



FIRST NEWS

Issue 95 December 2018

Newsletter of the 1st Northwood Scout Group



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

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS!

New Scouting Centre Update

Progress with the new Scouting Centre has suddenly become visible! Having spent over five months building the foundations, when very little was visible, the pre-fabricated wooden wall panels went up in two days.

Since then we have arranged for the scaffolding to be put up, and the building supplier Passmore's returned to site on Monday December 10 to fit the roof trusses.

We have a committee work-in over the weekend of Dec 15/16 to fit some insulation in the roof and then the roof cladding and slates will be fitted by Christmas if all goes to plan. Father Christmas will have a new roof on which to land his sleigh!

The tasks that remain are substantial. We need to fit internal insulation and cladding and get it painted, fit heating, lighting and electrics throughout, fit toilets and kitchen, and sort out rainwater drainage and landscaping.

Some of this work we plan to do using our own volunteer labour, *but we need more volunteers – That's You!* Some work will also be done by contractors, but the budget won't cover all of it that way. If you or anyone you know does this kind of work, professionally or DIY, please get in contact with me, we may have a job for you!

Richard Plume
Executive Committee Member
Tel. 01923 827409



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

Chairman's Chat

On this occasion I would like to commence by congratulating our Group Scout Leader, Mike Bennett and all the other Leaders we are fortunate to have, for the admirable way in which they have coped by adhering to their programme of meetings ever since the old Scout Hut was demolished.

I understand they have held their weekly meetings in a number of local venues including occasions when they held their meetings on the Hog's Back, which was probably one of the best places to be during the extraordinary weather we experienced this year.

Despite this interruption, as well as not having the usual easy access to many of the items they require for meetings, the quality of Scouting they have managed to provide to our youngsters remains at an all time high. This positive trait shows that our boys and girls are a very versatile group of people who readily adapt to such changes in circumstances even if it's only for a few well spent hours each week.

They should start preparing themselves for another change, namely becoming accustomed to attending their meetings in a completely new, and I mean new from foundations upwards, Scout Hut. The new building is now really beginning to take shape, with the roof trusses as I believe they are called about to be set in place as I write.

Without a great deal on my plate earlier this month I took a stroll up to the Hut to see how things were progressing. Lucky my visit coincided with the delivery and assembly of the outer walls. It was most impressive watching about eight specialists build the structure and, unlike my joinery, every section fitted together like a hand in a well fitted glove.

As you can see from the pictures on our website (www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk) the building is wooden, being made of Redwood Pine, a soft wood grown in Sweden where so much high quality timber comes from partly due to the climactic conditions which result in a slow rate of growth.

By the time you read this newsletter the roof will be in place just in time to ward off the inclement weather which is presumably on the way. We will then be able to concentrate on the fitting-out works such as lighting, plumbing and installation of toilets and kitchen which is when we will be knocking on doors and I dare say twisting a few arms in an attempt to obtain some assistance with these tasks.

I cannot recall that anybody has made any firm predictions as to when the hut will be ready for meetings of the various sections again but I am hoping that the next newsletter will contain an announcement that we will be having a jumble sale next year.

What else is new at 1st Northwood? Well, although not qualifying as new in the sense of straight out of the showroom, we have another minibus. Its predecessor broke down in Wales and had to be stretchered back to Northwood with assistance from a recovery firm.

Analysis at two local garages diagnosed serious issues in the engine compartment after which it was decided that it would not be a practical proposition to attempt repairs. The garage which undertook the diagnosis is going to try to sell the vehicle and offset whatever they obtain against the price of the replacement vehicle we have bought, a transaction which was completed in a matter of a few days. So what looks like a brand new minibus awaits all who will have occasion to use it.

It is not often that we are able to announce the election of some new members to the Executive Committee and three at once is virtually unheard of. It must be one of the spin-offs of having a new hut! The new members are Jean Lou Porcheron, Tim Shipman and Stephen Chapman. We extend a very warm welcome to all three and look forward to working with them in order to maintain a high quality level of Scouting at 1st Northwood.

