



Group Scout Leader Report

I do hope that everyone had a good break over the Easter Holidays

I was sad to hear the news of the death of our honorary president Paul Akers in February. He had been chairman for over 30 years and during this time he oversaw many achievements of the group. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him. There is an obituary elsewhere in this newsletter written by Richard Plume.

As you will read in other articles in this newsletter, help is needed for our Annual Jumble Sale. This is really our only fundraiser and without your support it will not be a success. The committee and leaders are not getting any younger and we do need everybody to help.

The funds raised from the sale enables the Group to keep the headquarters running and a minibus available for the sections to use; without the additional funds raised the section subs would have to increase.

Representatives of all sections were pleased to join the congregation of Holy Trinity Church for their Mothering Sunday service.

The whole Group attended the District St George's Day event at Ruislip Lido on 21st April. We met up at The Drive by the golf club to walk across the common to the Lido.

With us moving into the Summer term all the sections will be getting away from the Headquarters more so please ensure that you arrive on time if you are travelling by the minibus to any activity.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Grand Jumble Sale

Saturday June 8th, 2024

Please see more information about the jumble sale and how you can get involved on page 7.



Paul Akers - "Gone Home"

Paul was our chairman at 1st Northwood from 1992 until November last year, when he stood down. He hadn't been well for a while, but always managed to put a brave face on things when we met.

He had several consuming interests, all of them involving the outdoor life. He had worked for the Royal Parks early in his career and spent the last many years working for Westminster Council as their Arboricultural Manager. This was a role which gave him access to some very good contacts who have helped our Group enormously over the years, especially with things like tree management and transport.

Paul was an enthusiastic member of Eastbury Horticultural Society, taking the role of Secretary from 2010 until 2024. He willingly shared his encyclopedic knowledge of trees and shrubs with all the members, especially on outings to visit interesting gardens.

At 1st Northwood he was a dedicated Chairman, always willing to join in with whatever needed doing. The things we did together usually revolved around either fundraising or doing physical work at the Scout Hut. He was instrumental in developing our Jumble Sale from a large event into the massive event it is today. Google "the largest jumble sale in England" and you will find us.

Paul never missed an opportunity to make a speech, and they were usually long ones, and he ALWAYS managed to introduce the "J" word (Jumble Sale). He had a wonderful grasp of the English language and had a tendency to use very "flowery" language. Why use one word when ten words will do?

My personal favourite memories of Paul are when we spent long weekends in Wensleydale, doing serious tree surgery in a three-acre wood. He was in his element with a chainsaw and a bonfire.

Paul, I think you should be proud of what you have achieved for us here over the years. You will be sorely missed.

Richard Plume
Committee Member and Friend

Paul Akers 1945 - 2024



Cub Collation

The Spring term started with some of our Cubs attending the second District sleepover at the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge. They completed tasks around air activities including meeting a RAF Pilot and making tail cones before a visit to the bunker where they learnt about its history. The night finished watching Grandpa's Great Escape before bedtime in the gallery. Thank you to the parents who stepped in to supervise when I was unexpectedly unable to attend.

We joined a District Cub meeting with the Metropolitan Police learning about the work they do; how to keep safe when out and about and what treats they like during their shifts - important question from a Cub! The Cubs particularly enjoyed trying on handcuffs and having their fingerprints taken.

Later in the term we took part in the District Cub Swimming Gala. The Cubs swam well with some medals won and lots of fun had. Then at the end of term we joined the District Cub Hike which saw us go from Winston Churchill Hall out through the woods to Ickenham area and back again. After weeks with rain, we had a warm dry day for the hike but there was mud everywhere - we all needed a good clean when we got back!

During our weekly meetings, we prepared for the swimming gala with a session at Highgrove where the Cubs showed us their swimming abilities and completed activities for their Swimming badge. The Cubs shared their hobbies with each other - we found out about everything from the London Underground via lots of Lego building to books, art and music with more badges earned. Next, we moved on to the Science badge with homemade ice cream and volcanoes and the Local Knowledge badge drawing and then following maps of Northwood and Northwood Hills.

The first half term ended with pancake cooking and lots of unhealthy toppings! Then the second half term finished with Easter treats - making chocolate nests, armpit fudge and decorating plates as chicks. The Cubs also had a go at egg rolling - using a Cadbury Creme Egg rather than actual eggs to save the mess as they rolled their egg towards the target.

At the end of the meeting, we handed out badges including the Chief Scout Silver Award to Shreya; William received his last term. We also said goodbye to William, Shreya and Radha who continue their Scouting journey in the Scout section after the holidays.

