

GROUP HOWL

1st Eton Wick Scout Group



EDITION 2 – OCTOBER 2013

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Group Howl – the newsletter of the 1st Eton Wick Scout Group. The idea behind the Group Howl is to keep you all updated on everything that is happening within the Scout Group as a whole.

If there is anything that you think would be a useful addition to the Group Howl, please let us know and we shall consider your idea for the next edition. After all, this is *your* Scout Group as much it is ours.

We hope you enjoy this edition – please do let us have any feedback – positive or negative.

Many thanks

The Committee

Eton Wick Scout Group - Who are we?

Scouting has been present in Eton Wick since 1912 – a long and successful time considering the size of the village.

The Scout Group is managed by an Executive Committee, which consists of a Chairman (Adam Demeter), Treasurer (Maria Rhodes), Secretary and then the uniformed leaders. It is the Committee's job to oversee the day-to-day running of the Scout Group and to make sure the Group is run in accordance with the rules and regulations set down by the Scout Association. All members are voluntary – none of them get paid – no, not even the leaders!

Parents are welcome and encouraged to join the Committee. They are even welcome to go along and help out with their child's section occasionally. I am sure there are times when the leaders would

appreciate an extra pair of hands or two!

If you would be interested in joining the Committee, please speak with our Chairman, Adam Demeter, or your child's section leader

Blooming Beavers!

We are pleased to report that the Beaver Colony is blooming and this is all thanks to the Beaver leader, Sally Weston. Sally has done a tremendous job in making the Beaver Colony thrive! Thank you Sally, we greatly appreciate all the hard work you put in to Beavers.

However, success breeds success, and at the moment there is a waiting list for children wanting to join Beavers.

Sally runs Beavers all on her own. We are currently trying to source one (or more) people to come on board and train as Beaver leaders. Having more leaders would not only take some of the pressure off of Sally, but it would also allow more children to experience the excitement and fun of Beavers.

If anyone knows of anyone wanting a new and exciting challenge in life and willing to train as an Assistant Beaver Leader, please do let us know.

However, in the meantime, if any parents would like to stay and help Sally during a colony night, I am sure she would greatly appreciate it. We know Mrs Jeffries and Miss Garrett stay and help out, so thank you ladies.

Cub Chatter

The Cub section has also seen some changes recently too.

We are pleased to welcome on board Kaylie Nugent. Kaylie has recently joined the Cub leader team and is training to be an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. We are sure she will be a great asset to the leader team.

Cubs have also seen a number of Beavers move up (Charles, Elliott, Harry and Joseph) and also have 2 new (non-Beaver) members (Ben and Peter). This means that Cubs are currently running at 17 and have had to start a new six to cope with the increase!

This year also saw 6 Cubs achieve their Chief Scout Silver Award (Cameron C, Reece, Alex, Luke, Cerys and Katy). This is the highest award you can earn so a huge congratulations and well done to them.

4 Cubs left earlier this year due to reaching the grand old age of 10 ½! We are pleased to report that 2 (Cameron and Reece) out of the 4 have moved on to Scouts; one has gone to 2nd Datchet and the other to Lent Rise.

May be one day Eton Wick will have its own Scout Troop again!

Congratulations also go to the following Cubs for becoming Sixers:

Alex, Luke and Cerys

And to the following Cubs for becoming Seconders:

James, Rohan and Cameron.

Well done to you all!

A working party consisting of parents and Cub leaders will be needed in the spring to help clear out the camping store. More details will follow nearer the time.

Eton Wick Scout Group on the WWW!

Eton Wick Scout Group has finally come into the 21st Century thanks to our chairman, Mr Demeter.

Adam has kindly put together a website for the Scout Group and we are pleased to report that this is now live!