A happy Christmas to one and all.

Paul Akers
Executive Committee Chairman



Generous Bikers

Our local bikers group known as the Posse had their Fun Day at the Gate pub back in August and very generously chose our New Scouting Centre fund as the charity to receive the proceeds from the day.

Subsequently, on Friday October 26, they invited us to meet them at The Gate to receive their donation. In the photo you see Doug Horgan and Richard Plume being presented with a cheque for £1,643 by Nick from the Posse.

In addition, one of the Posse members, Jackie (far left), passed on a donation for £500 from her employer GSK.

Thank you everyone!

Richard Plume
Executive Committee Member



Group Scout Leader Report

Things are certainly moving ahead with the new Scouting Centre and as I write this the roof is just going on. It has taken a long time for it to get to this stage with the planning, fund raising and of course the building. A big thank you must go out to all involved during the many stages of the project and I for one can't wait to get into the building and making it our home.

All the sections have been busy since the summer with many exciting activities completed.

All sections have been using other places to meet during the rebuild and I must say that it has gone down very well; different places allow other people to see what Scouts are all about.

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter that the Cub section sent Christmas parcels to the British Armed forces overseas again and have received some great letters back thanking them.

Before I end I must say a special Christmas thanks to all the leaders, parents, children, committee members and other helpers who help make the 1st Northwood as successful as it is.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Explorer Round-up

So, what have the Explorer Scouts been up to this term? At the end of the summer break a group undertook their Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. This was the group who were snowed off at Easter, they had better weather this time!

September saw three teams participate in Sky Camp, the annual challenge at PACCAR Scout Campsite to build a construction in the trees which they slept in on the Saturday night, having cooked their dinner up there in the evening. All the teams did well and survived the weekend.

As our numbers continue to grow we had four weeks of what we call split meetings during the term. Over the course of four weeks, each group would participate in all the activities which were Crate Staking, Rifle Shooting, Curry Cooking and a hike with quiz. We also continued to arrange training towards future expeditions including a second group completing a practice Gold Expedition over October half term.

The Unit were set a challenge during the term to arrange themselves in small groups and see how many Underground stations they can visit in an eight hour day. The best so far is one hundred and twenty-nine stations – other groups have until the end of the Christmas holidays to challenge the total.

We have supported Northwood Hills Residents Association delivering their local newsletter and helping set up for the Big Christmas Lights Switch on; Eastbury Residents with a newsletter delivery; Northwood Live at Home with the annual fundraiser; and Ruislip Roundtable with their Santa Sleigh.

We look forward to a quiet few weeks before another busy term in the New Year.

Christine Bennett
District ES
Commissioner

Scout Summary

The Scouts have had a busy time since the summer with the troop meetings being held at 2nd Northwood who meet at St Edmunds Church in Northwood Hills.

An interesting evening was spent walking from Rickmansworth to Lees Wood camp site where the Scouts camped out with other Scouts from the District and then spent Saturday competing in several different activities. I am pleased to say the Scouts won the District Archery shield. Well done.

One thing that they must work on is map reading as at one footpath junction I had Scouts wanting to go in four different directions, including back the way we had just come!

Evenings have been spent putting their first aid training into practice and not forgetting making their very own Christmas cakes. I was amazed how well some of them were decorated. We may have the next Gordon Ramsey or Jamie Oliver in the making.

A special thanks must go out to the other Scout leaders and parent helpers who have assisted during this term.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas.

Mike Bennett
Group Scout Leader

Cub Collation

The Cubs have had another busy term with lots of badges earned including three top awards; Congratulations to Anya, Carla and Nikola who gained their Chief Scout Silver Awards. We now say goodbye to them along with Bobby and Matilda as they move on to Scouts.

