



# FIRST NEWS

Issue 93 April 2018

Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scout Group



<https://www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk>

## FUND RAISING PROGRESS - WE ARE OVER £90K!

### New Hut Fund Raising and Progress

Since I wrote about this in December, you will have noticed some changes at the Scout hut. The most obvious one is that we have moved the perimeter fence out onto the Hogs Back by eight metres, as allowed under our new lease. We have also started the process of moving equipment out of the hut, ready for Demolition Day! We have selected our preferred contractors for the demolition and foundations, and are in the process of finalising the contract details. We still need more temporary storage space for Scouting equipment. If you have some space in your garage that you could let us use for about nine months, we would be very grateful.

The fund raising total has gone up to just over £90,000. This has been achieved in just one year.

We launched our appeal on 1<sup>st</sup> March last year. It's a superb achievement, but we still have a way to go. If any of you Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer parents have been meaning to make a donation and haven't yet got around to it, now is the time!

The major sums in the last 3 months have come from:

- Quiz Night £1,120
- Nisa Local supermarket £800
- Redrow Homes £2,400
- St Vincent's Nursing Home £1,640
- HSBC bank £1,000

plus many more individual donations and fund raisers.

Our budget for the project has increased considerably in the last year, and although we can now identify £160,000 of funds, plus a contribution from the Mayor's charity, we are still dependent on a major contribution from the Council. Our discussions with them are going well, but we can't place contracts for the work to begin until we know we have all the costs covered. Our plan currently shows us finishing the hut clearance during the week after the Jumble Sale, and starting demolition on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, subject to the successful conclusion of discussions with the Council. Watch this space!

**Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member**



*Above is the fence extension in progress and in place*

**Make an online donation at :- <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/1stnorthwoodscoutcenterbuildproject>**

## Chairman's Chat

As my quill glides across the vellum, contemplating what may lay in store for the 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood during the next few months, my mind focuses on the voluminous amounts of storage space at our disposal once the works to expand the compound around the hut are complete. Just imagine the quantity of three piece suites we could accommodate! To anyone concerned by this remark, I am not being serious, but the extra space, no less than eight metres in width, will be great and it will seem as if Christmas has come prematurely.

The contractors have removed the old (or rather not that old) fence and installed it further towards where the large furniture stall is positioned in the field on jumble day. Our in-house photographers have made a record of the works in progress and we are grateful to them for their efforts.

All that remains to be done now is to remove the old hedging and a few insignificant trees after which we will be able to practice a whole range of Scouting activities without encroaching onto the Hog's Back open space.

A range of areas of extra space elsewhere at the hut are gradually being created such as clearance of the scrap metal including a significant pile of disused scaffold poles. This is not so much with Jumble in mind but in readiness for the day in a little less than two months time when some really serious activity will be taking place, namely demolition of the existing hut and construction of the new premises.

A few weeks ago we had a somewhat unusual item on our shopping list. We needed a garage, not to sell at Jumble but to house a good deal of our equipment - tents, barbeques etc. It needed to be as empty and as large as possible and fairly close to the hut.

Our former treasurer Ken Nettleton came to the rescue and offered us his unit providing we could dispose of the car it contained. No problem. The garage is now stacked to the gunnels and the beauty of it is that it is only some six hundred yards away from the hut. Thank you Mr Former Treasurer for this thoughtful gesture.

Returning to the subject of Jumble, the day has of course been chosen for the event. It will take place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, opening at 2pm**. It was going to be slightly later in the month until we discovered that a certain couple had chosen the same date to get married in Windsor. We were not optimistic as to our chances of getting them to change their arrangements.

We will be communicating with all of you, mainly by email via our Leaders, with further particulars but would ask you to keep the date free so that you can help us. Whatever the collective word is for a miscellany of jumble, we remain optimistic that another collection of good quality jumble will be donated. Some has, in fact, already arrived as we felt a motor mower, a hedge trimmer and, I believe, a chain saw were too good an offer to turn down even if we have got to store them for several months.

The lead up to the actual event is a very busy time for many of us and while we have a number of aspects already covered we are thin on the ground in certain areas. We need helpers who are able to lend a hand with fairly straightforward repairs to push bikes, such as mending a puncture or adjustment of brakes and with some cleaning up of frames and wheels.

Should you prefer to help in some other way we are short of people to check that various electrical goods are working satisfactorily. Categorising and sorting our vast collection of books is also a pleasant and interesting task.

We make this request every year and I have to admit that we are not exactly swamped with new volunteers. I therefore renew our plea. Just make a phone call to me - Paul Akers on 01923 82115 - call in at the hut when sorting is in progress or have a word with your youngster's Leader.

Question - which exceptional quality do you think all of the following people possess - Alison Judd, Malcolm and Sally Smart, Helen, Simon and Monica Evans, Bob and Maxine Goswell, Leo Mindel, Silvi Almeida, Lara Fitzgerald, Alison Whitehead, Karen Retter, Gill Coleman, Veronica Hill, Marion Riley and Roxana Peters?

