

# *The Reef Knot*



**Feb 2017**

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



# Chairman's Chat



What an amazing time.

It certainly has been an extraordinary time. '12th Aylesbury 1<sup>st</sup> Buckingham Park Scouts' is going from strength to strength, as are our Cubs and Beavers. It is a pleasure to see how many badges have been earned; I think a big well done should go to both the Beaver and Cub groups, for all the hard work and enthusiasm that they have put into each challenge. If there is a down side to their success, it is the cost of all the badges, but thanks to the dedication of all those people who work behind the scenes, nice issues like that are just problems solved with a smile. On that note, our group has been very fortunate with the generous donations we have received. To everyone who has given, thank you so much; the summer months are sure to be full of a whole new level of adventures.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the hard work of Katheryn Hobbs, as the group treasurer, she worked with true dedication, on what is always the most difficult financial year in for any organisation, which is of course the first. But when you give your time generously to so many people, there comes a time when you must step back a little, and with all Katherine's other commitments, she asked to step away from the role of Treasurer. A huge thankyou to you, you did an amazing job, and I am so glad that you can still stay on the exec committee with us. I am delighted to say that the role has now been filled by Petra



Elsmore, it is a relief to know our financial future is in your capable hands.

A number of other people have both joined or left our committee, and I look forward to both welcoming those who are new and thanking those who have supported us, at a different time. It has always been our intention to expand into a full scout group, and this can now be confirmed. Our ability to run both a Beaver, Cub, and Scout sections, will affect us all, and I would like remind everyone how important it is to attend the Annual General Meeting, please keep an eye on the notice board, and website for confirmation of the time and location. The A.G.M. is our time as parents, to both find out how these changes will affect us, and what we could do to help support all the volunteers, who give so much with no thought of thanks. I look forward to seeing you all there. I am sure you will agree that there is still much to do before our two sections become three.

On that note, it is my privilege to thank all our volunteers, from all roles: GSL, leaders, committee members, section assistants, young leaders, parent helpers, and other occasional helpers. To you all, thank you, 'you have done your best' and we are all very grateful.

**James Petty**

**Chairman**



# GSL's Gossip

It's been great to see the Beavers and Cubs get back into the swing of things after Christmas! There are plenty of great events coming up so please keep an eye on our website and the section programs—these can be linked to your calendars.



We have just completed our annual census for Gilwell (Scouting headquarters) and are pleased to state the numbers are excellent and very healthy. Beavers are full with a good waiting list and Cubs are still capped due to the current venue size. This year we are not planning on taking Cubs from the waiting list as there are 14 Beavers to 'Swim up' over the year and not many Cubs moving up to Scouts.

We have ordered our group flags for all the sections and these will be blessed at the St George's Day Parade. So Beavers, Cubs and Scouts please practise looking smart and tidy for this event, with scarf correctly rolled. Please remember also to be as helpful as possible at home and at meetings as the Leaders will be selecting Flag Bearers for the St. George's Day Parade...

I am pleased to say we are planning to launch our Scouts section in the Spring! Scouts is for children aged between 10.5 and 14, but they can be on the waiting list while they



are younger than 10.5. If you know of any children interested in joining Scouts please ensure they are on the waiting list—Please spread the word! With this we have managed to find 3 enthusiastic leaders with a great level of experience (more information in due course).

We have begun purchasing equipment to take the members camping and making attending competitions easier. We now have 2 event shelters and a set of tents which will be arriving in mid march. Our next plans are to purchase some pop-up tents for Sleepovers and indoor use and then to start looking at the camping kitchen and catering side of things. We have also acquired via our eager eyed Young Leader George, 2 Dining shelters, so great work and thanks again George.

I hope to see you all at our 1st group AGM where there will be a chance to have a chat to the leader team, executive committee and any others linked with the group.

**Iain Stanley**

**Group Scout Leader (Acting)**



# Group Website

We have our own group website which is being designed and updated as we go along and a good source of information from 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 12th Aylesbury.

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



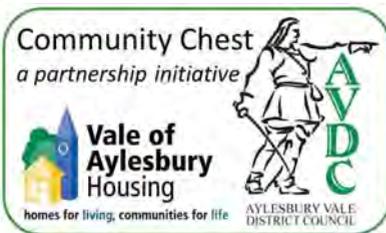
# Funding

Part of a new group is to gain funding to enable us to purchase new tents, stoves, camping tables, Flags for parades and investitures. As you can imagine all this adds up as well as supporting the meetings.

We would like to thank Buckingham Park Parish Council for agreeing our application for £750. This went towards the Group Flags and we are looking forwards to having them blessed at the St. George's Day Parade.

The Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, a partnership initiative between Vale of Aylesbury Housing and Aylesbury Vale District Council have awarded us a grant of £900 which has been used to purchase tents. With also having success with £1000 from the Rothschild Foundation which has helped with the rest of these tents and planned for other camping equipment soon.

In the not to distant Future we will be looking at being able to claim Gift Aid to again help with Funds.



If you have any ideas then please contact our GSL.



# BEAVERS



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Since last September we have been mainly indoors, working on the six challenge badges with our Beavers.

We had one outing to Tesco for Farm to Fork activities fully organised by the store.



The activities we have been looking at in the last few months include fun team games, Navigator Badge activities, knot making, and challenge badges. We have worked towards the personal challenge badge and world challenge badge, going through national games as 'hop scotch'.

Also, we celebrated one of our Beaver's birthday with a surprise party with their Mum—everyone thoroughly enjoyed it! A week after the group had Halloween games.

