

## **11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group**

MONDAY BEAVERS visited Pets At Home as part of their Animal Friend Badge. They are working on their Global Challenge and enjoyed a 'Jamboree Evening' presented by those Weddington Scouts who are looking forward to travelling to Sweden later this year.

Our new FRIDAY BEAVER Colony has had lots of fun getting to know one another and learning about the Scout Movement. All our Beavers (and Leaders!) have now made their promise.

We enjoyed a wonderful visit to Our Lady of the Angels Church on 18 February as part of our Faith Badge. We also earned our Air Activities Badge in a meeting where we remembered the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

We are looking forward to welcoming the 13 new Beavers who will be joining us after Easter and wish all the best to Stacey, our first Beaver to move up to Cubs!

We would also like to say a big thank you to our Young Leaders, Chloe and Josh who have been brilliant.



MONDAY CUBS have been working towards their Community Challenge Badge. They have practised First Aid and had an interesting visit to the Justice Centre. Fosse Pack was selected as one of two packs to represent the District at the County Road Safety Quiz held at the Spa Centre in Leamington. They would like to congratulate Laura, Matthew, Elliott and Harry who although not winners, did very well.

Fosse Pack have also taken part in the District Alan Flavel Ghost Hunt Competition. This event is named after one of Weddington's former Cub Leaders so it is always special for us to take part. Thanks to George, Robert, Thomas and Max who were a credit to the Pack. Cubs will meet on Monday 18 April and will then be closed on 25 April and 2 May.

THURSDAY CUBS have been working towards their Community Challenge and enjoyed an interesting visit to the Mayor's Parlour in January. They have cooked (and tossed!) pancakes and most members earned their Emergency Aid Stage 1 Award. Well done to the four members who took part in the Ghost Hunt at Mancetter last weekend. Cubs are hoping to host a Cub disco on Thursday 14 April and will be closed on Thursday 21 April.



Scouts have been away on 2 camps since the new year, a weekend in Wales walking, and a hike to Mancetter with an overnight stay. They also enjoyed a good day out at District Football, coming away with another trophy!

TUESDAY SCOUTS have been busy completing awards. They have been cooking, on a visit to St Nicholas Church, completed their Online Child Protection Training (CEOP) and even had a painting night.

FRIDAY SCOUTS are working on a very varied selection of badges in their meetings. Many have earned their Navigation, Circus Skills and Meteorology Badges and are now working on the Heritage and Quartermaster badges.



EXPLORERS recently sent three members on a canoeing weekend and they gained a 2 star award for canoeing and kayaking. Stephen B has qualified as a Level 1 Coach in the sport. Well done to all of them. The Unit hosted the District Ready Steady Cook competition and were thrilled to win first place. They continue to enjoy a wide variety of activities including a Pineapple Challenge night hike organised by Rugby Scouts and a bike maintenance evening.



Our NETWORK SCOUTS are now part of a District get together known as 'Anker Network' and are encouraging all over 18s (and those soon to become 18) to come along and enjoy some fun meetings. Please contact Tom for more details.

127 members of Weddington Scout Group will be attending COUNTY CAMP at Stoneleigh in May. This promises to be a really big event with many varied and exciting activities of all kinds on offer for our youngsters: we all look forward to that. Campers have paid the £25 camp fee and we will be collecting the outstanding £20 (to pay for transport and food) very shortly. Twenty four Beavers will be joining us for the day on Saturday 21 May.



Our annual FAMILY CAMP at Shugborough will be Friday 17 June to Sunday 19 June this year. The camp has always proved very popular with all ages and especially the families of our Cubs and Beavers. More details to follow but make sure the weekend is reserved!

We are pleased to report that the plans for our NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING have been submitted which means we will be fund-raising in earnest so that we can perhaps initiate construction (which we hope to organise in phases) in the current year.

Looking ahead – our CHARITY STALL on Nuneaton Market will be Saturday 9 July. We will be asking for tombola items and plants as well as cakes. So please hang on to unwanted gifts and plants with this event in mind.

We have had a very positive response to our unwanted CLOTHES COLLECTION. Thanks to all who have contributed and please note that this is ongoing during the popular spring-cleaning season!

We are once again collecting Sainsbury's ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS. We have acquired a considerable amount of equipment through this scheme, so please continue to collect them for us.

Parents should already have been notified of our WORKING PARTY this Saturday 9 April. We hope to improve the grounds and buildings of the headquarters to make them a little more pleasurable to meet and work in. So any volunteers would be very welcome for a large variety of jobs from picking litter to chasing cobwebs, to cutting hedges and cleaning floors! We are meeting at 10 am and hope to have enough helpers to finish at lunch time. Refreshments will be available. Thank you in anticipation.