As the holidays end, we look forward to another term with plenty of outdoor activities, St George's Day and a Group Camp. The central activity coming this term is the annual jumble sale. All Cubs should have received an email with the key dates for the jumble sale and there is more information in this newsletter. We do need everyone to give time to help with the sale preparations so that the day can be a success; we'd hope to see each Cub on at least one Saturday (ideally all three).

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

Below we see the Cubs enjoying their home help day and making Easter treats.



Scout Report

The Scouts have had a busy term. There was an enjoyable Friday evening in March spent walking back from Croxley Green along footpaths to the Scout HQ to sleep overnight. This tested the Scouts map reading skills and will hopefully give them more confidence when they are out on their own walking. There were several swimming sessions which most attended and ended with the District Swimming competition. We didn't win but we did come a credible fourth. So well done to everyone who took part in this competition.

We had a Disability Awareness evening where the Scouts learned about disabilities. We were lucky enough to have available a couple of wheelchairs to give them first-hand experience of the difficulties that wheelchair users have. One of the chairs was powered and this showed what a huge change to a person's life a powered chair could make.

A couple of fun evenings were had when the Scouts built their own electronic cars. They had to build the cars from a kit and they did a marvelous job of it. With Sharon being the mechanic for the evening she was able to fix any of the electrical issues they had. Thank you, Sharon, for preparing the kits and ensuring everyone had a working car. Pancake Day went down well as usual with lots made and plenty eaten. I am always amazed by how many pancakes they can eat in an evening.

The Metropolitan Police came along for an evening to tell us about how to keep safe and an enjoyable question and answer session which went on and on. We invited other scout troops from across the District and had close to a hundred Scouts attend the meeting. There were also a couple of weekend camps which were great fun. Chilly Goat camp was cold although being in January that is only to be expected and also Feb Freezer which was dry but very muddy after an extended period of rainy weeks.

Lots of badge work has been completed over the term and badges awarded. Hopefully we will get some more during the Summer term.

With our Jumble Sale in June the Scouts will be away from the headquarters most Fridays in May for activities but the Scouts will be needed on Tuesdays for leaflet deliveries and the Saturdays for collections of the donated items for the Jumble. Everyone will be needed to lend a hand as this is our only real fund raiser for the year. You will have already received an email giving details of how you can assist in this.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

From Aran Shah, about the District Chilly Goat camp on 12th-14th January:

As the annual Chilly Goat camp returned, so did its many enjoyable activities. From learning Morse Code to using teamwork to move a bucket, it was a wondrous experience. We did air rifle shooting, communicated using torches, lit a fire, cracked codes and so much more. Overall, it was an amazing time.

From Daniel Shipman, about the February Freezer Camp at PACCAR Chalfont Heights on 9th-11th February:

At February Freezer we had lots of fun doing the activities Quad Bikes, Laser Maze, Laser Tag and much more. I would say that we should do it for longer because it's so much fun!

Here we see the Scouts experiencing a wheelchair and at the Chilly Goat camp.



Beaver Blog

The Spring Term for our Beavers has been quite varied. We started off learning some Scouting history, then took part in Burns Night, when each of the Beavers recited a poem to the whole colony. We cooked pancakes for Pancake night and did two sessions on Health and Fitness to earn our badges.

We had a fun night doing some Science experiments and made some beautiful cards and cupcakes for our mums for Mother's Day. We braved the soggy Hogs Back to complete the Explore Badge and ended the term doing some Spring crafts.

Many of the Beavers also took part in our Spring sleepover to get practice for group camp in July. Unfortunately, the weather was too poor for our planned walk around the Rickmansworth Aquadrome, so we watched a movie and made sock caterpillars in the hut instead. I'm sure the Beavers weren't too disappointed to skip the hike!

We're looking forward to the coming term and all the outdoor activities we have planned.

As always, we thank our young leader Luke Bennett for all his hard work this term and a huge thanks to all the parents for helping make this term a big success.

Gabrielle (Bluebell) and Victoria (Hedgehog)

See the Beavers enjoying some of the activities described above.



Explorer Round-up

Spring term is always busy for the Explorers as preparations start for the coming expedition season (Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions can only take place between April and October.) The unit, whether or not they are participating in an expedition, get to practice their lightweight cooking and navigation skills; learn about suitable equipment and first aid. Then those who were off on expeditions over Easter or next month started planning routes and booking campsites.

