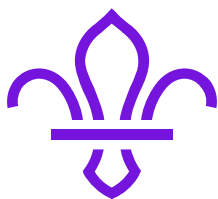


Scouts

1st Northwood



Group Scout Leader Report

If you have driven past the Scout headquarters over the last week you will have noticed a large tent in the grounds. This can only mean one thing, the Jumble Sale is not too far away. You will have already received an email detailing the help that we need - this is our only major fund-raising event of the year, so everyone is encouraged to help at least once in the run up and on the day.

The hut has been prepared and now all we need to do is deliver the leaflets on the Tuesday and collect donations on the Saturday for three weeks on the trot from 11 April. The donations have to be sorted, the stalls set up on the two days prior to the event, the sale held and everything packed away on the Sunday. Sounds easy doesn't it? No, but with a lot of help it could be.

We do have a small band of regular volunteers but the more really is the merrier. We need the support of the young people and parents to make the event successful so please if you are approached do agree to help. It would be even better if you would contact us and volunteer as this will save us valuable time.

The sections have been busy as usual doing some great activities and joining in events with the rest of the District. A special well done to the Cubs swimming team who were overall winners of the District Cub Gala. They didn't finish first in many races but came second in most which gave us the top position overall.

The Explorers were away over Easter completing assessed and practice Duke of Edinburgh Award hikes in the Peak District. What great weather they had as well. Not too hot or cold. In fact it was just the right temperature that you need when you are hiking carrying all your equipment across the Peak District for a minimum of seven hours a day.

Representatives of all sections were pleased to join the congregation of Holy Trinity Church for their Mothering Sunday service following an invitation from Reverend Ann Lynes.

The whole Group will be attending the St George's Day event at Ruislip Lido on the 23rd 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; full details have been sent out to all sections.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Grand Jumble Sale

13th of May at the Scout Centre on Northwood Way.

But you all know that, don't you? For some it starts at 14.00 on the day but for about eight people it started on 1st April, with numbers gradually increasing towards a hundred in the final days before 13th May. An email to about three hundred people was sent out mid-March and within two weeks there were nearly sixty replies -FANTASTIC! (Check your spam – it might be there!) It is not too late to reply to the email address below to register your willingness to help. This is a great way to say thank you to the amazing team of leaders – who will all be on the Jumble team too - who have led the youngsters through an active, challenging and demanding year resulting in a record number of badges, great experiences and fun learning. Please, as a parent, commit to coming at least once (minimum!) during the preparation month from 15th April to 13th May.

The Scout Centre is open Mon-Thurs 18.30 – 20.00 and Saturdays 13.30 – 18.00 for deliveries and sorting.

If you have a particular interest in or knowledge about books, china, jewellery, toys, electronics, pictures, bikes, lawnmowers, sewing machines – the list is almost endless, make yourself known to one of the leaders or the executive. All experience is valued, but none is needed to help! A great deal of hard work, eased by a good team, biscuits and unlimited tea/coffee resulting in enough financial support for another cracking year for our youngsters.

We do need you; every hour by one, means one less for another

Roxana Peters.
roxana.peters@virginmedia.com



Chairman's Chat

Calling all Mums and Dads in particular this time. When you bring your son or daughter to the Scout Centre on Saturday afternoons, we would very much like you to stay. Admittedly some do and even ask if there is anything they can do to help us with the jumble sale. Great, the more of these the better for all of us but others seem to want to make a hasty retreat. We realise that some of you are busy and we will occasionally accept excuses. We like to think that we are a sociable crowd to get on with whatever task needs to be attended to and we think you will find it an enjoyable experience. There is nothing like a good challenge. So, whenever this newsletter arrives in your inbox, please read it and see if you have some time available during the next few weeks to come along and make yourself known to us. You do not need to possess any specialised skills, just a willingness to get involved with the action. Bring a neighbour or friend if you wish, there is plenty of room at the Scout Centre.

Some signs that the sale is not very far away emerged over the Easter weekend when eleven strong and fit men assembled our big Gala marquee. With pallets as flooring, it is ready to house all those household items which are surplus to your requirements but could well be useful to someone else.

