

# Scouts

## 1st Northwood



### Group Scout Leader Report

It's December and the winter is certainly with us. I saw the first flakes of snow this week so no doubt we will see it again. Maybe even a white Christmas this year.

The Cub and Scout 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 twenty-five 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. Last year we received several letters back from individuals telling us how much they appreciated them.

All the sections have been busy with lots of trips away from the Headquarters during term with lots of fun activities completed. Scouts have been camping at the Brownsea Island where the very first Scout camp was held over a hundred years ago. A report by Noah is included in this newsletter.

The Group was represented at the Remembrance Service in Green Lane. All the sections 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 was a BBQ provided by the Committee on our new BBQ. The food was great and a big thank you to Tim and Keith, ably assisted by Tim's sons, Daniel, Mathew and Oli.

I must thank all the leaders for the time that they put into running their sections every week. They put in an amazing amount of effort to ensure that the young people have a rewarding and fun time within their sections. Without them we would not have such a successful Group.

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.

**Mike Bennett**  
Group Scout Leader

### Grand Jumble Sale

**Saturday June 8th, 2024**

1st Northwood's Grand Jumble Sale.

Work starts **11th May**.

Keep the dates between free.

Come and help whenever you can.

More information in the next *First News*

**Roxana Peters.**  
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## Chairman's Chat

I wonder whether there are many amongst the Group who will miss the regular column entitled 'Chairman's Chat'. I will no longer be writing that column because I have reluctantly decided to relinquish the role of Chairman of the Group with immediate effect. The reason I have taken this decision is because I have, over recent months, encountered various difficulties in fulfilling this role effectively and in a manner appropriate with the Scouting movement.

In stepping down I am confident that I leave the 1st Northwood in good shape. Whoever occupies my position in the future faces a challenge but is surrounded by talent and expertise built up since the Group was founded in 1914.

**Paul Akers**

**Executive Committee Chairman**

## Brownsea Island

Our time on Brownsea Island was one to remember. To start, we organised who was having what food, the options were chicken, meatballs and pasta or chilli con carne with rice (if you are vegetarian, a veggie curry with rice). After that we did an equipment check before going to sleep in the Scout hut.

After we awoke on day two, we packed up and made the two and a half hour journey down to Poole harbour before we walked to the ferry. Once there, we spent around twenty minutes aboard the boat and then we arrived on Brownsea Island, the home of Lord Baden Powell's first Scout camp, an experiment to see if a random assortment of boys could get along. The conclusion was, yes, they can.

Next we set up the tents, some of us had the Banshi three man tents whilst some had two in a tent. This process was the same between the two types, lay it flat, put in the poles then peg the ropes and guy lines. After that we went down to explore the beach where we had a stone skipping contest. From there dinner was on all our minds so we got to cooking, starting by boiling the rice and pasta then we placed the meatballs, chilli con carne and curry in separate pots to cook. Soon after, dinner was served and once that was in our stomachs, we all washed up our share of plates, pots and cutlery. After sleeping we rolled our tents up and packed up before we invested two new Scouts and then we made the long journey back to the Scout hut where we handed back whatever we were carrying that belonged to the Scouts before finally returning home at about half four.

**Noah Shields, Scout**

## PACCAR (Chalfont Heights)

We arrived at the hut and packed the van. We packed the food in coolboxes, keeping the uncooked meat separate. We arrived and unloaded the van at PACCAR and put up the tents. We had hot chocolate and went to bed.

On Saturday we did various activities such as knife, axe and saw. We did the high ropes course then had a fire and dinner and performed skits by the campfire. The next day we did the 3G swing and then packed up the camp and returned home.

## Lake District

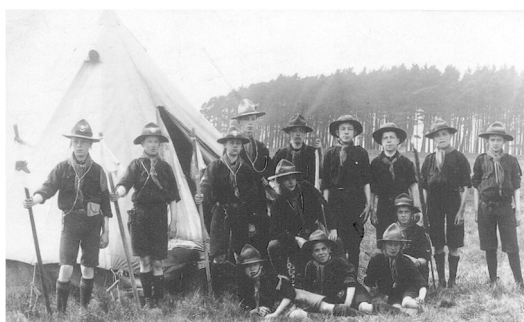
We met at the Ruislip hut and had a six hour journey to the Scout hut in Ulverston. We unloaded our things and set up our beds.

