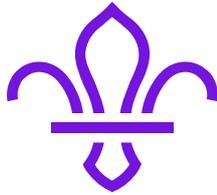


# Scouts

## 1st Northwood



### Group Scout Leader Report

Christmas is coming on fast and people will be planning their festivities. I do hope it goes well for everyone, whatever your plans may be. Every Christmas I always put in this report that I would like a Christmas present of a couple of new leaders and I have been lucky enough to have received two this term. Thank you to Carlos and Ian for stepping forward; and a bonus as Connor turned eighteen he has moved from being a Young Leader to a Section Assistant and will come back and help in his University holidays - thank you too.

Talking of Christmas presents, the Cub section over the past few years have sent Christmas parcels to the British armed forces all over the world. We started this when a new leader from the military base in Northwood joined the group and have carried on after she was posted elsewhere. This year the Cubs and Explorers took part in this project and a record number of parcels were made up - over sixty-six parcels in total. Well done to everyone who participated in organising this. We usually receive letters of thanks back from the service men/women telling how much they appreciate the gifts.

All the sections have been busy during this term.

The fitting of the new overhead projector in the hut has certainly improved what we can do during a meeting. The Cubs had an evening based on local knowledge and I talked about the changes in the local area over the last fifty years. I used the projector to show some photos, then and now. It's amazing how so much has changed. One of them couldn't believe that where they live now used to have a cinema on the same spot!

The return of the Remembrance service in Green Lane was well attended by the Group. They walked to Northwood from the Scouting Centre with flags flying. One Beaver and two Explorers laid the wreath from the Group and District.

The Group held the AGM this term where we went through the highlights of what the sections had done during the last year. It was such a shame that there were so few parents to see how much was achieved during the year, especially as the year was April 2020 - March 2021 so covered all of Lockdown. The latest census figures for the Group show that member numbers have increased since the beginning of the year. This is a testament to how good our leaders are, in all sections, in providing an interesting and exciting programme of activities.

Finally, I must thank all the leaders for all the time and energy they put into running the sections. Without them we would not have a Group. Enjoy the Christmas/Winter break and we'll see everyone back again in January.

**Mike Bennett**  
Group Scout Leader

### Scouting Centre - Outdoors

After many hours of work by Group committee members and friends, the Scouting Centre and Little Hut are ready for whatever the elements throw at them! During the dry spell at the start of October, they each received two coats of Sadolin preservative which should protect the woodwork for some years to come.

A huge Thank You to Bob Goswell, Alan Kershaw, Stewart Mason, Geoff Pitt, David Pinn, Leo Mindel, Roxana Peters, Paul Akers, Keith Shimmin and Ros Plume, who all played a part in my working parties.

I estimate that the second coat took forty man hours of effort, and the first coat probably took nearer fifty, so a total of ninety hours. If we had employed a contractor at £20 an hour (or more?) that would have cost us £1,800 or more. And they probably wouldn't have done such a thorough job as we did! So it was a great result.

It also made us have a good tidy up and clear out - amazing the extra "stuff" we have collected in the two years we have had the new building!

**Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member**



## Chairman's Chat

It is a very good advertisement for the effectiveness of one of the many products manufactured by Sadolin. Allow me to elaborate. When the Scout HQ was built, now several years ago, we were conscious that, as it was constructed out of seasoned and treated timber, it would have to be retreated with another coat of preservative in a few years' time. After much research, phone calls to the manufacturer and visits to the suppliers of the substance, Richard Plume succeeded in finding the product which was ideal for our needs. Firstly, it was easy to apply by brush rather than spraying and secondly the grain of the timber is not obliterated even after two coats have been applied.

A number of working parties were formed and off to work they went. In whatever light you happen to look at the building, daylight or nighttime, I think you will agree that the effect is nothing short of first class. The hours of work put into the task have been time well spent, so it's thanks to everybody who helped complete this essential piece of work. For those interested in statistics, as Richard has stated in his article, a total of about ninety hours of work were undertaken. If we had employed a contractor at say £20 an hour (or more) that would have cost us £1,800 (or more).

