



2nd Harpenden Scouts "Second to None" Newsletter – April 2014

News and Views from the Group Scout Leader

Why should the kids have all the fun?
Adult Hike on 20 July

Observing the fantastic programme our section leaders put on for our beavers, cubs and scouts always makes me a little envious that as an adult I don't get as much fun. Maybe being a leader helps a little bit, though as GSL I'm a bit more "back office" than the leaders themselves.

It got me thinking though. I have an idea for a spoof walk that I'm calling The Three Peaks of Harpenden. Those of you who have done our family walk will know one of the "peaks" - Bowers Heath woods. The other two are Highfield Oval and Rothamsted Manor. Between them these three spots are the highest points in Harpenden.

Eventually we may decide to organise this as a proper fundraising event more widely, but I'm inviting 2nd Harpenden parents to join me on a pilot test on the last Sunday of the Summer term, July 20th.

It would be a 15km walk, taking 5-6 hours including three refreshment stops along the way at local hostelries, at one of which we can take lunch. I'll be asking for a £10 donation to our roof fund per participant, in lieu of expecting you to raise sponsorship. Start at 10am from Tallents Crescent, returning to the same place.

Put it in your diaries now!

Phil Murray.
Group Scout Leader

Some Key Dates to Remember

26 April - Open Invitation to view the completed new hut at the 9th.
27 April - St George's Day Parade
17 May - District Cub Activities Day
4 June - Community Week Event
29 June - Lark in the Park
12 July - Beaver fun day
11-13 July - District Cub Camp
20 July - Three Peaks of Harpenden (Adult Hike)

Key Contacts

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Beavers Message

We have had another fun and productive term with our Beavers achieving lots of badges demonstrating their commitment and hard work. Three of our Beavers -Louis Tredinnick, Thomas Redway and Dexter – were awarded with the Bronze Chief Scouts Award, which was presented by Jane Murray the District Commissioner. Well done to them!

We have had a very busy program this term and benefited from a number of visitors to the Hut. We had a visit from a "Rocket Scientist" who told the Beavers all about space, satellites and rockets. We experimented with balloons to make our own balloon rocket. They learned all about India from a friend of the pack where we tasted Indian food and had a henna tattoo. Jay, one of the scout leaders is a detective and entertained the Beavers with finger printing activities and observation games. We had a special visit from Edgar's Dad, Dave Clarke the previous captain of the England Blind Football Team. Dave brought along his beautiful guide dog and the Beavers learned about disabilities and played games with a "handicap". We had lots of laughs and a bit of competition one night learning how to "speed stack". Thanks to Sharon Davies, the scout leader, for teaching us that skill.

We visited the renovated signal box in St Albans. We travelled there and back by train and were shown round the renovated signal box, which was in operation up until 1979. It is well worth a visit. We were lucky enough to have Ray come and teach the Beavers how to build their own fire! We then had a huge campfire, singsong and enjoyed chocolate bananas and smores.mmmmm.

But of course the highlight was the Beaver Sleepover. This time we ventured further afield staying at the 3rd Harpenden Scout Hut at Southdown. Ray very kindly made us some stomp rockets (they were fantastic!) and the Beavers had fun making their own rockets then launching in the garden achieving fantastic heights. They dined on fish and chips; toasted marshmallows round the campfire; and finally rounded off the evening with a movie and popcorn. The next morning, despite a late night and the clock change the sleepy Beavers managed to wolf down breakfast and embarked on a treasure hunt on the Ups and Downs. It was the best sleepover yet with some asking to make it a "double sleepover"!

Looking back to over the term we have crammed in a lot of activities, visitors, outings and fun. It has been a busy term and we are very grateful for the support we have had from parents, outside groups and individuals, and also by other scout leaders.





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Cubs Message

Our cubs have experienced a varied and challenging Spring term. We have been learning about the planet in many different forms starting off with how and what we can recycle. Cubs made posters and completed Quizzes as part of their Global challenge badge. Also contributing to their Global challenge badge we learnt about Global issues such as water sanitation and the Cubs were given a Smartie tube to fill with 20 pence pieces they had earned in exchange for jobs at home. All Cubs enjoyed the Smarties and filled their empty tubes – so far we have a healthy looking stash of tubes and with some still to be returned. We are hoping we can reach our total of £60 which will be enough to provide a toilet in a developing country. More information about toilet twinning can be found in the link below but in a nutshell if we can raise £60 at the 2nd Harpenden this will provide a toilet in a developing country. You never know the cubs may be able to raise enough money for more than one toilet!

<http://www.toilettwinning.org/>.

Also as part of our Global challenge badge cubs cooked a simple meal in their Six. We were really impressed with all their knowledge about being safe in the Kitchen and each six successfully chopped, cooked, fried and ate their way through a vegetable stir fry. We also spent two weeks on our entertainer badge making puppets and putting together a short performance which all the cubs loved. We presented awards for the best puppet and the best performance. And again we were really impressed by the level of creativity. Harpenden Library also welcomed us and were able to combine our book reader badge with a short hike back to the hut. Unfortunately the weather wasn't on our side but all those who braved the weather earned a hike.

Ten cubs joined us for the District night hike and what an adventure it was with Akela's map reading skills! We trekked across 5.5 miles of Hertfordshire's finest countryside answering questions along the way and completing challenges. The sunset was fabulous and it was a great way to spend a Saturday night. Thank you to those parents that joined us! I was really impressed with all the cubs stamina – it was far longer than our usual hikes. Starting at 5.30 we walked until 9.45 and I'm sure a few cubs and adults slept well that night.

We finished off the term with some first aid – cubs enjoyed cleaning wounds and applying plasters as well as enacting emergency calls. We said goodbye to Julian, Sam, Emma and Freddie. We wish them every success in Scouts and well done to Emma, Julian and Freddie who gained their Chief Scouts Silver Award. We are really looking forward to outdoor activities next term. Our annual rounder's game, District camp and gearing up our BedBugs experience in September at London Zoo.

Thank you for all your support! Akela Cate, Haithi Amy, Jeebi Dan and Wabeeno Sam





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Scout Message

Say Hello

We welcomed Zak Knight, Oliver Gamble, Fergus Daly, Grace Westbrook, Charlie Raynor and Owen Barber into Scouts.

Wave Goodbye

We had to say cheerio to Ruby Westbrook and Max Colquhoun, both of whom are moving on up to Shackleton Explorer unit. Good luck Max and Ruby. You will be missed.

Gold, Always Believing

We had great news in that two Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Award. Both Ruby Westbrook and Alex Sach are the first Scouts at 2nd Harpenden to achieve this and both awards were richly deserved.

Robin Hood, Robin Hood

Towards the end of the term we took 24 scouts (and one cub) in two mini buses to camp at Walesby Forest scout campsite near Sherwood Forest. It was a superb weekend, despite being bombarded by hailstones whilst building a rope bridge across a river. We also did archery, shooting, outdoor laser quest and a small walk through Sherwood Forest. We returned very tired, especially the leaders!!

Judy and the Chocolate Factory

A huge thanks goes out to Judy Robertson who led a chocolate welding evening, with both Tuesday and Wednesday night Scouts. It was a really choc-tastic activity.

Term Time Fun

This term we put a focus on planning for the Expedition Challenge for the older Scouts and the Fitness Challenge for the others. We also had two nights with Ray Vassie leading the line with the DIY badge where Scouts did some welding, fitted a window pane, sawed wood, fitted a plug and many more things. During the term we spent a night around Harpenden, solving morse code clues, did a bit of circuit training, built and raced sedan chairs and had a lot of fun.