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE will be on the 17th April. This year the format is different, as it will be held outdoors, in Riversley Park. We should meet on the path behind Sainsbury's at 1:30pm, in full uniform (with a coat if needed). The service should finish around 3:45pm. Please make every effort to attend, as it is an important part of the Scout calendar.

Our WEBSITE has been completely rewritten and is been given a makeover. Information on the site includes dates of camps and events, uniform stockists and recycling details, directions to local campsites (useful for parents picking up members from camps), our policies on the driveway and mobile phones and an easy way to contact us. Please take a look at [www.11thnuneaton.org.uk](http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk) (it is even smartphone compatible!)

Finally it is time to prepare the GIFT AID claim for the last tax year. Thank you to all who have signed up for this in the past – there is no need to do anything more unless your circumstances have changed. We will be requesting gift aid declarations from those who have not yet signed up (please let us know if the request does not apply to you and you will not be asked again). This is an important (and painless!) fund raiser for us so please fill in the form when you receive it. Thanks.

We are now well into our busy camping season and scouts have been enjoying good weather and a range of brilliant experiences so far this summer. We were pleased to send a large contingent of Weddington Members to join the other 4,000 Warwickshire scouts at Stoneleigh **County Camp** last month and are sure that all will have good recollections of a memorable weekend.

**Family Camp** takes place next weekend: this is always a very enjoyable get together and is followed by **Cub Camp** at Fox Coverts, **Malvern Challenge** for Scouts and **Sun Run** for Explorers. **Summer Camp** completes the season when Scouts and Explorers travel to Norfolk for the first week of the school holidays. So lots for everyone to look forward to.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our collection of **Sainsbury's vouchers**. As the promotion is now finished, please could you send in any vouchers you may still have as soon as possible.

An urgent appeal is being made for **Second-hand Uniform** (especially Beavers). We sell this in support of the building fund and the venture is proving very successful. It is hoped to expand the scheme which will benefit parents of new members as well as our Group funds. Please bring any outgrown or unwanted uniform to any meeting: leaders will ensure it is passed on. Thank you.

Meanwhile many thanks to all who contribute to our **clothing collection**. This is also proving to be a significant fund-raiser so please keep sending in your donations.

Another appeal is for tombola items, cakes and plants for us to sell on Nuneaton Market when we man the **Charity Stall** on Saturday 9 July. Please send any unwanted gifts or donated items (bottles are always welcome) to any meeting for collection and send cakes or plants a few days before the date. Contributions can



also be taken to Carol at 16 Winchester Avenue (76387375) at any time.

We would also welcome help on the morning of the 9 July and particularly need Members (Cubs, Scouts or Explorers) in uniform to stand with us at the Stall to encourage the public to support us! Such help would be noted in records and help towards community badge work.

11<sup>th</sup> Nuneaton is intending to support the organisation **Bookbridge** which sets up English Teaching Libraries in poor areas of Mongolia and Cambodia to improve the future life prospects of young people in these regions. We will be holding a book collection at the Scout Hut from 20 June to 6 July. English books of all levels are needed for children and young adults: fiction and non fiction, teaching materials, encyclopedias, atlases, English dictionaries etc. The more pictures the book has and the larger it's print, the better. Please look through your book shelves to see if you could donate any books which meet these criteria.

Thanks to all who have responded to our **Gift Aid** appeal. It really is an important part of our fund-raising. If you were recently sent a form to complete, please consider doing so soon before we send in the claim for last year's subscriptions. Thank you.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Wednesday 29 June at 8pm. This is a chance for members and families to acknowledge the work of our Leaders and Committee members who volunteer so much of their time to provide the scouting experience for your youngsters, and for you to raise any relevant issues or concerns. Refreshments will follow a (generally) short business meeting.

Finally as our **Jamboree** contingent prepare for their summer trip to Sweden we wish them a fantastic visit and look forward to hearing of their experiences on their return.

# 11th Nuneaton Weddington Scout Group. Newsletter Number 82. September 2011



Pictures top: Clockwise - Group Photo (Summer Camp), Crate Climbing (Family Camp), Team Games (Summer Camp), Blindfold Trail (Cub Camp)

Pictures above: High Ropes (County c), A Special Guest pops in (Jamboree)

We are all looking forward to a new scouting session having a very busy camping and expedition season behind us. County Camp, Family Camp, Cub Camp, Malvern Challenge, Sun Run, Summer Camp, an Explorer Belt Expedition and finally the Jamboree in Sweden, all went well and proved to be enjoyable and memorable for all who participated. Many thanks to all Leaders, Committee members and parents for the time and commitment volunteered to ensure the success of all these events.

The success of our camping summer was marred by another break in at headquarters in the middle of last month. The main gate was damaged and a selection of camping gear including stoves, rucksacks, lamps, tents and our lawn mower were taken. This happened shortly before a planned relocation of the camping gear while we prepare for the new building. It is disappointing to know that some of our fund-raising efforts will need to be redirected towards repairs and replacement instead of more positive payments to enhance the experiences of our youngsters.