Another impressive sight was the large quantity of well-turned-out boys, girls and Leaders representing the Group at the Remembrance Sunday service. We always manage to produce a good performance and well done to everybody involved with this important occasion in our calendar.

Unless you resort to an electronic version, it is probably premature to write up your calendar of appointments for 2022. Whatever means you choose we have decided to hold a Jumble Sale again next year. The event will take place at the usual time - 2pm - on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. We are sure you will be pleased to donate goods to us for sale which have been accumulating in various parts of your house. It is too early to elaborate on the various details of the event and we will announce those in our next newsletter which is scheduled to appear in April.

In August this year our long-standing treasurer, Kenneth Nettleton, passed away. We presented a eulogy at his service of remembrance and I feel it is appropriate to include it below. We have sent our condolences to his son Robert and daughter Susan and their families.

So, until we write again, continue to enjoy Scouting with us and have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and take care. Kind regards.

**Paul Akers**  
Executive Committee Chairman

### Kenneth Nettleton's Eulogy

When Ken took on the role of Treasurer at 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scouts in the late 1980s, he had the perfect attributes for the job. He was an accountant, so he was familiar with the mechanics of the job, but more importantly he understood the need to save for the future. He was a quiet man who accomplished his tasks with a minimum of fuss, but he was never afraid to speak out at Executive Committee meetings when he didn't think we were spending our money wisely. And his criticisms were usually delivered with his wry grin!

One of Ken's major tasks each year was to mastermind the counting of the cash from our Grand Jumble Sale. This was no mean feat, as we frequently exceeded £10,000 in small change and notes to be counted in a single afternoon. Those of us allowed into the "counting room" remember Ken sitting at a table heaped high with coins, wading his way through them.

Ken's wise counsel meant that we put aside two sets of reserves in our accounts, from the surplus monies from Jumble Sale each year: one for a new Scout hut and the other for a new minibus. And they both were to prove invaluable to us.

Ken stood down from his role just as we started the project to build a new Scouting Centre, but when we started our Fundraising Appeal for £100,000, we were able to say to the world that we already have £35,000 in our reserves to start us on the path, thus able to show that we were serious about the job. And we know that Ken was really pleased for the Group when he attended the opening ceremony for the new Centre in September 2019.

The minibus reserve was also a lifeline for us. In autumn of 2018 the Explorers took our old minibus to the Brecon Beacons for some Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The engine broke down big-time, and the vehicle was a write off. But even though we were in the middle of funding a new Scouting Centre, we still had £12,000 in our minibus reserve which went a long way towards a replacement bus. So, thank you Ken for all that you and your family did for 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scouts over so many years. You will be remembered.

## Cub Collation

The Cubs as you would expect, haven't kept still this term!

The first few weeks back in September were a reminder about how Cubs run and the history of Cubs for all our new members before we turned our hand to camping. Only two out of 30 Cubs had camped as a Cub (which means without parents unlike Beavers.) Deciding that was too many to introduce in one go and wanting to stay local, we asked the Scouts to go out for the evening so that we could use the land beside the Scouting Centre. We ran the camp in two parts with half on Friday night/Saturday morning and the rest Saturday night/Sunday morning with the leaders doing both! It worked well, the Cubs enjoyed their introduction to camping, lots of parents helped supervise tent pitching before preparing a light supper whilst the Cubs went for a night walk on the Hogs Back - very exciting as most hadn't been out walking in the dark before but made even better by having glow sticks to play with!

After the camp we have stayed mainly inside although the Local Knowledge badge saw us walk to Northwood Hills station, take the tube to Northwood and then walk back to the HQ discovering local landmarks on our way. This completed the badge which had also seen the Cubs discover the history of Northwood with a visit from Mike who has lived here for many years and showed them lots of photos of then and now.

Paul Bushell, District Skills Instructor, gave up two evenings to teach the Cubs some basic 1st Aid so they can all now use a bandage and put each other in the recovery position. We must thank all the parents who have helped this term especially with the Home Help badge which saw the Cubs ironing, cleaning shoes and making so many cups of tea even I couldn't drink anymore! This is the parent's favourite badge as over half term the Cubs had to help with the washing, making their beds every day and cleaning - tasks we can't do in a meeting although we did have a go at changing a duvet. The final part of the badge is to make a one course meal which they have planned - we have pizza making before the end of term to cover that requirement.

