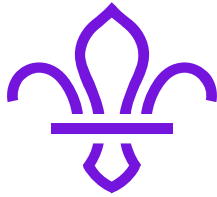


Scouts

1st Northwood



Group Scout Leader Report

Jumble was yet another success despite the move to June. To be honest I thought that we could have major problems with the amount of rain that between March and May and that the Hogs Back would be a swamp. How wrong could I be and the change to a June Jumble (due to the hut being used for the Local Election) certainly paid off. Another well attended Jumble and with good weather for a change.

Before the sale opened I did what I usually do and walked down the queue selling tickets and chatting to those in the queue. It always amazes me that it's the same old faces year after year. The customers certainly seemed to have enjoyed the day as they didn't want to leave again this year.

There were some changes to the positioning of the stalls this year. Some worked and some didn't. We are constantly looking at improving the efficiency of us setting up the Jumble and the experience that the customer receive.

Sunday is the day of the clear up and it went very well this year. Probably due to the good weather and the low amount of waste.

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 with the highlight being the Group Camp at PACCAR. There were over sixty on the camp and they visited Bury Lake for water based activities which were enjoyed by all. Several other activities were completed at the camp site and camp fire sing along on Saturday evening.

The Group attended the St Georges day event at the Lido with the rest of the District for some fun activities and to renew our Scouting Promise. Although all the young people are enjoying the summer break the leaders are busy planning the activities for when we start back in September.

I hope you all have had a great summer, enjoyed the glorious weather we had at times and look forward to seeing you on our return

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

What a Team!

Without counting heads, it can safely be stated that over two hundred and fifty people helped the Northwood Scouts Grand Jumble Sale on 8th June to be a success. They volunteered their energy, expertise, time, patience, skills and humour to make the event go with a swing on the day and we were blessed with the weather. No debilitating heat. Richard led a magnificent clear-up team to restore the hall and grounds in just three weeks. Everything was disposed of as ecologically as possible, through recycling, re-purposing and reusing.

What are your views on the later date (June 8th)? We have heard some reactions and if you have one that we should be aware of for next year please email me at the address below. It will be included in the list of responses I have received so far, when we consider the date for next year. Thank you to those who have sent in comments. We do listen, and although we can't always adopt the ideas, they remain on record. Apart from re-iterating repeatedly:-

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME;
SCOUT LEADERS, PARENTS, EXPLORERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-OPTED, DRAGGED-ALONG.

The whole unit and Group council are so grateful not to have to think of fundraising until next year and they can all get on with supporting the work that gives the youngsters great experiences and memories and life-long friendships. Please, each of you, give yourself a moment to say 'Well done'.

Yours, ever grateful,

Roxana Peters.
roxana.peters@virginmedia.com



Cub Collation

With the Jumble Sale moved to June, the Cubs had a few weeks of "normal" meetings to start the summer term although the first event was to join the District St George's Day Event at Ruislip Lido. We met the rest of the Group, 2nd Northwood and Poindextor Explorers to walk from Haste Hill Golf Course to the Lido. The weather had been very wet in the weeks before (the District team had to check the grassed area at the Lido was safe to use) but we were very lucky to get a warm, dry day for the event. Following the walk and presentation of flags, we joined in with the District Quiz and Flag Pole building before renewing our Promises and celebrating all those across the District who had achieved the top award for their section during the year.

Our meetings before the start of Jumble made use of the hut with completion for many of the Local Knowledge badge and learning about maps ready for summer hikes. Then Jumble started so our meetings were delivering leaflets with the Cubs seeing how fast they could get through their routes! Many Cubs with a parent also came and helped with collections which was greatly appreciated as more hands definitely make light work. Despite having walked/run for the last three meetings our meeting before jumble was a hike around Oxhey Woods including discovering tracking signs. Jumble Day was well supported by Cubs and their families - I am not sure if the Cubs sold more than they bought or not but they all enjoyed the experience.

With Jumble complete our programme focused on being outside, with the Athletics badge completed and lots of preparation for our Group Camp including tent pitching, fire lighting and what kit to take to camp (and more importantly, what to leave at home!)

Group Camp was attended by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts plus some siblings and parents alongside the leaders. There were fourteen Cubs who made the most of a dry and sunny weekend. Saturday morning was spent at Bury Lake for water activities including Katakunas, Stand Up Paddleboards, Coracles and a kayak slide. They loved everything about it, whether they were playing games, falling in or going round in circles! Back to camp for a late lunch and then a session of archery before a chance to rest (or run around during some free time). Dinner was followed by a loud campfire and the obligatory smores before the Cubs fell exhausted into bed. Sunday was another busy day with the Cubs completing the caving system at PACCAR before meeting the challenge of the Night Line. Meanwhile the adults started packing up camp so that after lunch we could set off home so that everything was put away and all could be home ready to support England in the Euro2024 final.