The next day we had a good breakfast and walked up Scafell Pike which took almost seven hours. The weather was good.

The day after we walked up a lower hill (Ullsgarth) but this took us longer. We took a packed lunch with us both days with a hot drink. The next day we rock climbed near Lindale and then went home.

**Charlie Keylock, Scout**

*Below are pictures from an early Brownsea Island camp.*



## Cub Collation

I'm sure I always start this report the same saying that the Cubs have been exceptionally busy and it's true again! We've had visitors, been out and about and done lots of badge work this term. By the time you read this, Duarte will have completed his Chief Scout Gold Award just before he and Louis move on to Scouts.

Our first visitor was from the food bank at Emmanuel Church; the visit was suggested by Daniel when he was in Cubs, but it took a while to organise, so he was invited back from Scouts to join us. We found what the food bank does, why it's needed and how it's run. Having found it, we shared their wish list and were amazed at the number of donations the Cubs brought in the following week. We took a quick walk to Emmanuel Church to drop the donations off and see where the food bank is based. Well done Cubs - you are amazing!

We then welcomed Paul, one of the leaders from 2nd Northwood Cubs and a paramedic to our meetings for a few weeks as he introduced the Cubs to some basic first aid. They all did very well and should know what to do in an emergency - an important life skill.

It's not all work at Cubs! We have hiked back from the Lido, spotting trees on our way; problem solved through minefields (not real ones!) and built towers from spaghetti and marshmallows. In the last few weeks, we have packed parcels to send to the Troops who are away over Christmas (thanks to the Scouts for their donations too). We dropped off twenty-six parcels at RAF Northolt for the BFPO to arrange delivery. We have visited St John's Church in Pinner finding out about its long history and the bells that Akela and Luke ring. We all got to have a go and most of us managed to chime the lightest bell but only a few could manage the heavy one! We are also doing our hobbies badge and will end the term with lots of Christmas crafts.

A group of Cubs visited the Battle of Britain Bunker museum and had a sleepover with Cubs from across the District. We had a tour of the bunker, listened to a talk by two active RAF pilots; made Kaleidoscopes and found out about telescopes including spotting Jupiter! We then had a snack and watched Grandpas Great Escape before sleeping alongside the museum exhibits. A quick breakfast before we tidied up and visited the shop; and then there was time to look round the museum before going home at 9am! A very busy and enjoyable night but very tiring!

The term will finish with a Group hike in aid of the NSPCC. All sections have been invited to join with their families for a 5km walk taking in the local Christmas lights. Roxana (from the committee) has agreed to provide refreshments at the end. Hopefully we will raise much needed funds for the NSPCC at a time of year when they need it most.

Have a great Christmas and New Year break - see you back in January.

### Akela, Baloo, Raksha and Chil (or Christine, Parina, Helen and Jack)

*Below we see the Cubs enjoying their activity day, visits to the Battle of Britain bunker and foodbank and building spaghetti towers*





## Scout Report

The Scouts have had a very busy term camping, swimming, cooking and brushing up their craft making skills. They used some of these skills on a camping trip to Brownsea Island. I won't spoil what they got up to as Noah has written a report which is in this edition of the newsletter.

We have tried to finish up a lot of the badge work and awards that the Scouts have been working towards. Some of these badges were presented a few weeks ago and many more will be over the next couple of months.

Last term we had a wet evening playing around on the water at Bury Lake in Rickmansworth. This was enjoyed by all so much that we went back for the District Water Activity day. This is a great way of trying lots of different water-based activities all on one day. From the feedback they all seemed to have had an amazing day.

The Troop had a mini Night Hike when we walked to Northwood Station, travelled by train to Moor Park and then navigated back across the local golf course and along local roads to return to the Scout HQ. I was particularly impressed as they arrived at 9pm sharp and more importantly without any navigation errors. Hopefully we may try to walk back from Croxley in the New Year.

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 enjoying a variety of activities.*



## Beaver Blog

This term we've taken our cue from nature and focused on autumn. We created some lovely natural birdfeeders from apples and did a mix and match activity about British animals and their diets and habitats. We also made bats for Halloween crafts and did some autumn leaf printing. A few of us also took part in the District Autumn Leaf Walk at Ruislip Lido, earning a hike badge and having a lovely, albeit muddy day.

This term we went to Paccar Activity Centre twice, for crate stacking and tomahawk throwing, both very handy skills I think you'll agree!

