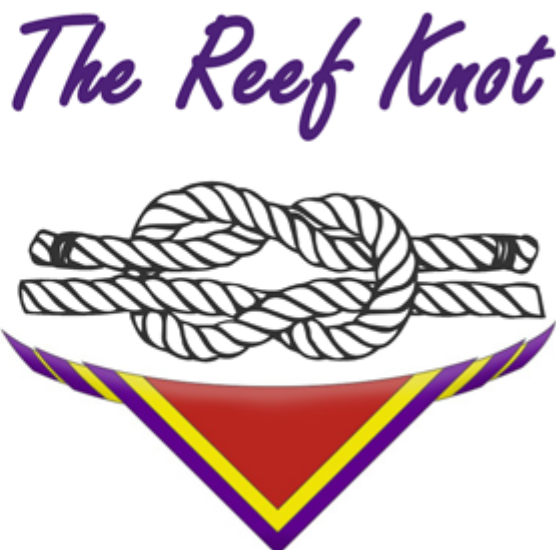


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Welcome to our newsletter

Hi all,

Since the last newsletter we have all had to manage Scouting in extraordinary circumstances.

We've continued to offer a Scouting experience via virtual meetings to all sections, and I am extremely grateful to the leaders for their creativity and commitment during this extremely difficult year. I've also been hugely impressed with the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers themselves. Members have been doing what they can, when they can, and if they have felt comfortable to do so (don't forget the cameras can always be off)!!

However, all I can say is WOW... the "badges at home" section of OSM has been really busy with all your great work!

I am immensely proud to say, that despite the strange circumstances I've had the pleasure of awarding five Chief Scout Bronze Awards and two Chief Scout Silver Awards.

I am confident there will be more awards to give out soon as several members are near to completing their respective awards. I am pleased to say in the new year the Scout leadership team are planning to offer individual support to the Scouts in order to help them complete the activities needed to gain their awards.

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imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period, of at least 12 years duration"

We've made some changes to the executive team who volunteer behind the scenes to support the Scout Group. At our recent virtual AGM we introduced some new members to our executive team, this included welcoming a new Chair to the Group - Eris Robertson who introduces himself at the bottom of this newsletter.

I'm also pleased to tell you that we now have volunteers overseeing health and safety, badges, media and gift aid. I am extremely grateful to all those who volunteer their time to help the group. We're a team, and our plans to grow, expand and build on our success to date is down to the generosity of all those who give their time.

We've also strengthened our Scout leadership team with Mark and Lucy coming on board and we hope to add a new member to the Cub leadership team in the coming months.

Thank you and welcome to all the new volunteers.

Just before the lockdown in March we were given the opportunity by a parent to apply for a substantial grant from a corporate organisation which awards grants to small charities. I am delighted to say that despite modest expectations we were successful in securing the total sum of the grant. The grant is a game-changer for our group and will have a positive impact for many years to come. The executive committee is currently working up a plan to ensure the funds are spent wisely, and will deliver a long lasting positive impact for the Group.

Lastly, we are eager to grow our fundraising team. We would love to hear from parents and friends who might be able to help as part of a team to plan and organise events and/ or to research and apply for grants. Myself and the Chair of the Group are always on hand to help and support anyone who feels able to volunteer.

Please do get in touch if you think you can lend your time and skills to help our Group in this area.

It only leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

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Group Scout Leader



Please join me in congratulating the following members on achieving their
Chief Scout Bronze Awards and Chief Scout Silver Awards:

Chief Scout Bronze Award:

Matthew Beuttler

Arthur Courtney

Abbie Grace Koentopp

Harry Smith

Daniel Gordon

Amelia Hobbs

Chief Scout Silver Awards:

Ethan Koentopp

Rufus Martin

Both myself and David Yates had the honour accepting the Scout's Award for Merit this Autumn.

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outstanding service for 12 years or more.

Many congratulations to David.

Hello from our new Chair.

First of all let me introduce myself as you will not recognise me, my name is Eris Robertson and I have, since the AGM become the chair of the groups executive committee.