Our last meeting of term was fun and games followed by badge presentations. We said goodbye to Kyna who is moving over the summer and to Reeva and Kyle who continue their Scouting journey with the Scout Troop. Before Kyle left we were very pleased that he completed his Chief Scout Silver Award, the top award in Cubs - it will be presented at the AGM.

This term the Pack welcomed Dylan as a Young Leader; he's settled in very quickly and is respected by all the Cubs especially when running games! We also welcomed back Rachel to the leadership team. Rachel was part of the team back in 2018 when she was first posted to the area and got in touch when her latest posting saw her back in the area.

Thank you to all the leaders for providing the Cubs with an amazing programme for another term. Enjoy the summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to go in September.

Christine Bennett
1st Northwood Cub Pack - Leader
Ruislip Eastcote Northwood



Scout Report

The Scouts have had a busy term with lots of activities away from the Scouting Centre due to the preparations for this year's Jumble Sale.

They have enjoyed swimming, air rifle shooting, abseiling and hiking in the local area. A trip was also arranged to the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge and revisit the turning point of the battle. It really is worth a visit and I have been there a number of times.

They had a weekend camp this year and it was a great success with a back to basics camp. It was all about learning the camping skills you need to enjoy yourself and they had a hike on the Saturday afternoon.

We had a good number of Scouts that attended the Group camp at PACCAR. We have had low numbers of Scouts recently, on the camp, and it was nice to see them all enjoying themselves. Scout Duarte Gomes commented :-

'For me, camp was amazing, because we played lots of games and we did paddle boarding. We Scouts also did abseiling and the Gladiator Challenge. I loved going to Bury Lake and I hope the Scouts will plan some more water activities soon. The 'smores' were delicious and I really have no regrets for going to camp, in my opinion more people should have come.'

Two of the Scout Troop were lucky to get a place to join others from our Scout County and attend Trooping the Colour. It was a long day starting at Northwood station at 7.30am to travel in to meet the other county representatives in Trafalgar Square before making their way to an excellent viewing location near Horse Guards parade. After the procession the group were escorted to a prime position to see the Royal Family on the balcony at Buckingham Palace and watch the fly past. Then it was time to return to Northwood with lots of great memories.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader



Beaver Blog

The Beavers have had a very outdoorsy term this term, making use of the good weather. Before starting our weekly activities, we joined the District for St George's Day, which was a fun day out.

We then started off the term learning about compasses and directions, learning how to cross a road safely, and helping the community by picking litter off the Hog's Back Green Space next to the hut. Almost all the Beavers also attended the District Beaver Bonanza, which was centred around the fantastic mobile Planetarium Space Dome and involved many different space-themed activities.

We spent three sessions distributing Jumble leaflets and then, after half-term, two sessions at Paccar doing Orienteering and a blindfolded obstacle course call the Nightline. We did not have the hottest weather for our paddle sports session but the Beavers had a brilliant time learning how to paddle katakanus around Bury Lake.

Finally we returned to the hut to do some creative sessions; the Beavers created machines out of K'Nex and drew their own superheroes, before joining in with some team sports and enjoying our Summer Party at the end of term.

We had nine Beavers and their families join us for our excellent Group Family Camp, which involved more paddle sports, junior crossbows, caving, more Nightline, lots of cake, plus a campfire with smores!

We are extremely proud to award two Chief Scout Bronze Awards this term - huge congratulations to Veer-Anand Tank and Hugo Parkinson.

We cannot thank our parent helpers enough for their help this term - we truly could not run Beavers or camp without you. And, as always, a huge thanks to our young leader Luke, who works so hard to get the Beavers involved and excited.

We look forward to seeing you all in Autumn term, with new Beavers and more fun!

**Bluebell (Gabrielle), Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
And Hedgehog (Victoria), Section Assistant**



Explorer Round-up

As usual, Poindextor Explorer Scouts have had a very busy term, packing in as much as possible with all activities being well attended despite it being exam season. Over the Easter holidays, some of the Unit went to the Brecon Beacons to undertake Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions - a mixture of practice and assessed. All did well and are ready for the next step on the Award journey.

