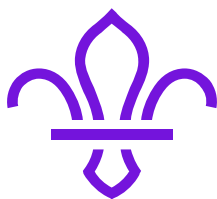


# Scouts

## 1st Northwood



### Group Scout Leader Report

I write this at the beginning of December and the winter is certainly with us. The weather reports are saying that it's going to be colder and snow is expected in some parts of Britain. I do hope that the snow stays away this year especially over the Christmas period as this is the time that many travel great distances to see family and friends. Whatever you're planning for Christmas I do hope that it goes well for everyone and that you have a well-deserved rest over this period.

The Cub and Explorer sections have sent Christmas parcels to the British armed forces all over the world for the past few years and this year is no exception. Over fifty parcels of treats were packed and taken to the local RAF base at the beginning of December for them to be distributed to forces serving overseas at Christmas. Hopefully we will receive many letters back from these individuals telling us how much they appreciate them.

All the sections have been busy during term with lots of fun activities completed. Scouts have been camping which they haven't done for some time and all the other sections have been out and about having fun.

The sections were all represented at the Remembrance Service in Green Lane. They walked from the Scouting Centre, flags flying high, down to Northwood. The wreaths were laid by a member of each section.

The Group held the Annual AGM at the HQ; I ran through the highlights of all the sections describing what they have been doing during the previous year. After the AGM there were lots of activities for all to participate in and enjoy including peg planes and a puzzle to complete with each family having some of the pieces. The committee provided a BBQ for all. It was absolutely delicious so thank you to them.

I must thank all the leaders for the time and energy that they put into running their sections on a week-by-week basis. They put in an amazing amount of effort to ensure that the young people have a fun and entertaining time within their sections. Without them all we would not have a Group. I hope to see you all back in the New Year after a long-deserved break.

**Mike Bennett**  
Group Scout Leader

### Come to Our Jumble Sale on May 13th

Yes, there will be one, even though last year's was so successful. It has become a tradition and we want to carry on particularly as one of the reasons last year's was a record breaker was the number of people who came to help ahead of time. And we don't want to lose them. We had people designated eBay sellers, others checked the electrics – always very important as we are one of the few sales that sell checked electricals – others priced, boxed, checked toys, scrutinised clothes and everything else needed to make the sale valued, but we can always do with more people. This is one of those occasions when many hands do make less work. So, if you have a particular connection and/or skill in:

- Gardening – come and weed out what is not useful
- Bikes – come and help Jean-Lou prepare forty-odd bikes
- Computers – come and match up cables, hardware, disks
- Records/CDs – come and find the treasures for us
- China – come and ditch the surplus
- Electrics – come and make us safe!
- Anything – come and tell us.

The first collection is on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023** (after the first leaflet raid on Tuesday 11 April) and from then on in the compound every **Mon - Thurs evening 18.30 – 20.00** and **Saturdays 13.30 – 18.00**. Regular emails keep you in touch and up to date. Please put these dates in your diary as a priority. Our AMAZING Group leaders deserve a bit of concentrated sweat and effort to show them how we appreciate them. Help us repeat the magnificent achievement of last year. Email me anytime, please with 'Scouts' Jumble Sale' in the subject line.

**Roxana Peters.**  
[roxana.peters@virginmedia.com](mailto:roxana.peters@virginmedia.com)



## Chairman's Chat

Undoubtedly the most significant piece of news we have received in recent years is that her majesty Queen Elizabeth II died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. We and millions of people around the world will miss her for numerous reasons, in particular for her steadfastness in the face of the turbulence in our world.

I was 'laid up' at the time and my only connection with the world outside was through the television in my room. I was able to watch all the coverage the media gave to the funeral and I found it quite a moving experience. We are very good at ceremonials and important occasions.

What news is there from the 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood? Firstly, I am in no doubt at all that we should sing the praises of all our Leaders. They are a phenomenal group of people who will go to extreme lengths to organise as well as manage a meeting. The wide and imaginative range of activities they provide for our youngsters is outstanding and anybody who is given a place at 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood should consider themselves very fortunate to be amongst specialists in their field.

Unfortunate news does reach us however in that Panda (Wendy) our Beaver Leader has had COVID and is now suffering from the effects of long COVID. We hope Wendy that you feel well enough soon to come back for we are certainly missing your presence at meetings but please make sure you are fully recovered before you return.

A question - how do you get a good number of people at an AGM? Hold it halfway through the afternoon of the jumble sale? Wrong - that would not work for various obvious reasons. I recall the days when we had a good guest speaker who attracted a respectable audience. Perhaps we should return to this practice. All the committee and officers were re-elected but no new faces - our attempts were unsuccessful because everyone seems to be very busy.

