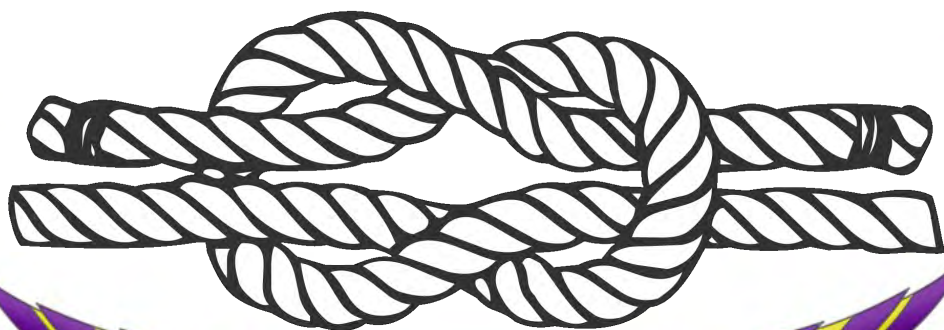


# *The Reef Knot*



Termly Newsletter

**April  
2018**

**12<sup>th</sup> Aylesbury  
(1<sup>st</sup> Buckingham Park)**



# Chairman's Chat



We've had another fantastic year; one of the highlights being that we now have a Scout troop to accompany our Beavers and Cubs!

The Cubs and Scouts are now located in the hall at Buckingham Park school. Many thanks to Nick Waldron and the school governors for allowing this to happen and ensuring the process went as smooth as possible.

We have also welcomed new members to the Exec committee, their tireless work and commitment allows the Group to function.

Other interesting events that took place this year: the Cubs had a water sports activity day in Milton Keynes which was enjoyed by all, and they also visited the local Mosque which they found very interesting. During one of the evening sessions, our Beavers created a knight from recycled items found at home, they also had a visit from our local PCSO (luckily the children were on their best behaviour!). The Beavers also visited the Think Tank science museum in Birmingham which they thoroughly enjoyed.

During February, we had our first group fundraiser which was a very successful cheese and wine tasting evening at Waddesdon Manor. Many thanks to Kathryn Hobbs for organising.

This year's JOTT (Jamboree on the trail) is taking place just a couple of days after the AGM on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a 5KM walk/stroll around the old Medieval site of Quarrendon Leas (West of Buckingham Park). We're hoping to start at the community centre at approx. 10:00am and finish at midday. If anyone is available to help on the day with refreshments, etc, please can you let us know. On the same day as the JOTT, Buckingham Park School have their May Fayre (11:00am – 2:00pm). It would be great if you would be able to support both fantastic events.



Our end of year party is again going to take place at Ridgebarn Farm again on the 13-15th July. We are planning to incorporate a sleepover for the group, more details of which will follow in the forthcoming weeks.

We look forward to taking the group to the next level and hope you'll be a part of this exciting adventure with us. None of this would have been possible had it not been for the hard work of our Beaver, Cub and Scout leaders, parent volunteers and Exec committee members. If anyone is interested in joining the team, or helping in any form, please speak to an Exec committee member or one of the Leaders after the AGM.

**Dan Hyland, Acting Chairman**



# GSL's Gossip

Well what a busy term this has been, the Beavers have been focusing on lots of badges and managed to have several Chief Scout Bronze Awards completed. Plans are in place to do joint camps with the Cubs and they are attending a District trip to Think Tank in Birmingham. We are still low on Leaders for the Beavers and this is affecting what we can support and offer them so please, if you think you can help them and be part of a leader team, then please get in touch.



The Cubs are aiming to attend many district events and are organising trip and activities days. The leader team is strong but with only 2 leaders, are dependent on the parent rota as the Beavers are, and again if you think you would be able to help the Team out and join them in their great adventurous program please let me know.

The Scouts have been slowly growing and the leaders have many plans and opportunities to offer in the coming year—please spread the word and let's get the section to capacity and growing all the way

Our first fundraising event went well and more information is in the executive section about this as it was run and organised by them which I am very thankful for. We also have had a few donations from various people so are going to start to work out a budget for expanding our kit to allow the sections to go out and camp and do more things.

Although Dan is doing a great job holding the fort as an acting chairman we do need to find a new chairman to see us progress for the coming years at our AGM, so if you think you can help then please get in touch. We also are looking for a secretary and several other



small roles on the Exec.

Without a full exec the group can't function and has to close as we have to abide by the Charities Commission regulations.

