



News

1st Harefield Scout Group

Nov 09



Uxbridge District GLMW

Web Site: www.harefield.org

Welcome

Welcome to our first news letter in quite a while. This is the first in what we hope will be a regular news letter that will tell you what is going on at our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and is aimed primarily at parents & friends of the group.

GSL Report

The winter session is upon us and all sections have got off to a lively start. We are ever striving to improve our programmes with the emphasis on outdoor activities. If any parents have a particular interest that could be shared with our young people please let me know.

Demands on young peoples' time has never been greater and the leaders are well aware of this and try through the weekly programmes to cover most areas of the training scheme without extra effort being needed to gain awards. However to gain the major awards additional work is needed out side of section meetings and we encourage this to be done by the youngsters. At the end of the day they are the ones that have to be enthusiastic and keen to complete awards and leaders can only encourage!

Please encourage your son / daughter to make as much progress as THEY want in the awards and training scheme. If you have any questions about any aspects of the awards schemes do not hesitate to ask the Section Leader or myself. Information about all Challenge Badges and Activity Badges is available on Scoutbase at www.scoutbase.org.uk and www.scouts.org.uk

Subscriptions

We have spent a lot of time discussing how best to improve our subscriptions collection and streamline the collection of the payments. Currently everyone pays £45 membership fee in January each year plus £2 per week. That means that in January you will actually pay £45 plus 3 weeks at £2 = £51. Bearing in mind the current financial crisis that is affecting all of us one way or another, we have decided as of January to combine the membership

and weekly subscription payments into three payments per year. You will be billed from January a single payment for each school term payable by January, April and September. The amount varies depending upon which section your son/daughter attends and the amounts are;

Section	Due Date	Amount
Beavers	January	£35
Beavers	April	£35
Beavers	September	£35
Cubs	January	£40
Cubs	April	£40
Cubs	September	£40
Scouts	January	£46
Scouts	April	£46
Scouts	September	£46

This means that in January you will pay the section amount detailed in the grid above. For example Beavers will pay £35 instead of £51. There will be nothing more to pay until April with the exception of outings and special events.

Cubs is more expensive because as the young people get older, their activities tend to be more expensive. I would expect Cubs to go out once a term included in the subscription price. This would be trip such as swimming.

Scouts is more expensive because the scouts activities cost more than those for cubs. Currently the Scouts go out once per month either swimming, ice skating or some other activity. These trips are currently paid separately, but with this new payment system we have included up to three trips per term in the price. This will allow the leaders to plan ahead and improve their programme.

Additionally, if you agree to gift aid your subscriptions, we can claim back roughly £1000 per year from the tax man at

Join the adventure

The Scout Association

Patron HM The Queen : President HRH The Duke of Kent : Founder Robert Baden-Powell :

Chief Scout Bear Grylls Incorporated by Royal Charter Charity No. 279037



no charge to you or the group. This is effectively money for nothing and is enough to pay the ground rent for the buildings each year.

I really do hope that everyone will be able to pay on this new by term scheme as we have never been in a position to claim the gift aid before. We have also reduced the amount of subscriptions for next year compared to this year by £17 for Beavers and £10 for Scouts.

If anyone is in genuine hardship and can't pay the fees, please either talk to your son/daughters section leader or myself. I will be available at the Scout hall on Thursday 19th November for you to discuss anything about the subscriptions or anything else about the group. Just come along 10 minutes before the end of the normal collection time and grab me Peter Swatton Group Scout Leader.

Membership

We currently have vacancies in all our sections. We have compared the current membership levels with that of January 09 and the number of members has risen overall by 7 young people. This is excellent news as it shows that the group is growing again.

At a meeting this week, we decided to increase the number of Beaver and Cub places from 12 to 18 in each section.

So if you can spread the word that we are taking on members that would be beneficial to all of us because the more members we have in the younger sections the greater chance we have to feed these through the group and into the Scout section. Unfortunately the Scout membership has dropped off probably because most of the Scouts moved schools in September and are probably bogged down with home work. We have seen this happen before and hopefully the Scout section will gradually grow again.

Christmas Post – this will be run along similar lines to previous years. We will be placing posting boxes in Londis (South Harefield), the Library and one or two of the village shops (to be arranged). People can post their Christmas cards (Harefield addresses only) and pay 10p donation per card. We will deliver the cards before Christmas and will need parents help to do this. More details will be notified in a couple of weeks. This is not only a fund raising exercise but is also a great way to improve the groups visibility in the village.

Centenary 2010

Our Scout Group is 100 years old next year (2010). We hope to arrange some activities and celebrations with parent help to commemorate it.

Contacts Database

We will be updating our contacts database over the next couple of weeks to make sure that we have up to date records of your emergency phone numbers, address, doctors details etc for your son/daughter. We would also like to be able to communicate where possible by email rather than sending home printed notes.

Vacancies - HELP

The Group urgently needs help as follows -

Committee

Please parents would you consider joining our committee. We need help running the group and supporting our leaders. No experience is necessary as free training will be provided.

Section Helpers

Would you be interested in helping at Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. We need to ideally get 3 new helpers and or leaders in the sections as Rod, Denise and Jackie are running two sections between three of them. Ideally, Denise needs one helper and Rod needs one or two helpers.

Web Site

We do have a web site but little time to update it. If anyone fancies updating it for us please volunteer.

The Leadership Team

Pete Swatton 0791-7816827	Group Leader	Scout	Overall Responsibility.
Denise Shields	Beaver Leader	Scout	Section Leader
Jackie Merritt	Helper		
Rod Mann	Assistant Scout Leader	Cub	Section Leader
Jason Ryder	Assistant Leader	Scout	Section Leader
Keith Tysoe	Assistant Leader	Scout	

Hopefully our next news letter will include a few photographs showing some of the activities we have taken part in. If you have any suggestions on how to improve communications or anything else, please do let me know.

Pete