To gain all these badges, the Cubs have communicated, collected and found out about Personal and Fire Safety. They had a trip to the Fire Station but unfortunately the appliance and most of the crew were on a shout so after a short talk with the Fireman left behind we took them on a very dark walk around the Lido – lots of squealing Cubs! They also visited the Hare Krishna Temple in Watford where they were fascinated by the buildings and superbly well behaved.

The oldest Cubs went to PACCAR to join the County-organised Elements Camp. They had a busy weekend and I must thank Rosa and Doug for accompanying them. The photo shows them discovering water filtering with the County Commissioner, Richard Williams.

As has become our custom, we linked finding out about Remembrance Day with preparing parcels to send to Troops who will be abroad at Christmas. The Royal Mail and Forces Post have excelled themselves, delivering in record time; the parcels have already been received and we've had a thank you letter and photos back. The Cubs also had an excellent turn out with impeccable behaviour at the Centenary Remembrance Service at Northwood War Memorial.

I am grateful to Parina for coming forward and taking on the Section Assistant role and she has supported me with running the Pack this term. We could do with someone else joining the team so that we have cover when one of us is unavailable. We must also thank Joseph and Connor, our two Young Leaders, who help us run games and supervise activities – next term they are going to run an activity.

Enjoy the Christmas break, we're already planning a full programme for next term.

**Christine Bennett
Akela**



Christmas Parcels
1st Northwood Cub Scouts

HEADQUARTERS NATO MISSION IRAQ
Camp UNION II, Baghdad, Iraq

Dear 1st Northwood Cub Scouts,
On behalf of the Commander, Major General Fortin, the Officers and men of NATO Mission Iraq, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the presents and gifts that you must have spent a lot of time and effort to send to us here in Iraq - some 2500 miles from Northwood, they were most welcomed.

It is amazing how a simple packet of Hambo can stop a meeting of the most important people, discussing the most important issues. I guess it does not matter how old (or young) you are, there is always a time for snacks!

The Christmas decorations and toys brought a smile to everyone, especially a game to unlock two metal hoops - it would appear we are very competitive here. The presents also allowed us to reflect on our friends and families at home getting ready for Christmas and it brings great warmth to know people are thinking of us too! Keller amazingly won the copy of the magazine, *The Economist*. The headline was "Must the Asians can teach the World". I can tell you that we are a mission of 22 countries, including Australia - I think our Australian Colonel will have this magazine framed and put on the wall for us all to see.

Speaking from one uniformed organisation to another, it always amazes me how much more we can achieve when we work together towards a common goal. Between us we have many backgrounds, religions, traditions and understanding each other makes us very strong indeed.

Finally, I can assure you that each day we do our best, we strive to put others before ourselves and I hope we do a good turn every day.

I wish you all the very best for the holidays and 2014.

Yours
Lieutenant Commander
Royal Navy.



Above we see the Cubs at the Remembrance service and below is the Ruislip Round table Santa who was assisted by our Explorer Scouts



Beaver Blog

1st Northwood Beavers have had a very interesting and eventful term and we would like to thank the Kate Fassnidge Community Hall for allowing us to use their Hall this term.

The Beavers have built pirate ships in team building fun, became budding Einstein's in problem solving, learned home and personal skills, became mini Hyper Willy Wonka's in a very chocolaty evening - sorry parents!

The Beavers went around the world tasting different foods and learning other cultures, religions and beliefs. They had special guests come to talk about anti-bullying and safety. Our Young Leader Emma thought up and ran a session brilliantly making leaf crowns, leaf men and playing games with leaves, They all had a fantastic time, Thank you Emma.

We have invested new members at a lovely ceremony at Emmanuel Church, it felt very special after learning all about the church.

Lastly we are all very much looking forward to Christmas and watching the great progress on our Brand New Hut.. very exciting!

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone.

Wendy Wiggins
Beaver Scout Leader





Here we see the Beavers enjoying some of their many activities



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