadership skills and provide fun and engaging activities for the Beavers.

Panda (Wendy) Beaver Scout Leader
Bluebell (Gabrielle) Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

The Beavers climbing on the Bouldering Wall, enjoying a pirate sleepover, camping in tipis, playing a giant-sized game and canoeing at the Aquadrome



Explorer Round-up

The summer term is always challenging for the Explorer team; we never know who will be able to turn up due to exams and fieldtrips, but we continue to put on a full programme for those not doing exams and the exam group who want a well-earned break.

We started the term joining the rest of the District at St George's Day walking in from The Drive to Ruislip Lido with 1st and 2nd Northwood. For the District Challenge, where each section had a role in the challenge, the Explorers did every part other than borrowing a Beaver to carry on their stretcher (the leaders weren't convinced the poles could safely carry an Explorer!).

The Explorers also helped as much as they could with jumble especially the collections and clearing up after the sale when the energy and enthusiasm of our late team was greatly appreciated. After helping with jumble, we had a good number of Explorers volunteering to help at the Northwood Jubilee in the Park event. From car parking to backstage, they were busy helping the event organisers. They were also busy at the end helping tidy up so that the park could be ready for cricket and football.

During meetings, we have spent as much time as possible out and about. The Unit have been on several walks - a scavenger hunt back from the Lido; a photo trail around Croxley Green and an art trail at Wembley Park. We went to Walter Davies campsite to practice pioneering skills - making and walking giant A Frames. Paddleboarding at Bury Lake is always popular, particularly with the exceptionally warm evenings. This year's new skill was paddleboard polo although I think they need more practice! At the Scout HQ, they've tried their hand at fire lighting without matches (with varying degrees of success) with the incentive of s'mores when they had a fire. They also made model boats but forgot to take them to Bury Lake to test out.

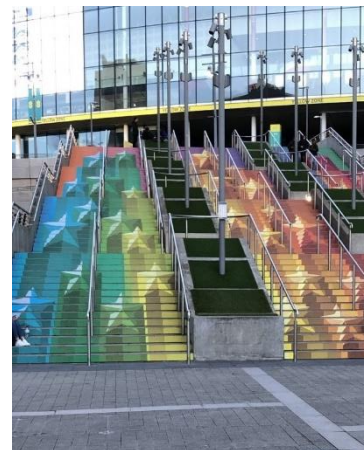
Over the Easter weekend, we had two silver and two gold groups out on Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, a mixture of assessed and practice at both levels. They found their way around the Peak District and enjoyed some good weather, with all groups completing their planned routes. Then in June our younger members completed their bronze expedition in the Chilterns discovering the difficulties of walking near HS2 sites with diverted footpaths and limited signage. They found their way round and also found the leaders with welcome ice creams waiting for them just before the end!

During the term we welcomed more new members who were invested before the summer. We listened to Duke of Edinburgh presentations and presented completed Awards to more Explorers. The term finished with a BBQ cooked by the Explorers and enjoyed by all.

We have summer camp in August, the first for many years. Twenty-five Explorers and three leaders will be heading off to the Poole area for six days where they will enjoy water activities, coasteering, cycling and a trip to Brownsea Island - report and photos next newsletter!

Christine Bennett
District ES Commissioner

Above is the art trail, below are Explorers on a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition enjoying lunch and Explorers paddleboarding



Jumble Sale – They Think It's All Over!

Some people think the Jumble Sale lasts for three hours, from 2 o'clock until 5 o'clock on the day. But actually, it lasts for nearer three months. It starts six weeks before the day with leaflet drops and collections, and this year went on for at least another six weeks afterwards. The sale was a great success; many people had faithfully stored their jumble for us for three years, knowing that we would not let them down. The weather was great, the buyers turned up and we almost reached the 2019 record for takings.

The clearing up is done in several stages. The first stage happens on the Saturday evening, when we have to bring anything of real value such as gazebos and other equipment inside our secure compound, as there is no security on the field. We also gather together the items that will be taken to the waste disposal site first thing next morning.

The second stage happens on Sunday morning, and this is a huge task. Basically, we have to clear the Hogsback open space of all our equipment and leftovers. We have a grab lorry to take away waste, and large numbers of volunteers to take down the large Gala Tents and Herras fencing and to bring inside our compound all remaining leftover jumble. The highlight of Sunday morning occurs at about 11.00am, when we sit down to a Full English Breakfast prepared by Ruth Stapleton and her team – this year she served forty-five breakfasts! That's how big the team was.

Regular visitors to the 1st Northwood Scouting Centre will have noticed that we took significantly longer than usual to clear away all the leftovers and equipment from the Jumble Sale this year. Unfortunately, the various dealers that come along and take away our left-over rags, books, glass and china etc. could not get to us on the day as they usually do, which meant we had to move all the clothes and linens, shoes, handbags, belts etc. into the main hall to keep them dry for a couple of weeks – a lot more work and inconvenience. But we received another £650 from all this stuff!

We found a dealer this year who would take all our books and small electrical items, but again his collections were spread over three weeks; the books earned us another £80 but, in the end, we only received about £10 for a large quantity of electrics, and we would have been better off cutting off the cables and selling the cable. We also received around £700 for all the scrap metal and cable that we had left at the end, always a good earner. And we donated twenty bikes that we didn't have time to overhaul ourselves to Recycle-a-bike, a not-for-profit organisation in Uxbridge that takes used bikes, renovates them and sells them at reasonable prices to the public.

By the end of June, we were in a position to take down the large Gala tent at the top end of the site, and then it took us another two or three weeks to get the site properly tidy with all the market stalls and Herras fencing stored away. We have also disposed of around twenty-five pallets as we don't need so many now that we don't sell furniture.

There we have it, all over for another year. So how long is a Jumble Sale? Not three hours but three months.

Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member