Then, we went through Remembrance Day art and Craft session, when we painted poppies with our finger tips.



Next, the group had an opportunity to find out and review information on Green Cross Code.

Then, we spent a session on safety issues with discussions and demonstrations. Everyone could take the opportunity to cross a pretend road safely and later discuss any mistakes.

Coming to the end of the term we organized 'Bits and Bob' evening. The children were split into 4 groups were able to learn how to tie their shoe laces or to light a candle, roll their scarf, write down their home address and draw a map from home to HQ.

Finally, being closer to Christmas we carried on with Christmas games and international Christmas traditions. We ended the year with the District Christmas Party, where we met Beavers from other Aylesbury colonies and saw Colonel Custard Performance—laughing to tears!

**Marta Metko-Skocylas**

**Assistant Beaver Leader**



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# Cubs



The autumn term started during the Paralympics so it was a great time to work towards the disability awareness badge. The Cubs found out about some of our Paralympians and their disabilities. We also tried some of the sports such as sitting down volley ball and blind football. The Cubs also learnt to fingerspell.



During the term most of our Cubs achieved the Skills Challenge badge. Cubs learnt a range of skills, from household jobs, farm to fork trail, martial arts, peeling potatoes, making para-cord keyrings to name a few. The Cubs also really enjoyed making their own woggles which many are proudly wearing each week. (Thank you Mrs Wells!)



Towards the end of our term we had our first badge night. This was a great success with Cubs working on individual badges which interested them. We will repeat this again



towards the end of this term.

The Cubs had a great time at the Big O orienteering event at Wendover Woods, the Cubs still like to remind me that 'Akela got lost', but I stand by that the course directions weren't terribly clear at one particular point! But we all had fun and that's the main thing! We will be entering again this year and I'm hopeful that we will have a number of Cubs who will be confident to enter competitively which means they won't be accompanied by an adult on the course.

At the end of term we had our Cubs Adventure Day at Phasels Wood activity centre. I was really impressed that the Cubs all tried their best and overcame their fears to try new activities. They bravely took on the high ropes and abseiling and had a go at shooting and land zorbing finishing off the day trying some backwoods cooking (cooking on a fire). We are really proud of them!



2016 was a special year for Cubs as we celebrated 100 years of Cubs Scouts. We finished off the year with a special promise party where the Cubs renewed their promises.

This term we will be working on the World challenge badge. Part of the badge requirements is to identify issues in the community and take action. Cubs have been identified that litter is a big problem on Buckingham Park and are already making plans to litter pick and ways to prevent others from littering. We will be organising regular litter picks over the coming weekends to help the Cubs achieve this goal and make Buckingham Park better for the residents, and wildlife.



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



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# Executive Committee

The executive committee works behind the scenes to plan and manage the operations of the Scout Group and to ensure its success.

Recently the executive committee has been working on the logistics of launching the Scout group which we are aiming to do in the Spring. We will update you on this at the AGM!

We are continuing to ensure all the important details are arranged for the Group, e.g. insurances, risk assessments, training and fundraising. We have arranged the purchase of new tents for the group which we are very keen to get in to use this summer!

We are looking to organize a fundraising Quiz Night in the coming months. We will let you know as soon as it has been arranged and we would love your support to make it a successful and fun night! In the summer we will be organizing the JOTT walk. Some of you may remember we joined in on this event at ..... Further details to follow in due course.



The Scout Group now has a Facebook Page—12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park). Please join and you can see lots of updates from our committee members and Leaders! This is a closed group which only parents linked to the group will have access and is controlled by the Exec and Leaders as to who can join.



# AGM

Annual General Meeting

Please join us at our 1st AGM—Friday 4th May, 6.30pm at Buckingham Park C of E Primary School. We'll be having a buffet with beer, wine and soft drinks and aim to make the night as sociable as possible!

Chief Scout Awards will be recognized to the Beavers and Cubs who have attained that level. We will be filling you in with our Scout Group plans too! It's a great chance to chat to Leaders, committee members and other parents. All children are welcome.



# Group Events

Group Fundraiser Quiz Night TBC

Group Family Camp TBC

# District Events

12th March - County Awards

15th April - County Scouting Dinner

22nd April - District Beaver Hike

23rd April - St Georges Day Parade

5th-7th May - County Water Activities

6th May - District Beaver London Trip

10th June - Beaveree

10th June - District Scout MasterChef

1st –2nd July - Relay for Life

9th July - County AGM and Awards



# Leader Team



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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  
Vince Alcindor  
To be announced  
David Yates

## cubs

Cub Scout Leader  
Assistant Cub Scout Leader  
Assistant Cub Scout Leader  
Explorer Young Leader

Emily Hyland (Akela)  
Nina Petty (Bagheera)  
Kate Christensen (Hathi)  
George Leaver (Kaa)

## SCOUTS

Scout Leader  
Assistant Scout Leader  
Assistant Scout Leader

To be announced  
To be announced  
To be announced

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



# Exec Committee

Group Scout Leader  
Chairperson  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Member  
Committee Member

Iain Stanley  
James Petty  
Nicki Kaenzig  
Petra Elsmore  
Daniel Hyland  
Kathryn Hobbs

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.



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# Meeting Times

# BEAVERS

Buckingham Park Community Centre

Tuesday: 17:45 till 19:00

# CUBS

Buckingham Park Community Centre

Tuesday: 18:30 till 20:00

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