We are making progress on our other long term projects which although key to our growth will take time to complete and there are several hurdles to jump over. Some of these are large projects and we would like to try and find someone to help push these forward as part of a team to try and keep the momentum needed to make things successful.

Keep up the good work Leaders and parents please think hard if you could help us out at all. As the saying goes:



Iain Stanley, Group Scout Leader





# Group Website

We have our own group website which is being designed and updated as we go along and a good source of information for badge location, badge requirements, the basic information about the sections program to basic group history and other scouting related information like forms and images of things we have got up to. Please take a look and pass any comments on and suggestions. [www.12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk](http://www.12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk)



## Fundraising



For those who do lots of online shopping then please consider using this application which give the group a percentage of what you spend. You don't pay any extra the company pays the difference. This is a great and easy way to support your local group.



[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/12thaylesburysg](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/12thaylesburysg)

We are looking at doing a few fundraising events over the year as well as applying for some grants so please watch out for further information, However, in the meantime please get signed up to the Easy Fundraising to start helping us in this way.

In the not too distant Future we will be looking at getting our own charity status to allow us to claim Gift Aid to again help with Funds. If you would like to help with this please let us know.

If you have any ideas then please contact our GSL.



# Facebook



We have a closed Facebook group for parents and leaders only in order to help display activities and pictures, comment and discuss activities and pass on messages quickly. The membership is managed closely by the leader team and Exec to ensure only parents who have a member are using it.

If you are not signed up to it and use Facebook please request to join .

Use the codes to find the site



## Chief Scout Awards



Audrey Wells





# BEAVERS



24

This Spring term we had a good time filled with lots of badge work and useful activities.



Our Beaver team and parent helpers particularly enjoyed the creative bit of junk modelling. It is not new idea to show children that we can make use of waste and recycle it turning into new value. However, we believe that there is a real need for making children aware of the trend that saves so much on daily basis and creates the shape of our future at the time.

Also, using our natural resources of multicultural Beaver team members and parent helpers skills we were able to carry on with languages session. That evening enabled some bilingual Beavers and parents to share their skills with the group and made them wear the teachers shoes.

Trying a new role is quite valued advantage of some activities we offer. Additionally, that session helped promote diversity issue making us all aware of close neighbourhood to each other as the whole world citizens in general. Moreover, teaching foreign phrases easily showed the children that we can actually benefit from the fact we are different and we can show each other the other side. That awareness opens us to the world and to each other. It was a great excitement to see how many of us were able to speak other language and share it with enthusiasm, getting the willingness to learn in return. Some actually picked little phases or greetings up easily.

The following weeks, we invited some interesting people to run the evenings for us and share their

work experience with our curious scouts. These were a



1







local Police officer and First Aider representing St. John's Ambulance . Both guests of ours appeared very kind to accept the invitation and run the sessions smoothly giving the children a chance to review their knowledge they already had about subjects. The first aider we had, expressed his amusement with the level of knowledge our Beavers had. We did not hide our pride to hear so.

After that we planned for the safety night to be gone through. Due to the fact that we approach Spring time , when we all go for walks more often as the days are getting longer , we chose to cover green cross code and water safety, finding them most useful and worth reviewing.



Subsequently, Beavers will get the opportunity to train their archery skills. Those might appear quite useful, during the district' annual archery competition. From previous experience we believe that both leaders and Beavers will be very excited on the day. We're just unsure about who is going to enjoy it more ;)



Coming closer to Easter we finally thought it would be great to let the children play and spend the whole evening, possibly outdoors and carry on with games they like best. By now, some of them have already brought some new game ideas and felt very keen to explain the rules.

Finally, we need to thank you all for you continuous support and the joy you bring to our group. Should you had any ideas you would like to share or suggest we shall realise, please feel free to pop by and speak to one of our team members. We would love to hear any comments or suggestions to make the very best of scouting at Buckingham Park.

**Marta Metko-Skocylas (Assistant Section Leader)**





# cubs



27

This term our Cubs have been working towards their skills challenge badge. Cubs have had to try new sports, learn how the human body works, learn new skills such as sewing and ironing, problem solving to name a few.



We kicked off the term with a camp fire sing a long which was great fun. Another evening, Cubs took part in a Zumba class and we also visited the local mosque which was very interesting and enjoyable.



When planning our program we strive to be as youth led as possible as it empowers the young people and they shape their own adventure. Early this term our Sixers and seconders discussed in their sixes what they wanted to do and then we held a pizza night so the leaders could receive feedback from these discussions. We have regularly held these meetings and Hathi and I were impressed how mature our cubs have become. They have given us some fantastic ideas and we have already started implementing them in our meetings and have plenty of ideas for after the Easter Break.

