



1st Olney Scout Group Newsletter

February and March 2004
Issue Eleven

Hello and Welcome

Well Christmas and New Year Celebrations have been and gone, the month of January has gone, and half of February. The newsletters are going to be coming out on a bimonthly basis, so I need input from yourselves. The articles at the moment are coming from members of the committee, and leaders. I would like to change this and to start having articles from all members of the group (Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts and Young Leaders), so next edition lets have an article one from each section.

Mark (Cub Scout Leader / Editor)

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

This is a Group initiative and all sections of the 1st Olney Scout Group are taking part.

I arranged for the Parks Trust to visit the Cub Scouts in January where a Park Ranger talked about conservation and why we need trees and the reason why they are thinned out and the growing of new ones. He went on to show them seeds he had picked from Ash seeds and how they fall to the ground and what the seeds looked like.

The Cub Scouts then went on to plant the Ash seeds and were told how to look after them. This venture will be closely monitored over the coming months to see how our seeds develop and if they need planting on. It is hoped that they can be planted around Olney and any surplus will go back to the Cub Scouts.

Scouts are having a similar visit in March.

Some parents may recall that we dug, fed and planted in and around Olney First School last summer and the Cub and Beaver Scouts helped with the pots around the school. Part of the funding for this venture has been given by Marks & Spencer plc.

The plan now is for us to undertake another project around the school, a wildlife garden to encourage wildlife especially butterflies and other insect. We are putting together a record of our achievements and will in due course invite parents and guests to an evenings presentation to go through our endeavours. The final result be that all members that have undertaken this will be presented with a badge.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD

With Trish and Glen Selwoods visit to Sierra Leone the Group were very aware of people less fortunate than ourselves and the leaders researched and have agreed to undertake this Group award. Each section has been tasked with getting to know about Sierra Leone and gather as much information as possible. The sections are also looking at health issues, the schools, the differences between then and us and to make contact with the local Scout Group. We will also log what we do, encourage photographs along the way, graphs, pictures and other sources of information. We also have project aims, how have we benefited from the project, what will the long term benefits be?

The Award is in its early stages, but each section is thinking about it and putting it into its programme over the coming months. Again we will be presenting this to you as parents and to other invited guests.

UNIFORM & BADGES

Can I please remind parents of the uniform, sweatshirts only for both Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts, polo shirts are activity wear and badges (official ones) are only permitted on the sweatshirts. Scout uniform includes the belt, £8.50 all items can be purchased from the Scout Resource Centre, Hollin Lane, Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes (open Wednesday 6- 8 pm and Saturdays 10 – 4 pm). If you have any doubts about the uniform or want directions to the shop, please do not hesitate to ask one of your leaders or give me a ring.

A number of members have badges on uniforms that should be on camp blankets, these are badges that have been given at camps.

SPECIAL NEEDS/ILLNESSES

We get asked from time to time by the Scout Association for details of our members (numbers only) who have special needs, dyslexia, asthma (me included), eyesight problems (me as well), diabetes, epilepsy or any other not mentioned that we might need to know about. We also need to know if your child has been ill with any contagious infection as there might be a time when we need to tell others or if we have a child whose defence system is not as it should be.

PARENT ROTAS

All parents when your child joins the Group are expected to help within their child's section. Without this help we cannot run a successful evening. With the large number of children now attending this support is vital for the smooth running of the sectional evenings. All we ask is that you are CRB cleared and come with lots of enthusiasm. Beaver Scouts cannot run on just two leaders, they must have one adult to six children, the numbers reduce when undertaking activities outside the School. As your child progresses through the sections, the evenings are planned around the Progressive Training Scheme and again your support is needed.

CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU

Beaver Scout parents will know that I have been trying since before Christmas to get all Beaver Scout parents to complete CRB forms. I have a duty of care to your child and to you as parents to ensure that all adults within the Group are checked. Unfortunately the Scout Association does not accept others obtained for other activities and new forms have to be completed. No activities after half term will be permitted outside the School unless the parents involved have CRB clearance. We are endeavouring to complete all sections by Easter.

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

We are happy to announce that Steve Tetlow has agreed to take on this role. Tony Moroney (Group Chairman) and I are meeting with Steve to put together a job description. We see Steve's role as our CRB overseer (taking the responsibility away from me), the first link with any new parents into the Group and also a contact if a parent has a concern that they want to talk about if they feel they cannot talk to a leader about it. Steve can then discuss this with myself or the leader concerned.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Last AGM we saw Hannah Woods resign as Treasurer, unfortunately we were unable to find a replacement and Hannah kindly stepped back into the shoes. She would really like to relinquish this role and would discuss what is involved with anyone who feels that they could help. Please contact me on 01234 714677.