Alongside the DofE, the unit have been practicing their knots and lashings; cooking pancakes and using their navigation skills to locate Geocaches around Northwood. The Metropolitan Police came to visit and spoke to the unit about personal safety, working in the police force and having to buy doughnuts for the team when they lose a challenge. The Explorers asked some good questions and maybe some will consider the police for a future career. They also had a go at archery at PACCAR and bowling in North Watford.

Half term saw eighteen members participate in Feb Freezer camp at PACCAR. With all activities available to participate in plus lots of extras including digger driving and laser pigeon shooting, there was plenty to keep them busy. The weekend was just about dry but there was mud everywhere following several wet weeks leading up to the camp. Despite the mud, everyone had a good time even though there was lots of washing to do afterwards.

March is always the Monopoly Run - playing a live game managed by an app in central London. There were over 8,000 participants split across 1,395 teams and 200 games - we had six teams and twenty-nine participants. The day started in exceptionally heavy rain at the Imperial War Museum; the rain didn't stop us investing nine of the unit with the help of some umbrellas for shelter! Then the teams were off on their own routes to see how many places they could visit, buy or pay rent at. One of our teams finished 59th overall which with so many teams taking part was an impressive result. I can't speak for the Explorers, but the leaders managed to walk almost 25km - no wonder most of us had blisters by the end!

Over the Easter weekend, two silver groups and one gold group headed off to the Brecon Beacons for their DofE expeditions; most were doing their practice but two were doing silver assessed and one gold. We were considered about Storm Kathleen before they left Northwood, but they managed to miss the worst weather and have some good walking experiences. Next up Bronze in May.

As we head into the summer term, some Explorers will have to cut back on activities due to exams - good luck to all who have their GCSEs or A Levels. The unit will continue to meet and you know where we are when you need a break. It is also the term of jumble; we hope that all Explorers will help with at least one Saturday collection to show their thanks for the support that 1st Northwood give to the unit.

Christine Bennett
District Commissioner Team
Ruislip Eastcote Northwood



To all Parents/Guardians/Carers/Friends of the Children and Young People who are Members of 1st Northwood Scouts:

We have our one fundraising event coming up on **June 8th** and being a 1st Northwood event it is big. Thank you to all who have helped before. It is such a great experience I know you will be getting in contact! To those who have not helped before or recently, please be aware;

THE HELP OF PARENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SALE

You are all familiar with the amazing programme put on by the leaders (and I hark back to 2020 when there was a continuous programme throughout the lockdown months and after). The volunteer leaders (some with full time jobs) gave beyond the call of loyalty and still do; camps, outdoor training, physical, mental, community and social activities fill the weeks. The Group Leadership are very proud of them and do all we can to provide facilities and equipment.

Many Scout groups are fundraising all year, with quiz nights, dances, suppers, beetle drives, bring and buy, mostly aimed at the parents and neighbours every time. 1st Northwood put all their effort into 5 weeks culminating in the

BIGGEST AND BEST JUMBLE SALE

you can ever go to. Our reputation is such that people come from all over the country to buy, so we are not always asking you for money. We sort through all the donations to put only the worthwhile on the stalls and get rid of the rubbish ethically. We check electricals, sort toys, match shoes, select the good china, carefully cull the clothes and books, and much, much more. We have one or two who are willing to sell suitable items on eBay. In the run-up we prepare the field and the hut, gazebos, tables and covers, ground covers, spread the sorted items and supply refreshments. And then on the Sunday we start the clearing away! There is so much to do and everyone can do something.

WILL YOU COMMIT TO HELPING THIS YEAR - IN ANY CAPACITY?

The hut is set up on the **weekend of 4th/5th May** and thereafter the hut is open for receiving and sorting

MON -THURS 18.30 - 20.00 and SATURDAYS 13.30 - 18.00

until **Thursday 6th June** when the focus is on the hut and Hog's Back.

The Scout unit has plenty to do with distributing leaflets, making collections and helping sort. The team in the hut is welcoming and good company.

EVERY HALF HOUR DONE BY YOU SAVES SOMEONE ELSE HALF AN HOUR.

Please contact Roxana Peters (secretary) directly EMAIL ONLY, PLEASE, if you are willing to come. All volunteers are entered on an email list and get regular up-dates ONLY concerning the Jumble Sale or very important news concerning 1st Northwood Scouts.

roxana.peters@virginmedia.com

PS: if you really can't afford the time, could you recruit a grandparent, neighbour, colleague, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, any able-bodied person? This could be the start of a worthwhile experience for them!

Roxana Peters

That's All for this Issue Folks.