Back to school and our usual meetings with a night around fun bases - making ice cream in a plastic bag, armpit fudge, knotted people and poetry. We continued our work on the Hillside Nature area, helped get the HQ ready for jumble and prepared for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. We went to PACCAR to light fires and cook kebabs before returning to practice pioneering skills. Then it was off to Ruislip Lido for a very wet wide game but they still all joined in and had a fun evening despite lots of very wet feet! Somehow, we also squeezed in Stand Up Paddle Boarding at Bury Lake and a trip for Go-Karting in Watford as well as Gold Duke of Edinburgh and summer camp preparations.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition took place in May in the Chilterns. All successfully followed their routes, pitched their tents and cooked their dinner. Now they need to complete the other parts of their award. One group have just completed their Gold expedition around the South West Coast and Exmoor. The weather seems to have been either hot or wet but they kept on smiling and made it to Minehead.

Finally we had summer camp - twenty-eight Explorers with four leaders (and two extra at relevant points to help with driving) made logistics a challenge but three minibuses and a trailer took everyone and the kit to North Devon. During the camp the unit tried out an Escape Room, practiced their pioneering skills making and racing Flintstone cars. They went cycling on the Tarka Trail, coasteering at Hele Bay and walking either on Exmoor or the South West Coast path. A rest day gave them free time in Barnstaple before heading off to Woolacombe Bay for a swim or football on the beach. The Explorers were responsible for cooking evening meals preparing bolognaise, curry, stir fry, gammon and burgers for all and helped with breakfast. Now just to dry the tents and tidy up ready for next term.

Good luck to all the unit members receiving exam results; we hope you get what you need for the next step on your life journey. Thank you to all the leaders and others who have supported our meetings this term. Enjoy the next few weeks off so we are refreshed and ready for a new term.

Christine Bennett
Poindextor ESU - Leader



After the Lord Mayor's Show

This was the first time we had ever run a Jumble Sale without Paul Akers to guide and encourage us. We kept on missing his happy face, bright shirts, silly hats and words of wisdom, but we did you proud this year Paul, with a record breaking financial result.

Unfortunately Mr. Murphy decided that he couldn't continue to provide his lorries for collection days or for the big Sunday clear up. We knew we could cope with the collections OK, but we were quite worried how we would cope without the big grab lorry for waste disposal on the Sunday morning. As it happened, we coped very well, mainly because we had less "stuff" to dispose of. We do our best to recycle most of what we have left over, minimising the waste that goes to the council facility.

We had two District Vans this year – the Scout District had bought a replacement one, and still had the old one, awaiting arrangements for scrappage under the ULEZ scheme. So together with the WRAP van, we did five van loads to the Council waste facility on Sunday morning, and it was all over – well, that was it for the Sunday, and the Hogsback field was clear.

The following three weeks saw follow up activities almost every day:

- All the toys were taken to a local charity by one of our helpers on **Sunday** morning.
- **Monday 10th** snipping plugs off cables, ready to take to the scrap metal dealer
- **Tuesday** the Scouts from Pinner collected all the leftover china, for their smashing china stalls through the year
- And all the records were given to the Vinyl Basement at Estamira in Green Lane.
- **Wednesday** we took about twenty-five bikes to a Bike Recycling hub in Uxbridge. They overhaul them and sell to the public.
- **Thursday** we took all the glassware to the Sue Ryder shop in Ruislip.
- **Friday** was another run to the Council waste facility.
- **Monday 17th** sorting scrap metal, separating the brass, copper and aluminium.
- **Wednesday** we returned to Hayes the mini tractor that we borrow to move equipment round the field.
- **Thursday** we did the first two scrap metal runs.
- Over a ton of mixed iron earned us £201, and the valuable metals amounted to £417.
- **Friday** was a day off!
- **Sunday** all the books were loaded up to take to the Sue Ryder shop.
- However, when I called them on Monday to confirm the arrangement, they told me they had a backlog of books as their collection arrangement had let them down. We couldn't have the van left loaded with books for a week, so on **Monday 24th** we took them to the Council waste facility.
- **Wednesday** was the final scrap metal run, another £156.
- **Friday 28th** our rags man collected all our leftover clothes, shoes, belts, hats, household linens. He paid us over £400.

So a full three weeks after the day of the sale, we finally cleared the decks. But of course we still have lots of items to sell on eBay!

Richard Plume

Executive Committee Member

Come to Our AGM

You are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting which will take place in **the Scout Centre on Northwood Way** on **Wednesday 18th September at 18.00hrs**. The business meeting will be followed by a BBQ and activities for the Cubs and Beavers. We hope you can join us. We look forward to seeing you there.