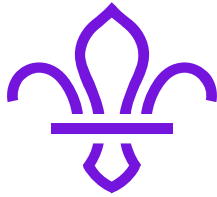


Scouts

1st Northwood



Group Lead Volunteer's Report

Nothing ever stays the same in life and the Scout Association is no different. All the leaders have a new title. I have changed from Group Scout Leader to Lead Volunteer while the section leaders are now Team Leaders.

We're still the same for the young people, Bluebell, Akela etc but research has found that people didn't know what the Group Scout Leader and other roles did so it is meant to be easier to understand and so to volunteer.

Ruislip, Eastcote, Northwood Scout District have a new District Lead Volunteer. His name is Tyler Skerton and he oversees the District as a whole making sure that the individual groups are providing a great Scouting Experience.

The sections have been as active as ever with sleepovers, night hikes, camping trips and not forgetting the trip into London to see The Lion King.

All the sections attended the annual Remembrance service in Green Lane in Northwood. It was well attended by all sections and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Group.

The young people and leaders will be pleased to know that we will finally be getting heating into the Scout Headquarters and by the time this newsletter is out it should be up and running.

I must thank all the leaders, members of the committee and parents who have helped the Scout Group over the past twelve months. Without you we would not be able to provide such a high standard of activities for the young people.

I do hope that you all have a nice break over the Christmas period and that you have the chance to spend time with your friends and family.

Mike Bennett
Group Lead Volunteer

Hip, Hip, Hooray!

By the time you read this I hope that Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders will be celebrating! At long last we have got round to installing some proper heating in our Scouting Centre – convection heaters on time switches never quite did the business.

The new system consists of eight infrared heaters, all mounted on the ceiling, controlled by a sophisticated timer that allows us to have different On/Off times every day; plus remote control from a phone App. Infrared is the recommended solution for heating big spaces such as school buildings, churches and meeting halls.

A friend through Scouting supplied the equipment at a substantial discount, and the installation will be done by the electrician who did the original wiring for our building, so he knows his way around things.

We are also considering the installation of Solar Panels on our roof – we are perfectly placed with a South-facing roof on the Hogsback side.

The initial outlay will be substantial, but payback will be made in seven or eight years, as we intend that the system will feed power into the National Grid when we are not using it. Watch this space for updates over the coming months.

Richard Plume
Executive Committee Member



Cub Collation

The Cubs have had another busy term and are very grateful for the help from parents to ensure some of the activities took place.

We have been out and about with a visit to St John's Church in Pinner to learn about stained glass windows which was followed up the next week with the Cubs making their own windows from tissue paper and card.

Another week saw us at Northwood Hills library learning how to look after books and the role the library has in the community. This was followed by the Cubs sharing their favourite books - big shout out for David Walliams and J K Rowling - they also tried to guess which leader had nominated which book as their favourite; Raksha seemed to be selected for all of them!

Twelve Cubs joined the District Activity Day at Phasels where they took part in pedal karts, laser tag and many other exhausting activities. Thanks to Gabrielle and Victoria from Beavers for helping out as leaders for the day alongside Dylan, our young leader. Next up was two weeks at PACCAR trying out crate stacking, abseiling or caving.

A pause over half term, the leaders needed a break! before we were busy again. We prepared parcels for the Troops who are away over Christmas as part of our Remembrance evening and took part in the parade at Northwood War Memorial.

We then had two weeks led by Dylan, making and painting model cars (kindly donated by Airfix as a partnership with the Scout Association). The term finishes with meetings on festivals, a hike and Christmas Crafts.

The highlight of the term has to be our trip to London to see The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre (another Scout Association partnership, this time with Disney offering special tickets). We took fifteen Cubs and fifteen Scouts to the evening show (along with eight leaders and five parent helpers) including travel on the tube. The young people were exceptionally well behaved, everyone enjoyed the show and managed to get up for school the next day - we weren't back until 11pm!

Thank you as ever to all the parents and leaders who helped us this term. Enjoy the Christmas break.