That just about brings the 'Chairman's Chat' part of this newsletter to a close, leaving me to wish you all, on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood, an enjoyable Christmas and please do your best to stay well.

**Paul Akers**  
Executive Committee Chairman

## Fund Raising

As you know, we are back in the swing of it with our Jumble Sales now, but we are always on the lookout for other ways to raise funds to run the Group - it costs us between £6,000 and £8,000 a year to run the Group, and that is before any exceptional expenditure.

We have had an Easyfundraising account since we started raising funds for the new Scouting Centre, and in the last few weeks it has just tipped over the £1,000 mark in five years. But we only have twenty-one people signed up for it, despite having over a hundred families in our Group. Just think how much more money we could raise if you all signed up to it. The way it works is that once you have registered with the website, every time you buy something online from all the big retailers such as John Lewis, M&S, Tesco, Screwfix, Curry's and dozens more, you click the easyfundraising icon on the retailer's website, and our Group receives 1% or 2% of what you spend.

To register, click on the link below, and when it asks you to choose your "good cause", type in "1st Northwood Scouts New Hut Appeal". Ignore the other option of just 1st Northwood Scouts, that is the other 1st Northwood on the Isle of Wight!

[Support a Good Cause](#)

I've written before about the money we make from scrap metal. After Jumble Sale this year, we took over £700 for scrap metal and cable from jumble leftovers, so the decks were cleared in early June. By the end of October, we were once again overwhelmed by the amount of metal that had accumulated round the back of the building, much of it brought in by you, the parents of our young members. When we cleared the decks again in November, we raised another £1,060! The materials that make us the most money are copper pipe, brass plumbing fittings and electric cable. So, whenever you have a plumber or electrician round to your house, please ask him if you can keep the scraps from the job and bring them along to our HQ. Of course, all other metals are welcome too.

**Richard Plume**  
Executive Committee Member

## Cub Collation

The Cubs have had an exceptionally busy term - shown by the fact we gave out over a hundred badges at our last meeting! We have covered all sorts of activities and badges, been out and about and completed two sleepovers. The term started with a visit to the Canal Centre at Rickmansworth where the Cubs learnt some local canal history, had a ride on a boat and manned the lock gates. This was our first meeting after King Charles ascended the throne, so all the Cubs renewed their promise at the end of the meeting. The following week we were at WRAP with Roxana, one of 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scout Group's Executive Committee Members. The Cubs were told about the Loch Ness monster and were challenged to make their own monster with a moving part. They had some amazing ideas although I'm not sure the parents were so pleased when they took them home!

We had booked a sleepover at RAF Hendon for the summer which was postponed until September so on a Saturday afternoon we filled the minibus with Cubs, Helen's car with kit and made our way to Hendon. Once there we set up our beds below the bombs (!) before going off to learn about the skills of flying, decorating eye masks, making/flying paper planes and controlling robots. By 9pm it was time for supper before heading outside for a silent movie (not really silent, we all had our own headphones to listen to it). A Night at the Museum was an excellent choice by the organisers! Then it was time for bed with the hanger lights going off soon after midnight. Amazingly, considering the number of people there, all the Cubs went to sleep very quickly and most needed waking up when the lights came on in the morning. A quick picnic breakfast and tidy up then we had time to visit the shop and the rest of the museum before returning lots of tired Cubs to their parents.

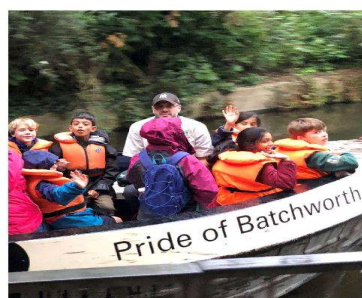
We joined the District Activity Day at Phasels where we could try lots of new activities and meet Cubs from other Packs. As the activities required groups of 12, the 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Cubs were divided up, so some joined forces with 2<sup>nd</sup> Northwood whilst others buddied up with 5<sup>th</sup> Ruislip. We were very proud of the way they got on with their new friends and made the most of the day.

Normal meetings continued with the Naturalist badge requiring a walk in Oxhey Woods; a refresher on energy saving skills for the Environmental Conservation badge; a visit to the local Synagogue with 6<sup>th</sup> Northwood and a show and tell Pets evening (with posters and photos not the actual pet.) This half term we have completed the Money Skills badge, learnt about Remembrance, prepared and delivered parcels to the Troops and completed our Christmas crafts. We also had time for a Night Hike and Sleepover which Ilya reports on later in this issue.