As well as attending the Remembrance Service in Green Lane with strong numbers we found out about Scouting and Remembrance in one of our meetings. We also made felt poppies and learnt another #lifeskill by sewing on a button. The return of preparing Christmas parcels to send to Troops abroad at Christmas was also part of our Remembrance programme. Christmas crafts will see us finish the term with some fun and games too.

Samuel and Kai leave us for Scouts at the end of term where we know that they will have a great time continuing their Scouting journey, We look forward to seeing the rest of the Cubs back in January.

### Akela (Christine) and Baloo (Parina)

*Below the Cubs are practising home help, enjoying a night camp and delivering Christmas parcels to RAF Northolt*



## Scout Report

The Scout Section has certainly been out and about since we came back in the summer. They have built bivi's on the grass in the compound and slept out overnight. I use the term "slept out" loosely as they were awake most of the night.

A pleasant Sunday was spent on the water in Rickmansworth on Bury Lake. Over eighty scouts from all over REN District took part in this annual event. The Scouts had the opportunity to try paddle boarding, canoeing, sailing and kayaking during the day and all enjoyed getting wet!

Trips to Paccar Scout Centre where they took part in activities including tomahawk throwing and crate stacking were enjoyed by all even on a cold November night.

The return of the District Activity Camp and Night Hike was popular. This year it was held at Walter Davis Scout campsite near Stoke Poges. The Troop took part in lots of different activities competing against other Scout groups in the District. A night hike, the first one in ages, was also completed. It was over eight km in the wilds of South Buckinghamshire and I am pleased to say that I thought the Scouts did really well on what was for many of them the first time they would have walked at night in the countryside. Where we came overall is probably best forgotten but as we know, it's not the winning but the taking part that counts.

The Scouts showed their creative side when they used clay to make bowls and practiced their sewing skills to make poppies from felt which they wore to the Remembrance Service in Northwood.

The term will finish with some Christmas based activities which will no doubt include food and games before we have a short break and look forward to the New Year.

**Mike Bennett**  
Group Scout Leader

*Here we see the Scouts playing frying pan hockey and making clay bowls*



## Beaver Blog

This term has been full of adventure and learning for the Beavers.

We made dens on the Hogs Back from sticks and leaves for our teddies and learned to ride our bikes safely being instructed by the local police.

We have been to PACCAR twice, for zip-wires and Tomahawk throwing, accompanied by some very enthusiastic parents.

We have been around the world for our International Day where we learned about the Gujarati and Malay languages and culture and got to try some Indian and Malaysian sweets.

We went out and about in Northwood to learn how to cross the road safely and learned all about healthy eating and exercise and made fruit skewers with all our favourite fruits.

The Beavers all did exceptionally well, learning all about first aid and putting people in the recovery position.

We had a number of Beavers join us for the Remembrance Day march and service. We are really proud of the excellent behaviour the Beavers displayed. Well done.

Thanks as always to our parent helpers and young leaders for continuing to provide an excellent programme for our Beavers.



**Panda (Wendy) Beaver Scout Leader**  
**Bluebell (Gabrielle) Assistant Beaver Scout Leader**

*The Beavers are prepared for the zip wire, tomahawk throwing, learning about first aid and making fruit skewers*



## Explorer Round-up

In the time since the last 1st News we have had a busy and varied programme.

Four of our older members have completed their Queens Scout Award, the final part of which was to give a presentation to the group about all the different parts of the Award. This was made possible by the new projector (many thanks to the Exec) as the presenters were in Southampton, Sheffield and Manchester - as well as one who attended in person! The journey to achieve this top award gives new challenges and broadens the mind. It was great to see how they have grown through their journey to complete this part of their Scout Life. Well done to Rosa, Rishi, Lewis and Andrew. It's a great achievement and excellent that you have all now progressed to adult roles across the country.