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

Below we see Cubs taking part in various outdoor activities and going to see The Lion King



Scout Report

The section has been busy with lots of quality Scouting taking place.

Night hikes and a sleepover along with the weekend camp and theatre trip were the highlights.

The District Water Activities Day was a great success and was well attended with Scouts from all over the District and they had the chance to do a variety of activities.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't kind to us as several times during the day the sky opened up and the rain poured down. Not that it dampened the enjoyment of the day as they were already wet from falling into the water.

There was also another District event, which we participated in, which was a hill walking weekend in North Wales. This is open only to the older Scouts due to the challenging types of activities undertaken.

The highlight of the weekend was the hike up Snowdon which is the third highest mountain in the UK.

Fire lighting, cooking, first aid skills and home skills were other activities undertaken over the term.

Mike Bennett
Group Lead Volunteer

Here we see the Scouts enjoying an indoor game.



Beaver Blog

The Beavers have been focusing on Skills for Life this term. Our sessions at Paccar at the beginning of the term were soft crossbows; teaching patience, fine motor skills and being responsible for your belongings, crate-stacking; teaching teamwork, trust and using a harness. Back at the hut, we had a session on campfires ably assisted by Explorer Leader Doug. The Beavers greatly enjoyed their smores!

We have learned to pitch a tent and tie reef knots and shoelaces. We even did some soft archery inside the hut with a number of Beavers hitting very close to the bulls eye! We did a session on first aid with Beavers learning how to treat a cut or scrape as well as learning the recovery position and how to call emergency services.

On 20th October, nine Beavers joined the District for the annual Autumn Leaf Ramble at Ruislip Lido, which was a lovely day out for all and raised over £100 for Children in Need. Back at the hut, on the creative side, the Beavers made a beautiful card using their fingerprints to create a bunch of balloons, and we did a session on leaf printing to think about the autumn colours.

We had ten Beavers representing us for Remembrance Sunday. All Beavers were very well behaved and were a credit to themselves and to our group. Well done to all! Special thanks to Caleb who laid our wreath and Alfie who carried our flag.

Our group joined the District Beavers for a pub-style quiz. The Beavers were split up into groups with Beavers from many other groups, so it was a fun night of making new friends and learning some trivia!

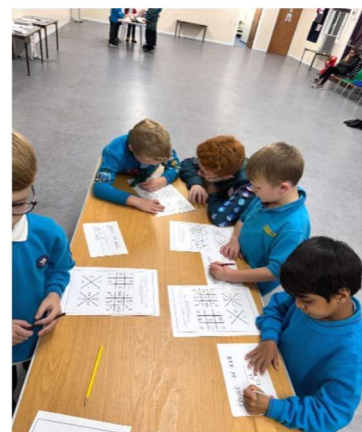
We had an evening of Disability Awareness, which involved thinking about wheelchair access, guiding blindfolded team mates to find hidden objects, and learning their promise in sign language. Then the following week we prepared for our hike and sleepover by talking about what (and what not) to take on a hike.

The hike at the weekend was a very soggy affair, but the Beavers did well and possibly even enjoyed slogging through mud and marsh! The sleepover was reasonably successful evening with most Beavers (but definitely NOT grownups) getting a decent night's sleep. We did some Scotland themed games and crafts to celebrate St Andrew's Day and had another campfire with more smores.

We would like to give a huge congratulations to Alfie Try who was awarded his Chief Scouts Bronze Award this term.

Sam Holbrook has been doing a great job this term supporting our group as a Young Leader. Thanks so much Sam, you've made a massive difference! As always, huge thanks to all the parents who have helped us this term, we could not run Beavers without you. We are always looking for more adult volunteers so let us know if you're willing to take the next steps with volunteering.

Bluebell (Gabrielle), Hedgehog (Victoria) and Luke



Explorer Round-up

The Explorers always start the autumn term with pioneering in preparation for Sky Camp at PACCAR - a weekend where they construct their accommodation with poles and hammocks to sleep out almost under the stars. We had seven teams out of the twenty overall and were very pleased that one of the teams came second.