This term we have said goodbye to six Cubs who continue their Scouting journey in the Scout section. Emily, Noah and Remy moved up at half term with Jamie, Caleb and Neil joining them in the New Year. Before they went, Emily, Jamie and Caleb completed their Chief Scout Silver Awards - well done all. Finally, thank you to the leaders (Baloo, Hathi and Raksha otherwise known as Parina, Carlos and Helen) for running the Pack with me for another term and to all the parents who have helped when called upon from supervising hikes to cooking and transport. Have a good holiday and we'll all be ready for another busy time in January.

### Akela (Christine Bennett)

*Below we see Cubs on the canal, at WRAP, at RAF Hendon and enjoying some go-karting*





## Scout Report

The Scouts have had a very busy term learning/refreshing their map reading and camping skills. These skills were put to the test when a group walked from the Scout headquarters to Paccar Scout Camp in Chalfont. Scouts have done this walk many times over the last years but for the present group this was their first time. With HS2 being built through Harefield and the Chilterns, the usual route had to be amended which increased the distance that they had to walk.

The hike was led by Patrol Leader, Rohan, who had planned the route and made the majority of the decisions on the day. He did really well as this was his first real attempt of map reading away from the local streets. Although I was with the group at all times, just to make sure that nothing went wrong, I had absolutely nothing to worry about and I enjoyed my stroll in the Chilterns. The weather was kind and we arrived at Paccar four hours after we departed Northwood having completed approximately fifteen kilometers.

We found the rest of the group at our campsite; they had put up all the tents for everybody which was greatly appreciated. We quickly went off and spent an hour on the archery range which was enjoyed by all. That evening the rain came but luckily late enough that we were all safely tucked up in our sleeping bags in our tents. The following morning the sun was out while we were cooking breakfast and what a huge feast we had. We all went for a local hike after breakfast and by the time we returned it was time for lunch. Then we had to pack away and return to the HQ with some very wet tents to be hung up in the Scouting Centre for them to dry before being packed away (thanks to the other sections for putting up with the reduced space). From what I have heard everybody really seems to have enjoyed themselves over the weekend. I know all the leaders did; I must thank Ian, Alan and Christine for their help with the camp and the parents who helped with transport of both Scouts and kit.

I'm pleased to say that Rohan has now finished his Chief Scout Gold Award which was presented at the end of term. This is the first Award for the past few years, mainly due to Covid interrupting the training that we had planned for everyone. I do hope that this is the start of great things and that we will continue to see many Scouts achieving this award. Rohan will now move on to Explorers with Jai, Pratim and Aarya to continue their Scouting journey - we wish them well.

I was really pleased to see that a good number of Scouts attended on the Friday night of the England v USA World Cup football game. Although football seems to have taken over the press and TV during this period it was great to see Scouts still wanting to attend on a Friday night and participate in fun Scouting activities. I hope that you all have a great Christmas and New Year and that I'll see you all again when Scouts return in January.

**Mike Bennett**

**Group Scout Leader**

*Here we see the Scouts mapping, pioneering, hiking and listening to a community talk*



## Beaver Blog

The Beavers started autumn term making memorial candle holders for the late Queen. The following weeks, we made three visits to Paccar, doing Tomahawk throwing, zip-wiring and rock-climbing.

Back at the hut, we built a sukkah (a temporary shelter) for the Jewish festival of Sukkot. We then had a fun night on the Hogs Back seeing all the things we could see, including dogs (with their owners), mushrooms, acorns and even bats!

After half-term, we learnt some Scouting history, did some fun science experiments, did a session on water safety, and learnt two dances. We had seven Beavers join the District Beaver Autumn Leaf walk, which was a very pretty walk through Ruislip woods. We also had six Beavers representing 1st Northwood on the Remembrance Sunday parade.

We are finishing up the term with some cooking (sausage rolls and cookies), and some Christmas crafts.

As always, we wish to extend a huge thanks to all our parents who have given their time during a difficult term whilst Wendy is off long-term. A huge thank you to Doug Horgan from the Explorers Leader team, who has stepped in to help. And an extra special thanks to Victoria Lane who has stepped up to join the leadership team as a section assistant.

**Panda (Wendy) Beaver Scout Leader**

**Bluebell (Gabrielle) Assistant Beaver Scout Leader**

*Here are the Beavers rock climbing, tomahawk throwing and preparing for Christmas*





## Explorer Round-up

The Unit has had a busy term although the first meeting in September was cancelled following the death earlier in the day of our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen. We felt we should cancel as we were due to invest our new members that evening and saying a promise to the King so soon didn't feel appropriate. The following week, before starting a Photo Challenge in Croxley Green, the Explorers renewed their promise outside Croxley station.

