

Message from the Group Scout Leader

Hi Everyone,

WELCOME to the 1st issue of our Newsletter. We hope you all find some interesting items to read and you will be able to see how active each of the sections has been by reading their own reports.

One of the recent highlights was our 1st Family Camp which was held in July. What a fantastic weekend we had! 70 children, parents and leaders took part at Waddecar Scout campsite. Everyone participated in activities such as pioneering (didn't those Dad's just tackle this so well?), climbing, archery, hiking, cooking on an open fire, bouncy castle, sumo wrestling, camp fire, raft building.....and eating of course! The weather held pretty well for us and we all had a great time together.

During the camp we held our 1st Annual General Meeting which was very well attended by parents (a captive audience helps!) as well as our District Commissioner and Peter Sheasby (the Church being our sponsoring authority). The Section Leaders reported on activities for the previous year. I was presented with my GSL Appointment and had to renew my Promise. Following the meeting, many of you stepped forward to form a full Executive Committee, along with other offers of help. Thank you very much for that!

One leadership change is Peter Newton who is stepping back to Assistant Cub Scout Leader and Karen Smalley is taking over as Akela. I wish to thank Peter for his time in the 'hot seat' and may he continue in the less arduous role assisting Karen for many years to come! Karen, thank you for taking on this new role, I do hope you have loads of fun!

Thank you also for the continuing work of all the other leaders and helpers in the Group. For them, it isn't just an hour or two a week.....

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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Family Camp. Photo: Ray Troll

Casual Wear

Each year, we place an order to buy some sweatshirts, hoodies, t-shirts and polo shirts for all our young people and leaders to wear when not in formal uniform. These are great especially for camps and days out! The logo on the back was designed by one of our Beaver Scouts and these have proved very popular. We do have a few items for sale which are excess stock. If you wish to buy any of the items below, please let Lesley Thomas know. We do only have a small stock, so it will be on a first come first serve basis. The sweatshirts and hoodies are navy blue with green writing and logos. The polo and t-shirts are lime green with navy writing – it is easy to spot members of our Group!

Current stock:

T-shirt - £6.50 each 4 x 7-8 yrs, 4 x 9-11 yrs

Polo - £9.50 each 1 x XL adult

Hoodie - £15.00 each 1 x 9-11 yrs, 1 x 12-13 yrs

These are not a replacement for full uniform.

Please contact Lesley if you would like any of these items – If you think you could help us by coordinating an order a couple of times a year, I would love to hear from you.

Church Parade Dates

As we are a sponsored Group, we attend Church Parade/Family Service once a month. These services are usually the 2nd Sunday of the month. We meet in the hall at 10:15am in full, smart uniform. We encourage you to attend as many as possible throughout the year.

Dates of the parade services for the rest of 2011 are:

13th November – Remembrance

11th December – Toy/Gift service

Uniforms

Remember to please pass back to us any uniforms no longer needed so we can pass them on to others. If you need uniform please ask, a small donation can secure you a shirt, jumper, trousers or a belt!

If you would like to help the leaders by collecting the pieces of uniform that are handed in and then taking requests, please let Lesley know. That would be a great help!

Gift Aid

If every child could have their subscriptions Gift Aided, we could make £400-500 each year tax free. Please contact your section leader for a form.

Beaver Scouts

A warm welcome back after the summer holidays! For the first time in quite a while we have no new Beaver Scouts joining us just yet as we're running at full capacity and having to implement a waiting list – we must be doing something right!

The Colony has been as active as ever recently with one of our teams coming joint first at the District Fazackerley Challenge in May and gaining a magnificent trophy as well as roller skating, exploring various parts of the countryside and of course family camp at Waddecar which saw many of our Beaver Scouts gain their adventure activity badge and the first (of many) nights away badge!

This term we're looking forward to joining with the Cub Scouts and Scouts in working towards the faith partnership award which fits well with the rest of this term's activities. We plan to be as busy as ever this term with visits to other parts of the community, including places of worship and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment museum.