Some Beavers took part in the REN District Quiz Night, which was a lot of fun and allowed them to meet new friends from other Beaver groups.

Six of our Beavers participated in Remembrance Sunday and stood very patiently for the entire service, doing themselves a great credit.

Another special outing we did was to Bhakti Vedanta Manor, the Hare Krishna Temple in Watford. The Beavers had a very special evening and learned about the Hare Krishna movement and faith.

The last weekend of November, (the first real cold evening of the season) saw us back at Ruislip Lido for our Stargazer Hike and Sleepover. For many Beavers it was their first night hike and first sleepover, and they had a great time. Besides hiking, they took part in a campfire with songs and s'mores, led by Luke, and they even did the washing up after dinner!

Winding up towards the winter break we worked on our communicator badge and plan to do some Christmas crafts and treats.

As always, we wish to extend a huge thanks to our parent helpers, as it would be impossible to get so many amazing activities done without you. A huge thanks also to Luke, who has enormous patience with the Beavers and volunteers tirelessly in between his school and sports commitments.

We're extremely proud of the two Beavers who have managed to get all 6 of their Challenge Badges and thus earned their Chief Scout Bronze Badge. These are Heyan Shah and Tal Elshtein.

See you next term for more adventure!

### Gabrielle (Bluebell) and Victoria (Hedgehog)

*See the Beavers crate stacking, tomahawk throwing, night hiking, washing up & around the campfire.*





## Explorer Round-up

The autumn term for Explorers always starts with practicing their pioneering skills. A couple of sessions at the Scout HQ testing knots and lashings prepares them for Sky Camp which takes place at the end of September at PACCAR. We had four teams taking part this year - three from the Unit plus a team made up of Network members (the over 18s) who are going on the International Roverway expedition to Norway next summer. We didn't win this year, but they built and slept in some good structures, as the photos below show.

This term has seen the Unit continue with their project to repair, renovate and bring back to use the Nature Area at Hillside School. The weather stopped progress so there's still more to do in the Spring, but a good amount of clearing has been completed.

Other activities that are always popular are laser tag in the woods by St Vincent's Nursing Home, lots of cooking and baking, first aid and local hikes. Making them work a bit harder, we held a debate night which started off with a *Just a Minute* style activity with topics ranging from Ben Nevis to Bananas and Paperclips to Air Fryers - they were surprisingly good and not repeating themselves or pausing! They then split into groups to prepare a debate with half considering whether AI would replace their future jobs and half looking at whether we should have driverless cars. Both sides put up some good arguments, but they voted for no driverless cars and limiting the use of AI to protect their jobs. We also had a visit from New Hope who support homeless people, finding out what they do and thinking about what causes homelessness. The unit also generously donated items from the charity's wish list, filling their car when they left us.

As we approach the end of term, we will see some Christmas cooking take place and another hike on a Christmas theme before we have a rest, ready start again in the New Year.

**Christine Bennett**

**District Commissioner Team**

**Ruislip Eastcote Northwood**



## Hooray for eBay! Selling Jumble Items Online

### You too can help feed the Group Money Tree!

During the sorting of jumble, we always keep an eye out for items that we think could sell for more on eBay than we could get on Jumble day.

We already have three of us who sell these special items on eBay and elsewhere. Since the last newsletter, Ros and I have sold a scaffold tower for £65, a vintage bellows camera for £20, a web box (control for solar panels) for £100, a vintage AA badge for £8 (that's the Automobile Association not Alcoholics Anonymous!), and a pair of 1960s chairs for £80.

Some of the items Mike Bennett our GSL has sold this year include various old gaming consoles, a bike, vintage toys, books, and ink cartridges; and probably the strangest item was a wet suit. He has taken over £1000 from eBay sales this year which is far more than we would get on Jumble day.

Another of our enthusiastic Jumble helpers has sold over £500 worth of specially selected clothes since May this year. So, as you can see from the above, it is a very worthwhile activity for us to sell some of these items separately.

We still have plenty more items to sell and would love to share the work with some others in the Group – I'm sure there are some parents of our Young People out there who have used eBay or Facebook Marketplace or Nextdoor or Gumtree or Vinted or Amazon and could help us out. If you would like to take on a few items to sell, please contact me as per below.

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**Richard Plume**  
Executive Committee Member



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