Whilst on the subject of raising funds to keep us afloat, news has reached us that our Treasurer Malcolm Smart is relinquishing his position after six years dedicated service to the Group. He has various commitments up North and does not feel that he would be able to undertake the role so far away from us. Malcolm has made a splendid job of keeping our finances in good order thereby making the transfer to a new person a smooth one. Our task now is to find someone who is prepared to become our next Treasurer by the time of our AGM in the Autumn. If you are interested, please get in touch with us.

Enjoy jumble and let's hope we have another sunny one like last year.

Paul Akers
Executive Committee Chairman

Here we see the section representatives at Holy Trinity Church and those who braved the weather for the first leaflet raid – the GSL sends his thanks!



Cub Collation

The Cubs started the term working towards their Personal Safety badge. They also practiced their swimming ready for the District Swimming Gala. A strong team took part in the gala with lots of good swims resulting in a win at the end of the night - well done Cubs!

When they weren't swimming the Cubs were learning how to use kitchen knives safely as they cut up vegetables and made spring rolls - very yummy! They also made pancakes and chocolate nests so are becoming experts in the kitchen.

They've also worked towards their Navigator badge, started on the Science badge and learnt about safe passwords.

To complete the term, some of the Cubs joined a very muddy District Cub hike around Ruislip Woods and Lido.

With such a busy term it was a pleasure to invest new Cubs who've joined us, hand out lots of badges and present Daniel with his Chief Scout Silver Award (the highest award in Cubs) - congratulations Daniel.

We finished the term welcoming eight new Cubs from Beavers and saying goodbye to Daniel, Ilya and Kamil who will be continuing their Scouting journey with the Scouts on a Friday night - thank you for your enthusiasm as Cubs and good luck as you continue your adventures.

Akela (Christine Bennett)

Below we see Cubs taking part in the International Campfire on YouTube (two projectors needed one to join in and one for the words!) and the winners of the Cub Swimming Gala



Scout Report

Scouts have been out and about this year with camps early in 2023. Chilly Goat in January followed by Feb Freezer the following month. Lots of activities and challenges as well as sleeping out in tents in the Winter is what Scouting is all about.

The Troop attended the District swimming competition and although we didn't win, all the Scouts had fun judging by the smiles at the end of the evening. After the main competition we had a couple of fun races with everyone involved. The Troop finished a credible fourth out of seven, which is the best for a number of years.

A trip to the Mayor's Parlour was a great experience for the Scouts. Sitting in the council chamber, meeting the local councillors and hearing about the local council was a first for many of them.

The Scouts have been creative getting their hands dirty, making numerous things out of clay. We have a number of artists in the Troop who made all types of animal sculptures and bowls. Hopefully you will agree how good they are having seen the finished articles when they took them home. They have also been discovering science this term with a selection of experiments including the science behind the ever-popular campfire.

With the Summer term just round the corner the Troop will be away from the hut more than usual so please check your emails.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Here we see the Scouts enjoying a Challenge Evening, at Feb Freezer camp and at the Mayor's Parlour.



Beaver Blog

The Beavers started the term learning Scouting history, basic first aid skills and simple knots. We also made machines from k'nex, a building system toy made up of rods and connectors. We then met with the rest of the District for the Beaver Quiz night at Sacred Heart Church. The teams were mixed and the Beavers all did really well and enjoyed making friends with Beavers from other groups. Back at the hut we learnt about the Hindu festival of Maha Shivaratri held in honour of the deity Lord Shiva and made thrishuls, a trident wielded by Lord Shiva.

After half-term, we had a really fun night making pancakes. The Beavers enjoyed measuring the ingredients, cracking the eggs and mixing the batter, as well as getting involved with the cooking. The best bit, of course, was adding the toppings and eating the pancakes!

We planted daffodils in pots for St David's Day and enjoyed seeing these bloom at home over the following weeks. Some members joined with the other sections for the International Campfire. The Beavers enjoyed learning new songs and joining in with the actions. This term we were also lucky enough to take a trip to the Planetarium at the Royal Masonic School for Girls. The Beavers learnt about stars and constellations from members of Southwest Hearts Astronomical Society and had the opportunity to have their questions about space answered.

A highlight of the term was our Hike and Sleepover! After a week of rain, we were lucky enough to have a dry Saturday and hiked from Ruislip Gardens to Ickenham and back, across the Ickenham Marshes. It was very muddy and there were plenty of puddles, but we had great fun. Back at the hut, after setting up our tents and dinner, we enjoyed making s'mores and singing campfire songs. We even sang some of the songs that we had learnt at the International Campfire.