Firstly, let me say how impressed I am with how well the group has coped and adapted to the current situation. I have in the past spent time as a youth and voluntary organisation leader, and I can say that 2020 has seen challenges for us all that have never been seen in our lifetimes. Leaders have had to adapt the way they lead, parents have definitely had to adapt to the way that evenings are run, and our young and youth members have very much adapted. And you have all done so well!

Congratulations to all those who have achieved awards and badges, and for those still working hard toward them, keep up the great work.

2021 will bring more challenges, but I can tell that the group will continue to work hard and achieve so much. As Iain has mentioned we are looking for some help with fundraising, so if you feel you can offer some time please get in touch. Even small amounts of time helping out can go a long way, and the more we get involved the lighter the work is!

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates, as with the current situation re social distancing etc its easy to lose touch.

For now, stay in touch and stay safe and keep all that hard work going!

Eris Robertson

Please help us by Gift Aiding your subs.

Donating through Gift Aid means 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scout Group can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give.

It will not cost you any extra.

With a group of our size we could claim up to £2,000 per year towards equipment, resources, trips and support.

What you need to do.

You need to make a Gift Aid declaration for our Group to claim. You can do this by completing a form or completing the declaration emails we have sent you via OSM

You can include all donations from the last 4 years. Tell the charity (that's us!) about any tax years where you did not pay enough tax.

Paying enough tax to qualify for Gift Aid.

Your donations will qualify as long as they're not more than 4 times what you have paid in tax in that tax year (6 April to 5 April).

The tax could have been paid on income or capital gains.

You must tell the charities you support if you stop paying enough tax.

Higher rate taxpayers

If you pay tax above the basic rate, you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and basic rate on your donation. It's the same if you live in Scotland. Do this either:

- through your Self Assessment tax return
- by asking HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to amend your tax code

Example: You donate £100 to charity - they claim Gift Aid to make your donation £125. You pay 40% tax so you can personally claim back £25.00 (£125 x 20%).

Did you know we have a social kit?

We have a plain T Shirt, Polo Shirt and Hoodie available, each embroidered with the 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) logo.

The idea is that when we're at camps, fundraising or social

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Costs as follows:

Kids T shirt - £7.50

Kids Polo shirt - £10

Kids Hoodie - £22.50

Adult T Shirt - £9

Adult Polo Shirt - £13

Adult Hoodie - £27

To order please contact gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk

Annual Membership Census

Every year, The Scouts has a national census of it's membership. The census collects data about every Section, Group, District, County, Area and Region within the UK.

Why do we have a census?

The Scouts has an annual census to create a detailed picture of the young people and adults that make-up the membership. Asking for equality data- gender, ethnicity and disability, about the Members in local Scout Groups is vital to ensuring the Scouts has a clear picture of who is a member.

Knowing who our members are, helps the Scouts, at all levels to better inform the support and services provided to meet the needs of our Members. All equality data providing with the national census is anonymous. The census figures also provide information regarding the payment of the national membership fee.

Scouting is open to all. So, it is essential that as a Movement we continue to reflect on the make-up of our membership to ensure we are doing all that we can to ensure Scouting is welcoming and accessible to all. This data helps to inform the guidance, training and support offered to local Scouting. Having clear equality data also enables us to recognise and celebrate successes.

Locally, census data can be used to inform growth and development plans; identifying groups which may be currently under-represented within Scouting and looking for ways to reach out and engage new members.

What does the 12th Aylesbury need from you?

Due to these uncertain times we need to take note of our members very carefully like always and ensure we are only recording the correct numbers so we ask from parents to complete a few simple steps.

Firstly to make a decision if you will be wanting to still take part in scouting in the coming year, being virtual with a hope to at some point coming back face to face. We are aware of some who are not wanting to take part in the virtual side and are prepared to wait for normal service to resume which is more than ok, however if you do not want to wait and are no longer interested in Scouting then please also let us know. We have tried to get in touch with all members and some are still not responding.

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Please contact your section leaders or your GSL if you have any questions (gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk)



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