Due to our high numbers, we run split meetings most weeks. This saw the unit participate in the photo challenge, rifle shooting at PACCAR and Duke of Edinburgh update sessions. Meetings together included bowling and Life Skills. Over two weeks the unit learnt how to sew on badges, iron a shirt, change a car wheel, wire a plug, sharpen knives, speed read, plan a train journey and budget for meals. Thank you to the parents, committee members and other leaders who came to help with the sessions.

Three groups participated in the Sky Camp back at PACCAR after its COVID absence. They all built platforms for the night, using pioneering skills they'd been taught since Cubs. They slept in hammocks and used their platforms to cook a meal for the team. We were very pleased that one of our teams won the overall competition - well done to all who took part, whether in the winning team or not.

This half term has seen us focus on community engagement. Explorers were seen helping set up and tidy up after the Northwood Remembrance Service and the Northwood Hills Christmas Lights Switch On. In Unit meetings, we had a visit from a member of the New Hope Charity which supports homeless people in Watford and were very generous with donations of food and other items for their use. They packed up treats for the Troops who are abroad at Christmas and, along with those prepared by the Cubs, were able to donate fifty-seven boxes. They also made some Christmas lanterns to take to St Vincent Nursing Home and some decorations for the Scout HQ.

An intrepid group of twelve Explorers and Doug followed up the visit from New Hope by building cardboard shelters to give them a small insight into what it is like to sleep rough. They slept outside in the HQ grounds on a Friday night to raise awareness and funds for the Emmanuel Church Food Bank. To date they have raised £1,538 on our Just Giving page:-

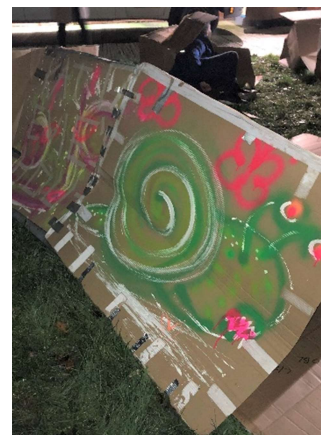
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/poindexor-explorerscouts>

The Unit held their first summer camp for many years heading off to the New Forest. They were off site every day participating in cycling, water activities and coasteering. They also had a day visit to Brownsea Island ending with fish and chips in Poole and celebrating Jocelyn's 18th Birthday. Everyone had a great time and hope to have another one next year.

We will finish the term with some cooking of Christmas treats and pizzas ready to start again in the New Year. Thank you to all the parents who have supported us during the year, supervising activities, providing transport, dropping off cardboard and all the donations for our various causes.

**Christine Bennett**  
**District ES Commissioner**

*Here we see the Explorers sleeping rough and enjoying their Summer and Sky camps*



## Cub Night Hike & Sleepover

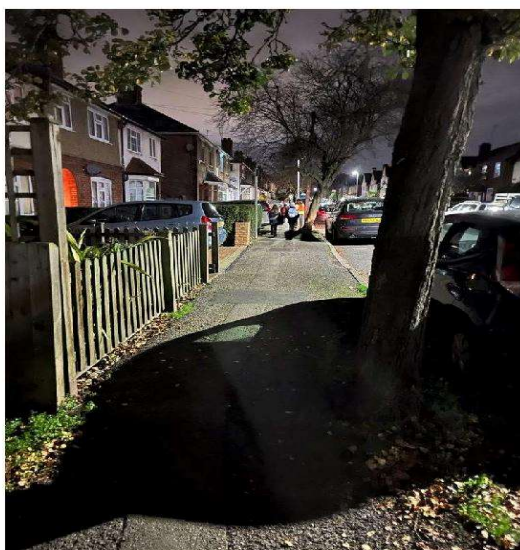
On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November the Cubs went for a night hike and sleepover. We walked from Ruislip Lido to the Scout hut. We went through many woods, but we got there in the end, despite the fact it was very muddy and slippery, in fact I slipped over three times! The walk was quite long and tiring but it was also fun!

Once we got to the hut, we got changed, put up the tents and ate delicious burgers with hot chocolate. After everyone had finished, we sat down to watch the movie, 'Paddington'. We watched about half an hour before we decided it was time for bed. By this point it was around midnight and we were all extremely tired!

In the morning we got up, packed our bags, brushed our teeth and ate breakfast. We made fried egg rolls, which we made ourselves! We had them with another hot chocolate and marshmallows while finishing our movie. After the movie was done, we got ready to go home. It was my first night away with Cubs and I really enjoyed it. I can't wait to do it again!

**Iyla Patel**

**Cub Scout**





**That's All for this Issue Folks.  
Have a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.**