We finished up the term learning how to play quick cricket, working towards our International Badge and making Easter baskets. We had eight Beavers swim up to Cubs, five of whom had also earned their Chief Scout's Bronze award. Congratulations to all those Beavers; we will miss you but know you will have a great time in Cubs.

Bluebell (Gabrielle), Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
Victoria, Section Assistant

Here are the Beavers making pancakes, at the planetarium, on our hike and around the campfire.



Explorer Round-up

Since the last First News, we've invested new members, participated in a massive game of Monopoly (more below), been on Feb Freezer Camp at PACCAR, honed our pioneering skills, cooked and completed challenge hikes.

Over the Easter weekend three groups completed their Gold or Silver Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions in the Peak District which was very busy and exceptionally sunny for the time of year - some practice but five Gold assessed participants.

The highlight of the term for me is the Monopoly Run. This is organised by Scouts in South London but open to all. They had over eight thousand participants this year split into thirteen hundred and eighty-six teams playing two hundred separate games! We had five teams this year including one of leaders all participating in the same game which meant we could challenge each other to be the game winner.

The game started in Jubilee Gardens at 9.45am we then had until 5.15pm to visit all the places on the Monopoly board - you know where to go as you're given a booklet with a photo for each square. You start with money in the bank which you use to buy properties, if you get there first, or pay rent if others have. There are challenges you can complete during the day and a quiz which gives you extra money. It's a long but enjoyable day (and the leaders came third!)

Doug Horgan

Assistant Explorer Scout leader

Below the Explorers are at the start of the Monopoly Run, enjoying a Pringle Challenge and a group starting out on their Gold expedition



Pick of the Bunch

As you know, we are right now preparing for this year's Jumble Sale. But did you know that we work throughout the year, selling special items that come in our Jumble collections, but for which we think we can get more money by selling separately?

Last month, we finally sold a sculpture by Molly Moss which came in last year. Molly is best known for her paintings which were used as posters for the London Underground back in the 1950s. It is known that she produced a few sculptures, but the only record of one that we could find online was one that was dressed in a Union Jack and sold in USA a few years ago for about £300. Then in February, we spotted that one of her sculptures, not dissimilar from ours, had sold in an Auction House in Eastbourne for £85, so that gave us a guide as to what to expect.

We put our sculpture on eBay, with a start bid of £85, pointing out that one had sold recently for that sum of money. It attracted a lot of interest, and within a day we had six watchers. On day two we had an offer to "buy it now" for £85, and during the following day we were thinking about what to do, when the same person sent a private email asking if we would accept £200. We replied, saying we are a charity, and need to get the best possible price, and would he stretch to £250. He replied immediately and said yes, so that was it, job done!

The man concerned lived in East London, so we decided to have a morning out and deliver the sculpture by hand, instead of packing it up very carefully and paying a lot of money for delivery. The delivery address was an antique shop, and in the window, guess what? Three more Molly Moss sculptures, but all looking a bit dull and scruffy compared with our rather bright and gaudy one!

Other items we have sold in the last nine months include:

- Two German-made Christmas Plates, sold at Christmas time (surprise, surprise) for £44.
- A Chinese lacquerware trunk, very plain but attractive, sold around Christmas for £40.
- A set of optician's lenses from about 1920, comprising over a hundred and fifty individual lenses, together with the frames for mounting them, for £75.
- A carrier bag full of London theatre programmes dating back to WW2, somebody's lifelong collection, for £40.
- A darning mushroom from the early 1900s, for £40. This was actually a lot more than a mushroom, it was almost like a mini weaving machine, as it lifted the stitches in the woven fabric to be mended, in much the same way as a weaving loom does, to allow the darning needle through. See picture of the instructions.
- A canteen of silver plate cutlery probably only used a couple of times, for £45.

If you have any special items you would like to donate to our Scout Group to raise funds, and they are too good for Jumble, do get in contact with me directly. Email: richard.plume@bronzesilvergold.co.uk

It's all good fun and raises a lot of money for the Group.

Richard Plume

Executive Committee Member



That's All for this Issue Folks.