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Christmas 2021

Welcome to Reef Knot. This newsletter is to update you - parents, carers, leaders and supporters - as to what's been going on at 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scouts.

Chair's Chat

Hello again from the Chair's chair! .

You'll see in GSL's "Gossip", we've got many leaders updates to share with you. Welcome to all our new leaders, and thank you to those who have moved on or changed Section. The tireless work of the leaders is always appreciated. As is all the help from parents on the parent rota. Every little helps! (I'm sure I've heard that somewhere before...??), especially as the Scout group is entirely run by volunteers.

In the last issue of Reef Knot I spoke about becoming a leader. I want to remind you that Iain Stanley, our GSL (Group Scout Leader) and the team are always here to support and help out if you feel you have something to offer the Group.

We are also looking for people to help out as part of a fundraising team, which helps us keep going, but doesn't require a weekly commitment. It would be fantastic to have a team that can dip in and out, helping when and where they can, this way we can cover all situations with everyone giving what time they

those little bits of helps bring the whole show together. Keeping us on top of fundraising allows all our young members to enjoy what they love to do in Scouting! If you think you can bring something to our team please get in touch with Iain our GSL and discuss how you may be able to help. There is a role for everyone, and we really appreciate all offers of support.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate all those who have achieved awards this term. From Bronze, Silver and Golds Chief Scout Awards, to Commendations and Long Service Awards, they're all fantastic achievements and I'm sure you will join me in applauding those worthy recipients. And if you're working towards an award - keep going, you'll get there!
Stay safe out there folks, and a Merry Christmas.

Eris Robertson
Executive Chair



GSL's Gossip

Since the last update I am pleased to say several new leaders have joined the Beavers team. Welcome and thanks to Sam, Kat, Paul and Teresa. And thanks too to Lewis who has moved up to Cubs (though Beavers still want him back!)

can sign up. It costs you nothing, and can be worth hundreds of pounds to the Group! I am happy to let you know that Marco has joined the team as a Fundraising Manager.

Since September, the Sections have been meeting well and coping well with many changes. Cubs have begun meeting at the Grange school and the Scouts have been nomads for the term. We are disappointed that we haven't reached an agreement to hire Buckingham Park C of E School hall. We are still persuing this, and will keep you updated. And we are in discussions to secure a venue for the Scouts in the new year.

The sections have had to return to Yellow status which means there are some restrictions back on meetings. However I am pleased to say the Scouts were able to run a camp organised by the SPL's which was a great success, and the Beavers enjoyed their District Christmas Party. We've got some great ideas for 2022, and we hope to celebrate 5 years of the Group being together - watch this space!

The plans for the Kingsbrook side of the group have gained momentum, and we hope to launch Cubs and Scouts early in 2022. We'll keep you updated! Those members interested will have an opportunity to move across when the leader teams are settled and comfortable.

We are looking for adult volunteers for Kingsbrook who are willing to step into a team of Leaders to help plan and organise the weekly meetings, trips, and camps away. The team works well with each leader focusing on small tasks like "managing the communications", "overseeing badgework", "overseeing the programme". Our aim is that no task is too large and can play to people's strengths. Please get in touch if you think you can help, or would like to know more.

Yours in Scouting,
Iain Stanley,
Group Scout Master
12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scouts

Fundraising Team Member

Help plan and organise support from parents to attend events both internal to the Group and in the community, looks for chances with grants, and other ways to raise funding.

Large Projects Manager

Willing volunteer, maybe with experience in project management to help see a few large plans we have or the longer-term plans of the Group, should have drive and self-motivation to succeed.

Group Exec Member

This committee oversees the administration of the Group. As well as a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, each Executive welcomes people with specific skills and representative's member parents. Most Group Executive meet 3-4 times a year, but effective members will volunteer for tasks in between the meetings and maximising its potential for a hugely positive impact on its young members

Leaders

No one individual is likely to have the complete set of skills required to run an effective section within the Scout Group. Teamwork is key, and all the support you need is there in abundance at District, County and National level. A great part of helping members is seeing them develop into well-rounded young people and enjoying the adventure that you provide for them.

✿ Awards Update ✿



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

Chief Scout Bronze Award:

- Rex Looker
- Elan Lee

Connor Feasey

Chief Scout Silver Award:
Summer Neale

Chief Scout Gold Awards:
Annabel Hyland
Kyle Neale
Sophia Davie

Long Service Awards

David Yates - 20 Years Service



Kate Christensen - 5 Years Service



County Commissioners Commendation

Cole Stanley - for achieving all
Beaver badges



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 events and a uniform is not required members can choose to wear their social kit instead.

Costs as follows:

Kids T shirt - £7.50
Kids Polo shirt - £10
Kids Hoodie - £22.50

Adult Hoodie - £27

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

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%).