We are looking forward to the summer term where we can start to enjoy the longer evenings and warmer weather and have various trips and camps planned. Our first camp at the end of April at Paccar Scout Camp, a water sports day in June and a district shooting event.



We'd like to thank Sophie who has been volunteering with our section as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. The Cubs have thoroughly enjoyed having Sophie with us and she has made a fantastic and positive contribution to the group.

**Emily Hyland, Akela ( Cub Scout Leader)**

# #YouShape



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# SCOUTS



10

Hello everyone from the Scout Troop.

Firstly, we would like to welcome our newest members into the troop Dominic, Jake, Eira & Niran. Well done to everyone involved in the Investiture, especially Karl & Matthew. With the increase in numbers within the troop we are now in a position to establish our Patrols and Patrol Leaders.

Congratulations to Alistair, on his selection as Senior Patrol Leader.



The Scouts have continued with their badge work and challenge award schemes during this term, completing their 'Emergency Aid' badge. Some of the troop took part in a penny hike as part of their 'Navigator' badge, everyone did really well managing the 3 mile walk, on an extremely cold night. The troop have also worked on their 'Pioneering' badge by learning about knots and making towers out off spaghetti and marshmallows (however, I think that more mallows were eaten than used for building!!!)



The troop have also worked on their 'Creativity' & 'Teamwork' Challenges by taking part in craft projects, team challenges and Patrol forums, where they take an active part in planning their future events and meetings.

Thank you to the GSL, Execs and Parents for their continued support in growing the Troop and the



Scout Group here at Buckingham Park.

Quiz time:

Why do Scouts greet each other by shaking their left hand and not their right?



**Don Macdonald (Assistant Section Leader)**



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On Friday 23rd February we held our inaugural fundraising event for the Scout Group. And what an event to kick off with - a wine and cheese tasting in the atmospheric surroundings of the Cellars at Waddesdon Manor!

Parents, leaders, committee members and some of our friends and family were led through a delicious tasting of six wines and two cheeses by the knowledgeable Peter Tompkins, Waddesdon Wine Advisor.

Peter made everyone feel at ease whether they were seasoned experts or if, like many, it was their first experience of a formal wine tasting.

We tasted a delicious blue cheese and an 18 month aged cheddar which was a definite favorite! Peter even opened the on site wine shop specially for us where we enjoyed a delicious gin aperitif/palette cleanser and many of us took the opportunity to scoop up a couple of bottles of our favorite wines from the tasting or other wines from the extensive Waddesdon and Rothschild ranges in stock.

All in all a fantastic, fun evening and all whilst raising just under £400 for the group thanks to Waddesdon generously donating the venue, Peter's time and the first two wines completely free of charge to us - we are very grateful for their support.

We have been offered the opportunity to hold a similar event in the future and if there is enough interest we would love to repeat it - watch this space!





And if wine and cheese is not your thing we also have plans to run some other events in the near future, including those at a lower price bracket.

If anyone has any suggestions of other types of events they would like to see us put on we would love to hear from you - you can email me direct at [kathrynjhobbs@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynjhobbs@gmail.com) or let one of the leaders, committee members or the GSL know your ideas. Similarly please don't hesitate to get in contact if you would like to join our small but expanding fundraising team.

**Kathryn Hobbs (Executive Member—Fundraising)**



# Vacancies

As the Group grows we want to also grow the Executive team to ensure we are working to the best we can achieve and not all being overstretched and not offering the best we can do for the young people. The team meet 4-5 times a year and then work in the back ground focusing on small tasks and plans to keep things moving along. So if you think you might be able to help or know someone like a colleague, neighbour, friend, or family member be it grandparents, uncle, aunts etc then please ask them and get them in touch with our GSL. The roles are summarised below and the GSL would be happy to discuss in more detail with anyone interested.

**Chairperson**—Oversees the team and helps plan with the GSL what needs to be done and helps steer the group to their targets and plans.



**Secretary**—Oversees taking of the minutes, maintains records and group related forms and registrations information.



**Quartermaster**—manages and looks after our equipment, books out and in what is used, ensures its looked after and arranges maintenance on anything that is required.



**Gift Aid Manager**—Oversees ensuring all members have handed in forms for claiming gift aid, set it up and ensure each year we claim what we can.





**Media Manager**—Oversees the collation of the Reef Knot newsletter ( 3 times a year at the end of each term), articles for the local newsletters 3/4 times a year. help plan and organize flyers and other media the group might need.