The start of a new academic year is a good time to review what we do – as a result we ask that parents now collect Beaver Scouts from the far end of the hall from the rear car park – this will hopefully make the transition between section meetings easier.

As ever, if you fancy coming along to see what we do, lend the occasional hand or have a particular skill you could share then please don't be shy and come talk to one of the leaders!

Cub Scouts

The Cub pack is running well with 3 new Beaver Scouts moving up in September, which will bring us up to 28 Cub Scouts.

We have a change of leadership roles as Peter Newton is going to be one of the Assistant Cub Scout Leaders and Karen Smalley is taking over as Akela. Sharon Blinston is our newest leader recruit and she will be starting training in September.

The Cub Scouts have recently taken part in the District sports day in which we came joint 4th – Well done! We also attended The World Wide Waddecar Day, along with the Beavers, It was a scorching hot day; the Beavers and Cubs enjoyed making, tasting and having their faces painted as well as learning about the various Projects and Charities on their travels around the world. We visited the Brockholes Nature Reserve which gave an insight into the different species of wildlife that can be seen at this newly opened reserve, along with floating hides, workshops and bug hotel.

The Chief Scout Silver Award is the highest to be presented in the Cub Scouts and we have recently presented 3 to Euan Hudson, Tom McGill and Kamran Patel. Congratulations to them!

Looking to the future, we are planning lots of exciting activities, such as a visit from The Bat Woman, Outward Bound Day at Great Tower, October camp, a visit to our local swimming pool, as well as lots and lots of other activities on our run up to Christmas..... The County Cub Camp in October is where the Cubs Scouts will encounter some spooky going's on; they will be transformed into Mad Scientists on this Mad Science Themed weekend.

Scouts

Well what a term we have had!! Being the summer it's that time of year when we spend most of our Troop nights out of the church and take part in those outdoor activities that are so crucial to the Scout programme. Over the past term we have been gill scrambling, outdoor climbing, raft building, navigating over Nicky Nook and orienteering. With all these adventurous activities it would only be right that every Scout in the Troop has achieved their Adventure Challenge badge towards the Chief Scout Gold Award. Well done all!!

We also went on a day trip to Madame Tussauds in Blackpool where we met all our favourite celebrities in their wax forms. Afterwards, how better to finish the day off with a ride on a waltzer and a stick of Blackpool rock?

As for camps we went on County Rally back in May, the annual County Camp at Waddecar where there are more activities on offer than I can even mention here. Also how can we forget about the Family Camp? Definitely the best camp of the year!!

Numbers in the Troop are on the up with currently 18 Scouts. I would just like to take this quick chance to say thanks to Alex and Natalia our Assistant Scout Leaders and of course Tom and Dan our Young Leaders as well as many others for all their help over the last term.

Executive Committee

Why should the kids have all the fun? That's what I thought when I attended the Groups family camp earlier this summer. I think many other parents did too!! Unfortunately for me Scouting is about fun and adventure for young people, and despite valiant attempts to convince myself otherwise, I am too old.

There are other ways to enjoy and get a sense of satisfaction out of Scouting. There are plenty of roles for adults within the movement. For example, the group relies on the dedication of a team of leaders who give up significant amounts of time, not just at the weekly meeting, but in training, preparing and planning the wonderful adventures for the young people.

Not everyone has the time or the inclination to become a leader. Every Scout Group has another body that sits in the back ground to support of the Group Scout Leader and the individual section leaders. This is the Group Executive Committee. Its role is to support the Group Scout Leader with matters of fund raising, property management, finance and any other administrative functions that may be required. The 'Exec' also forms the Board of Trustees for the Scout Group as a registered charity.

So, if you want to have fun, use your skill in aid of a good cause, get pleasure out of scouting but perhaps don't want to become a leader, why not consider working with or on the Executive Committee, we can use all the help we can get. If you are interested please don't hesitate to give me call.

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