You can check out the website at:

www.etonwickscouts.org.uk

The leaders now have specific email addresses. Their details are as follows:

Beavers:

Sally Weston

keeo.ews@gmail.com

Cubs:

Val Ross:

Akela.ews@gmail.com

Amanda Crawshaw:

Raksha.ews@gmail.com

Please use the above email addresses from now on when contacting your child's leader by email.

Copies of newsletters/letters will be uploaded to the website together with photos of events & camps, so make sure you check the website regularly.

Committee News

Welcome

We would like to say a warm welcome to one of our Cub parents, Phil Keen, who has joined the Committee and attended his first Committee meeting recently. Thank you for coming on board, Phil. It is greatly appreciated.

Secretary Vacancy

Unfortunately, we are still without a secretary.

The role of the secretary is to attend Committee meetings, take minutes at those meetings and to type (or write) any correspondence on behalf of the Committee/Group.

Is anyone out there able to take this job on? Or maybe you have a relative or friend who would be willing to take on this role?

If you would be interested or would like more details, please speak with Adam Demeter, Maria Rhodes or one of the uniformed leaders.

Scout Hut gets some TLC!

As we reported in the first edition of the Group Howl back in March, the Committee managed to secure some funding via the Eton Poor Fund and the Baldwins Institute. Our sincere thanks go to these two organisations for providing such funding.

The plan was to use this money to redecorate the whole of the Scout Hut, tidy the kitchen and toilets and sort the piece of land at the back of the hut which had subsided.

We are pleased to report that some of the above works have already been completed.

Two volunteer groups come in over the summer months to paint the kitchen toilets, hallway and the main hut. Our sincere thanks go out to Mars and the

Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Group.

All that's left to paint now is the woodwork. A working party will be organised for next spring to do this.

We also need to put the noticeboards and flag back up in the hut. We shall require some help from the dads for this one as the boards are quite big and heavy.

Are there any dads out there who can help us with this task, please?

The piece of subsided land has been levelled and grass seed put down, so hopefully we shall now have a nice piece of level land to camp on next year.

There are still some jobs to do and these will hopefully be scheduled for next spring.

After the works have been completed, we will hopefully still have some money left to enable us to buy items for the sections. The Cubs have already put a request in for some hammocks, tarps and pioneering poles. Sounds interesting!

Fundraising

We are still looking for parents to help with fundraising. We need some fresh ideas, minds and bodies!

There are three benefits to fundraising:

The first benefit being the most obvious in that it raises much needed funds for the Group.

The second benefit is that it raises awareness of the Group, which in turn could lead to new members and, who knows, may be even more leaders!

The third benefit is that if we can raise additional funds by fundraising then it means that we will not have to increase subs.

We appreciate that everyone's time is precious, but any time you are able to offer would be greatly appreciated.

If you would be interested in assisting with fundraising, then please speak with Adam Demeter, Maria Rhodes or the uniformed leaders.

Christmas Bingo

The Group will be holding a Family Christmas Bingo on Friday, 13th December. This is a great night out for all the family (and friends). As well as Bingo there will be refreshments on sale and raffle tickets. Please do come along and support your Scout Group.

We shall require donations for prizes and should be grateful to receive any donations no later than 29th November, please. We shall require prize donations for all ages. Please hand donations to your child's leader.

As well as prize donations, we shall require cakes and bakes to sell as refreshments. Please bring any refreshment donations to the hut on the evening of the Bingo.

We shall also require help on the evening selling raffle tickets and refreshments. If you are willing to help, please let your child's leader know.

Cars/Parking

Just a gentle reminder that **cars are not to be driven** up the bridlepath to the Scout Hut, nor are any cars to be parked on the bridlepath. The only exceptions to this rule are leaders' cars and any invited visitors coming along to colony/pack nights (or getting called out at 2:00 a.m. to come and collect your sick child from Cub Camp)!

Please park in the car park outside Eton Wick Football Club and walk up to the Scout Hut.

If parking on Haywards Mead itself, please park considerately and do not block any driveways/footpaths or the road.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.