**Fundraising Team Member**—Help to plan and organize support from parents to attend events both internal to the group and in the community, look out for chances for grants, and other ways to raise funding.



**Large Projects Manager**—Its no secret we need a storage solution as we grow amongst other plans so we need someone who would be willing to take on the drive and momentum to see different solutions through and plan to achieve a suitable viable option for this and other plans.



**Leaders**—To join a great team of volunteers that help run the day to day aspects of the sections and the evening meeting, camps and trips.

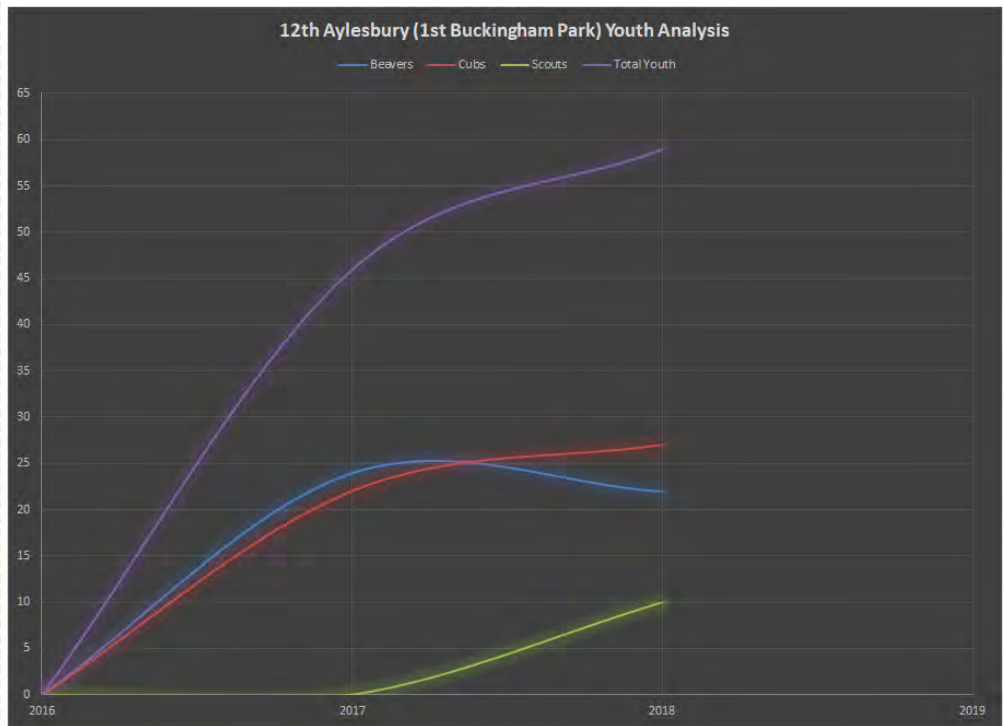


**If you fancy lending a hand, however much time you have, we would love to hear from you. A small amount of time can make a huge difference. For anything you're involved with, there will be clear guidelines and full support from the team and training is available where required.**