Answer - the ability to organise and run nothing short of an exceptionally good quiz and supper evening. One of the main objectives was to raise funds for our new Scout hut. We thank and congratulate you all for your efforts which are greatly appreciated. Our list of thanks would be incomplete without expressing our appreciation to Cook's of Northwood for their generosity in supplying the desserts and to Fairfield Church for use of their excellent premises.

I believe that over the years Scouting has become very much part of family life in many homes in Northwood. This is of course excellent news and we are immensely grateful for all the help we receive from many people who devote considerable amounts of expertise, time and energy in countless different ways. One of the challenges before us now is to ensure that this positive attribute is cultivated so that it continues to be equally if not more fruitful in the future. We urge you to become involved.

**Paul Akers - Executive Committee Chairman**

## Group Scout Leader

Congratulations are in order for our very own Kerry Horgan, Assistant Scout Leader, who has been awarded the Silver Acorn which will be awarded to him at Windsor Castle at St George's presentation. The Silver Acorn is awarded for long term dedicated service to Scouting and he has certainly done some years in the group.

In fact Kerry was my Scout Leader when I started Scouting when I was twelve and I am fifty now! That is over thirty-eight years in my book and I hope he manages many more years. Well done to Kerry and a big thank you to his wife Janet who lets him out every Friday night.

It's that time of the year when we ask everyone to give a helping hand as the Jumble is getting nearer every day that goes by.

There are lots of jobs to be done. Some big, some small, some will take an hour, some many more. That is why the group needs assistance so please don't be shy when you are asked if you can assist. In fact why wait to be asked, just get in contact and ask what you can do to help.

In fact this Jumble Sale will be the very last time that it will be held in the present Scout hut so you won't want to miss out on that.

The more observant of you will have noticed that the size of the compound has somewhat increased in the past month. I must say a big thank you to Hillingdon Council who agreed to lease us that extra land which will allow the group to provide outside activities in a secure area. This is included within the overall plan to replace the Group headquarters and it is great to see that this is going in the right direction.

Talking about the new headquarters, the fund raising is going well with more donations being received. A quiz night was recently held at Fairfield Church in Northwood Hills and was really well attended. It was a great night and a big thank you must be given to the organisers of the event - Maxine, Helen, Alison and their crew.

Looking forward to seeing you all over the Jumble period or at Group camp which is just round the corner.

**Mike Bennett**  
**GSL**

## Scout Update

This term we took part in the district Chilly Goat camp, we had a night hike from Hillingdon back to Northwood via Ruislip, we went swimming, we went climbing at Brunel University and we did some cooking. We walked to the top of the Hogs Back in snow and we did a session on disability awareness.

Also, Joseph Porcheron and Ethan Roberts were presented with their Chief Scout's Gold Award in January, to join Connor Clark who was awarded it before Christmas. These are the first people to achieve this since the new training scheme came in a couple of years ago.

**Jon Miller**  
**Scout Leader**

## 'Easyfundraising' IS What It Says!

I have written about *easyfundraising* several times in the past; this is my final plea for **everyone** who **ever** buys **anything** online to please make the effort to register.

You can help raise loads of money for the New Hut Appeal if you register at *easyfundraising* by clicking on this link:-

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/TLHI6S/> and selecting "1st Northwood Scouts New Hut Appeal" as your good cause. Then whenever you make an online purchase at any of the stores listed on their site, such as Boots, Amazon, John Lewis, Expedia, Argos, Ebay and hundreds more, you place your order via *easyfundraising* instead of going direct, and we get a donation. It costs you nothing, and gains YOUR SCOUT GROUP a lot of money.

Since the last newsletter we have gained the grand total of two new supporters – considering the newsletter goes to about 100 families, that's not great. However, every little really does help and the twenty-one registered supporters have so far raised £248.50.

Don't forget a number of stores have 'click and collect' options which are usually free – I love ordering from John Lewis and then collecting my goods from Waitrose.

**Ros Plume**



## Explorer News

This term has seen lots of Duke of Edinburgh preparation work, culminating in a snowy Easter weekend on Exmoor. Despite best hopes given by the weather forecast, snow-covered bogs became a surprising problem to face.

With Gold out over Easter, it means we've covered all Duke of Edinburgh levels this term with Silver groups doing their expedition presentations and Bronzes preparing for assessed and practice hikes next week.

We started the term investing eight new members and have another five ready to be invested next term. Activities other than Duke of Edinburgh have included social (bowling), skills (cooking) and local challenges (sign post bingo.)

Two Explorer teams plus one of Leaders took part in the annual Live Monopoly Run. Six hours to travel around London visiting all the locations on the standard monopoly board. Signing in via an app when you arrive at a location gave you the chance to buy property or pay rent if someone else beat you there.

Despite taking place during the cold and snow over a hundred teams from around the country took part. None of our teams won but all had a great time; our highest placed team of Georgia, Miles, Sam, Daniel and Hope are now owed cookies for beating the leaders!

A small group of Explorers took up the challenge to see how many London Underground stations they could visit in a day. They successfully "grabbed" a hundred and sixty-seven stations. Next year we hope to get more teams out.