Weekly activities this term have included cooking and Geocaching. We have also painted the inside of the Scout HQ to make it a bit cleaner as five years from opening it was beginning to look a bit tired. We also continued our project at Hillside school.

A small group took part in a leadership training weekend led by YOU London (Youth London for Cadets and Scouts/Guides) at Harrow School. All came away with new ideas and things they had learned.

We continue to support the Explorers with their Duke of Edinburgh Award sections and enrolled many new starters from Scouts and Explorers starting on the award. This becomes our focus next term as we prepare for expeditions.

Since half term, we have made mincemeat ready to make mince pies for the end of term, made poppies and our own wreath which we laid when we attended Remembrance parade in Northwood and found out about the work of Hillingdon Food Bank, making a donation of 81kg of food.

We still have our Christmas hike, cooking and a visit to The Lion King to look forward to before the end of term.

Christine Bennett
Poindextor ESU - Leader

Below are the Explorers at Harrow School and relaxing at Sky Camp



Saturday 24th May 2025

At last! I hear you cry – the date for the next 1st Northwood Scout Jumble Sale. Now, you are free to arrange weddings and parties and holidays and DIY and other less important events!!! (Seriously – only joking!) But I do know there are supporters out there who do make the date – and the month previous to it - a priority. Many thanks to you all.

The date was chosen after some discussion and became the only sensible day. The group are going to the District Camp weekend 13-15th June. This affects Saturdays 7th and 21st June since two consecutive very busy weekends is not fair on the Scout leaders as most of them have full time jobs as well. But the later date is favoured for future alternate years because of the better weather prospects. 31st May is the second weekend of half-term and more people will be away in the week of half term when we make the final preparations. 24th May is the first weekend of half-term, so people will be around to help with the final preparations, even if they don't stay for the weekend. However, it requires a gap between setting up (Weekend 11th – 13th APRIL) and 1st leaflet raid (Tuesday 22nd April) which is also first day back to school after the Easter holiday. But the group will cope with the hut set up. Any earlier dates would be more vulnerable to bad weather. Not that any day is exempt. In short :-

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|---|--|
| • Setting up – weekend | 11th – 13th April |
| • Easter Weekend | 18th – 21st April |
| • 1st leaflet raid | Tuesday 22nd April (also first day of term) |
| • 1st Collection | Saturday 26th April |
| • 2nd leaflet raid | Tuesday 29th April |
| • 2nd Collection | Saturday 3rd May |
| • 3rd leaflet raid | Tuesday 6th May |
| • 3rd Collection | Saturday 10th May |
| • No collection Saturday: | Saturday 17th May (also FA Cup final day) |
| • Fencing, market tables and Marquee up | Thursday 22nd May |
| • Set up field and as much as possible | Friday 23rd May |
| • Final preparations and JUMBLE SALE | Saturday 24th May |
| • CLEARING UP FIELD: | Sunday 25th May |
| • Continued clearing up as required. | |

So, please put these dates in your diary. There will be communications direct from me nearer the time IF I HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.. There is usually work for all, but muscle-power is particularly needed on the set up and clearing up days. If you can only do those, you will be providing much appreciated support. In recent years more stalls have been managed by people able to come throughout the sorting days and who therefore are building up an idea of what is not going to sell and what is on the stall. Also, persons with knowledge of particular fields have been able to maximise the takings by helping with the pricing. If you have a relevant skill that we don't know about we would love to hear from you. It will be said again but is worth repeating; the annual Jumble Sale is our only fundraiser and is dependent on a huge number of volunteers; IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM, THANK YOU.

Roxana Peters

Executive Committee Member

Remembering David Ransom (1937-2024)

We are sad to report the recent death of David or 'Dave' Ransom after a short illness. David was a long-time supporter of the Group, having helped at our jumble sale and contributed many good quality items to the sale. David was predeceased by his wife Gwen and son Graham. The picture below shows David proudly manning the picture stall.



**A Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
to All Our Readers**