We've had Duke of Edinburgh training evenings planning for the many Bronze, Silver and Gold practice and Expeditions during the term. This is also the term when we welcome older Scouts who are able to start the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze with us as they finish their time with the Troop.

A good number of the Unit attended the Remembrance service in Green Lane and some of Poindexter attended services around the District with the groups they help with as Young Leaders. The Green Lane service was well attended and presented; the weather was kind to us (it rained just as we got home!) Thank you to Nick for carrying the Unit flag and to Jack and Sophie for laying the wreaths.

We have continued baking, making pizzas, loaves and rolls as we had been doing on Zoom - much messier face to face! We have been to Ninja Warrior in North Watford for an evening, it's an indoor assault course and all that went enjoyed it.

In the last week, we had an evening putting Christmas parcels together for service men and woman who are overseas this Christmas adding our effort to the parcels prepared by the Cubs.



### Doug Horgan

Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

*Above is some of the Explorers' baking and below are the Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Silver teams.*



## Scouting Centre - Indoors

Those of you who attended the AGM may have noticed our superb new ceiling-mounted projector. I fitted it to the ceiling about three months ago. A big Thank You to Leo for doing the wiring job in September, it all looks very neat. It is all remotely controlled, just plug in your laptop to our internet or connect to Wi-Fi and Go!

I attended the County presentation to our District on the 2023 Jamborees at our Scouting Centre; it was the first time our new projector had been used.

The quality of projection is superb! I was sitting two thirds of the way back in the hall, but even at that distance the screen was large enough and clear enough to see everything and read every word.

The size projected onto the wall is about six feet wide and four feet high, and it's high enough that you see it over the head of the person in front of you.

We have one little improvement to make: we need to buy a speaker or two, as the speaker fitted in the projector is not quite up to the job for a large hall. Leo is working on it!

**Richard Plume, Executive Committee Member**

## Jumble Sale is Back!

For many in the Northwood Hills area, and certainly some of those reading this, there is only one Jumble Sale of note. For two years 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scouts have had to cancel it and it has been missed, not only for the funds it raises, but for the undoubted social event and valuable resource it is!

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

This date has been carefully chosen considering other events, bookings, commitments and holidays. So, for a few facts;

- Probably the largest jumble sale you will encounter
- Preparation starts a month earlier
- Work is done every day for that month
- Sorting is done five days a week during that month
- The field and the hut are well used
- It takes two days to prepare them
- There are over forty stalls
- Clearing up is completed on the Sunday
- Over two hundred volunteers are needed
- It is THE annual fundraising event for 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood
- The revenue is vital for the excellent programme of activities

During the lockdown of 2020 and the intervening months the volunteer leaders of 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scouts have provided such a magnificent programme of varied activities, challenges, social events, badge work and general good fun that not only did most of the children stay engaged (when many were turning off from extra-curricular Zoom meetings) but numbers increased and there is now a waiting list of children waiting to join. This could well be unique in the Scouting movement in this country and is an unparalleled (is that a word??) endorsement of the exceptional devotion and duty shown by our fantastic leadership. They deserve our support. ARE YOU WILLING TO SHOW APPRECIATION BY VOLUNTEERING TO HELP PREPARE AND DELIVER THE JUMBLE SALE ON 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY? If so, send your email address to [roxana.peters@virginmedia.com](mailto:roxana.peters@virginmedia.com) to be added to the group list for information regarding when you can help from 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please include your names and phone number for my records (which I protect and will only use for 1st Northwood Scout matters). It would be a wonderful encouragement to the leaders, most of whom have full-time jobs and families as well, if every family could promise at least **one** adult volunteer to help prepare and deliver the JUMBLE SALE.

Yes, it is hard and sometimes dirty work, but it is very satisfying and rewarding and a great way to meet other parents and the leaders! All sorts of skills and tools are needed and if you have a particular ability with computers or electronics or bikes or china or books or driving or electrics or,,,or....or...please let me know in your initial email.

Thank you for sending your children to 1<sup>st</sup> Northwood Scouts. We value them, enjoy working with and for them and hope you continue to trust them to our care.

**Roxana Peters, Volunteer Co-ordinator**