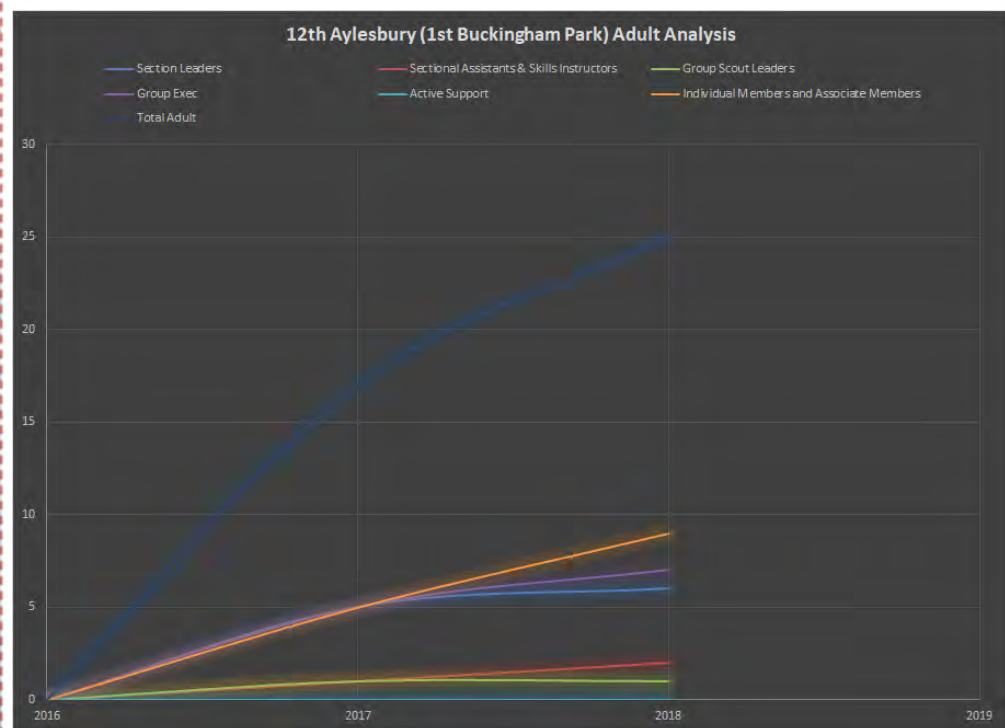
# Census 2018

Each Year the Scout Association ask us to complete a census. This information is to help not just 12th Aylesbury but Aylesbury District and beyond ensuring we are correctly representing the demographics of the area and also we are inclusive to all .





	2016	2017	2018	2017v2018
Beavers	0	24	22	-8.33%
Cubs	0	22	27	22.73%
Scouts	0	0	10	0.00%
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>28.26%</b>
				0.00%
Section Leaders	0	5	6	20.00%
Sectional Assistants & Skills Instructors	0	1	2	100.00%
Group Scout Leaders	0	1	1	0.00%
Group Exec	0	5	7	40.00%
Active Support	0	0	0	0.00%
Individual Members and Associate Members	0	5	9	80.00%
<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>47.06%</b>



# District

The District are looking for several executive members and would like to try and encourage more parents to consider taking up the role . So if you might be interested please get in contact with our GSL

They are also looking for someone to help over see the health and safety of all the premises within the District , working with premises mangers for each group to ensure buildings are kept match fit all the time.

So again if this interests you or someone you might know then please let our GSL know.

## Events / Dates

All the events and dates we are aware of are able to be found via our website and the sections you might be involved with. Please keep looking at this and if wanted link the calendar with yours. The is also a banner at the top of the page which shows what the next upcoming event is. These are just some of the events that are going on and the sections will endeavor to ensure all happenings are sent round regularly.



# Diary Dates

St Georges Day	22nd Apr 2018	Group
Camp @ Paccar	27th-29th Apr 2018	Beavers/ Cubs
AGM	10th May 2018	Group
JOTT	12th May 2018	Group
Buckingham Park School Fete	12th May 2018	Group
Group Fundraiser	Under planning	Group
Group Camp	13th-15th July 2018	All Sections
The Big 'O'	13th Oct 2018	All Sections
County Trip Gulliver's Land	Oct 2018 ?	Beavers
Remembrance Sunday	11th Nov 2018	Scouts
Grimsdyke Hike	24th-25th Nov 2018	Scouts
Christmas Party	6th Dec 2018	Beavers
Christmas Service	16th Dec 2018	All Sections
Cheese and Wine	Feb 2019 ?	Group
County Camp	May 2019	Group



# Leader Team

Group Scout Leader

([gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk))

Iain Stanley

## BEAVERS

Assistant Beaver Leader

Assistant Beaver Leader

Assistant Beaver Leader

Group Section Assistant

Marta Metko-Skocylas

Stacey Corbyn

Ayomide Dina

David Yates

## cubs

Cub Scout Leader

Assistant Cub Scout Leader

Explorer Young Leader

Emily Hyland (Akela)

Kate Christensen (Hathi)

George Leaver (Kaa)

## SCOUTS

Assistant Scout Leader

Section Assistant

Section Assistant

Don Macdonald

Laura Sinclair

Karl Crosby

We are always looking for more leaders, helpers and if you would like to know more please contact out GSL.



10



# Exec Committee

Group Scout Leader  
Chairperson (Acting)  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Fundraising  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member

Iain Stanley  
Daniel Hyland  
Vacant  
Petra Elsmore  
Kathryn Hobbs  
Nicki Kaenzig  
Edward Darroch  
Sophy Davies  
Carrys Dorritt

The exec committee are a group of people who help ensure the smooth running of the group, looking out for funding opportunities, organizing fundraising and looking at ways to grow the group. As the group grows so will the need for the exec to grow we are already looking to the future and what might be.



8







# Meeting Times



Buckingham Park Community Centre

Tuesday: 18:00 till 19:15



Buckingham Park School Hall

Tuesday: 18:30 till 20:00



Buckingham Park School Hall

Tuesday: 20:00 till 21:30

[www.12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk](http://www.12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk)