In the summer of 2019, four explorers from Poindextor are going to the international Jamboree in West Virginia. From just four thousand UK Scouts, just over sixty Scouts from GLMW will be travelling for three weeks in order to learn more about Scouting around the world and to meet different people from hundreds of different countries.

**Archie, Andrew, James, Callum and Rishi.**  
**Explorer Scouts**



*Explorers on their Tube marathon and at last year's Sky Camp*

## Cub Catch-Up

Another busy term is coming to an end, one which saw us hand out over thirty badges earned by the Cubs this term.

We were very pleased to present Mike Zulu with his Chief Scout Silver Award as he leaves us to continue his Scouting journey in the Scout Section. He will be joined by Gabor who has been in Cubs just a year but has learnt a lot in that time.

As we say goodbye to our oldest two Cubs, we invested eight new Cubs and welcomed six Beavers who swam up to the Pack last week. We also invested Liz and Rachel who have been assistant leaders in the Pack for over a year now.

So what did we do to earn all these badges? Well, we've had a science night with experiments and learnt some pioneering skills. We've found out about Burns Night, Chinese New Year, Saints and Easter including food on most occasions!

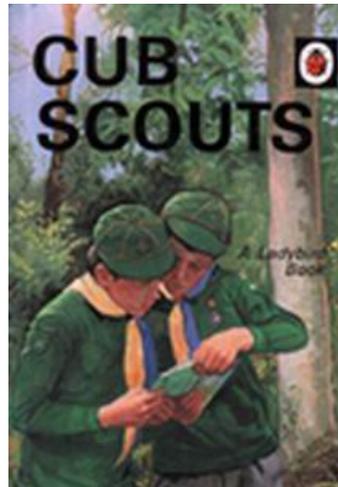
We took the Cubs swimming at Highgrove where they impressed us with their skills; these were put into practice by the team that we took to the District Swimming Gala where Rohan gained a medal for his backstroke and another one with Gabor on the air bed race. We also received medals for the Obstacle Relay. Well done to the whole team.

We learnt about the bells and Church at St John's in Pinner; all the Cubs got an opportunity to have a go at ringing a bell under close supervision!

Finally we had a visit from a Royal Navy Medic who enthralled the Pack with her stories about life on board ship and taught them some basic first aid skills along the way.

Many thanks for the support of parents when we've requested it and to Alan for stepping in whenever we need an extra pair of hands or some stoves hooking up for making pancakes or other cooking activities!

**Christine Bennett**  
**Akela**



## Beaver Blog

The Beavers have had a very busy time this term.

They have completed their International badge and also their Disability Awareness badge, learning how difficult it is to push a wheelchair up steps, down ramps and on bumpy ground and also how to sign their names and find their way without sight.

We are, at the moment, in the process of making Pincraft Easter eggs as gifts for Mums this Easter.

We have four young people who have earned their Chief Scout Bronze award, presented by our DC Stephen Plume.

We have had six young people swim up to Cubs this week and are looking forward to welcoming newcomers after the Easter break.

From September we are changing our night to a Wednesday, 5.30 to 7pm. This will mean that we have more time to set up/clear up and the young people will have a slightly longer time so that we can get things done without rushing everything.

**Jax Kershaw**  
**ABSL**

*To the left we see how Cubs looked in 1987*

## Jumble Timetable

April	7	H	Set up hut	Sat	April	28		3rd collection HO	H	Holiday
	8	H	Set up hut	Sun		29		HC		
	9	H	HC	Mon		30		HO	HO	Hut Open **
	10	H	1st leaflets* HO	Tues	May	1		no leaflets HO	M-Th	18.30 - 20.00
	11	H	HO	Wed		2		HO	Sat	14.00 - 18.00
	12	H	HO	Thurs		3		HO		
	13	H	HC	Fri		4		HC	HC	Hut Closed
	14	H	1st collection HO	Sat		5		no collection		
	15	H	HC	Sun		6		HC	BOT	Beginning of term
	16	BOT	HO	Mon		7	BH	HO?		
	17		2nd leaflets* HO	Tues		8		HO	BH	Bank Holiday
	18		HO	Wed		9		HO		
	19		HO	Thurs		10		Marquee		09.00-16.00
	20		HC	Fri		11		Set up		09.00-18.00
	21		2nd collection HO	Sat		12		Jumble Sale		08.00-18.00
	22		HC	Sun		13		Clear up		08.00-.....
	23		HO	Mon		14				
	24		3rd leaflets* HO	Tues		15				
	25		HO	Wed		16				
	26		HO	Thurs		17				
	27		HC	Fri		18				

**\*\*NOTE; HO = Hut open FOR DELIVERIES FROM THE PUBLIC.**

(The hut will be open outside these times for the smooth running of other preparations.)

\*Leaflet Raids on Tuesdays; Beavers and Scouts - meet at 5.30pm; finish around 7pm

Cubs and Explorers - meet at 6pm; finish around 7.30pm

**SATURDAY COLLECTIONS START 13.30**



1st Northwood  
Scout Group



# GRAND JUMBLE SALE

on

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2 pm**

Northwood Way  
Northwood