FUND RAISING

A very busy December saw the group at various events Dickens, bag packing at Marks & Spencers CMK and the Stantonbury Brass Band concert in the Parish Church. Thanks go to everyone involved in these ventures as at this time of the year there are lots of other demands on time.

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Every year we elect new members to the Committee, we currently have a nucleus of members, but would welcome new blood. If you can spare a few hours once a term for meetings (more nearer fund raising events) or can help in fund raising then please contact Tony Moroney on 01234 713464.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE & SERVICE

There are two events in the Scouting diary which we ask that everyone in the Group attends, one is St. George's Day. St. George is the patron saint of Scouting and it is at this that all members of the Scout Association renew their promises. It is also an opportunity for the Group to take part in a District parade. We are one of the successful Groups in the District and I am proud of its members, please support me and your leaders in attending. This years event will take place at Christ the Cornerstone in Central Milton Keynes. Further details will follow once they have been finalised.

SITUATIONS VACANT

WEEKLY HELPER/ASSISTANT

TO HELP RUN BEAVER SESSIONS
ON MONDAYS NIGHTS (term time only)

You must be reliable, punctual and fairly organised.
Hours: 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm (with occasional meetings at
other times)

Age: 18 - 65 years

Reward: Grateful Thanks from Beavers and Leader

ANNUAL SALARY £0

District Quiz

Thanks going to the following boys for supporting the Group on the Quiz on 25th January 2004. Ben, Jonathan and Liam. The boys did extremely well. They went through ten different rounds of questions varying from Scouting to General Knowledge. Thanks to you all

Bag Packing

Thanks to all the Scouts who went Bag Packing during the month of December. They raised the following amounts on the following days

13th December	£436.94
21st December	£331.95
22nd December	£226.45

Thank you to Marks and Spencer's in Milton Keynes for their support in 2003, and allowing us to bag pack there.

Recycling Appeal

Last year we raised the sum of £43.86 in recycling old ink cartridges and mobile phones. Lets see this year if we double the figure. If you use them at work, then please ask your company if you can have them for the Scout Group. If you have any questions or would like a letter detailing the scheme to an employer then please let your son or daughters leader.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

County Orinteering	13th March 2004
Cub Scout Holiday 2004	23rd April to 25th April
St. George's Day Parade	25 th April 2004
Family camp	14 to 16 th May 2004
Group Presentation Evening	24 th May 2004
County Cub Camp	11 th to 13 th June 2004
Scout Gliding	10th to 11th July 2004
Group BBQ	12 th July 2004
Tolmers Scout Camp	24 th to 31 st July 2004
Stantonbury Brass Band concert	18 th December 2004

Fun and Quiz Page

"Clarence, I have told you a hundred times. If you cannot be a Boy Scout quietly, you must stop being one altogether."

P.G. Wodehouse, The Swoop, or How Clarence Saved England, 1909

Cub Scout Quiz

1. What animal is BALOO?
2. What animal is KAA?
3. Who formed Scouting?
4. Where was the first Scout Camp held?
5. When did cubs begin?
6. What is the Scout Motto?
7. What is the Cub Scout Law?
8. Which hand do Scouts shake hands with?
9. Why?
10. Which leg do you move when moving from Standing at Ease to Alert?
11. What are the colours of Scouts shirts and trousers?



X Z B E P R E P A R E D
S B A D G E S E M A G G
R E D R Q V R I S B L R
E S E C E A K E L A L A
D I N G U E Q U X L E N
A M D J M B H I Z O W D
E O N K P O S G O O O H
L R O A R G T C A M P O
A P C S N Q U T O B N W
W K E O W U X Z O U L L
X X S D N E I R F L T I
Y C O L O N Y J F Z A E

Find the following words in the Grid above:

Akela
Baden
Badges
Bagheera
Baloo
Be Prepared
Beaver
Camp

Colony
Cub Scout
Fun
Friends
Games
Grand Howl
Law
Leader

Lodge
Motto
Pack
Powell
Promise
Second
Six
Songs

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Simply by donating your used laser, fax, ink cartridges and unwanted mobile phones to the scoutsappeal.com you will help raise money for your local Scout Group.

Please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk and www.scouts.org.uk and for further information on Scouting please telephone The Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.



Mark

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PLEASE PRINT SCOUT GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION HERE