Fund raising will be very important to the Group in the coming sessions. We have the ongoing clothes collection and the second-hand uniform scheme. Please donate any outgrown uniform (especially Beaver uniform) and encourage anyone you know who has left the Group to bring unwanted items to any meeting at Headquarters. The small charge we make in selling the uniform helps other parents and of course contributes towards funds. You will soon be asked to help raise the significant sums we need to continue the building project. We will appreciate all the help we can raise when fund-raising begins in earnest! Everyone can help by ensuring they have signed a gift aid form, available at headquarters. Thank you.

Subscriptions are now due for the scouting session September to December. Please place £25 per member in the envelope provided and return by the beginning of October.

## 11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

**Monday Beavers** said goodbye to many Beavers this term as they have moved on to Cubs and Brownies and said hello to lots of new faces. We were very proud to award several Bronze Chief Scouts awards and are looking forward to investing our kits soon. We have worked on IT stage one and produced some great posters. We are continuing with our challenge badges and have had a torch walk and are planning a fitness night and a look at healthy eating.



**Friday Beavers** have been working towards their Outdoor Challenge this term. We have been learning about how local wildlife adapts to the change in seasons and had a visit from Jen's tortoise!

On 23 September, twelve Beavers took part in a sleepover at the hut. They set up their own tents in the hut before settling down to enjoy campfire songs and a movie. Many thanks to all who helped make the evening a success. We also had a fantastic time on our day out at Broadwater on 15 October when we tried out lots of adventurous activities, including a very high zip wire and an obstacle course, to earn our Adventure Badge.

**Monday Cubs** have been working hard towards their Map Reader Badge. We have looked at Street and Ordnance Survey Maps, used 6 figure grid references and made contour models. Finally we went on a night hike on a very windy, dark night which was at least dry!

Ten Cubs and four Leaders had a great time at Twinlakes on the District organised outing: many happy memories especially the unintentional five trips round on the roller coaster!

We have welcomed eight new Beavers who will soon be invested and said goodbye to five Cubs who have moved on to Scouts. We would like to congratulate Harry and Elliot who have gained their Silver Chief Scouts Award.

### \*\*\*Plea for Help\*\*\*

**Due to work commitments, Monday Cubs will be without 2 leaders for the next 12 months. If anyone feels they could help from 7pm to 8.15pm on a Monday evening, please talk to a Leader or contact GSL Doug Shorter on 024 76328166.**

**Thursday Cubs** are doing a lot of cooking this term as they work towards their Chef's Badge and their Global Challenge. They prepared a very tasty Indian meal for their guests and have done some investigations into different cooking methods.

They had a week off and enjoyed chips at the end of a night hike but will be back to the kitchen to make sweets and Christmas cakes later in the term.

**Tuesday Scouts** have been working towards their Emergency Aid badge. Half the troop have gained their Fire Safety Badge, whilst the other half achieved their Mechanics badge. They will be holding a pumpkin carving competition this week and look forward to the PL's taking control for one evening as they put to the test their leadership skills and run the whole meeting.

**Friday Scouts** have recently invested five new members into the troop. They have been busy earning the Circus Skills badge which involved a session at the gym in Weddington and completing the First Aid necessary for the next part of this Staged Badge. They held a fancy dress Halloween party and are thinking ahead to their Christmas meal on 16 December: a traditional highlight of the Friday night Scout year!

The two troops put a joint team into the District Ghost Hunt, and managed to finish in a respectable fourth place. Several Scouts also completed their Expedition Challenge in October, so well done to them.

**Explorers** have been engaged in a wide range of activities including designing fashionable clothes from recyclable materials and playing Nuneaton Monopoly. They are focussing on the challenges necessary for Duke of Edinburgh and Chief Scout Awards, but have found time to take to their kayaks to clear rubbish from the River Anker in the town centre.



**The Network** are celebrating a successful year as an established section in the Group as well as the District. Since assisting at Summer Camp back in July, they have attended five separate District and County events, helped the Cubs with their walk and with the Beaver walk and fun day. Within their own meetings they have played indoor 'laser quest', had a creative arts night and taken part in 'Network Mind the Buzzcocks'.

### Swimming Activity Badges and Gala

The Group has hired the Pingles on Saturday 12 November from 4pm to 5pm. This is to select the team for the swimming gala being held on Saturday 3 December starting at 6pm and also for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to be assessed for the staged swimming activity badges. Details on the noticeboard at Headquarters.

### Remembrance Day Parade – Sunday 13 November

We would urge all Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network to take part in this annual event. Please meet in full uniform (with extra layers beneath and a coat in case of cold and wet) and wearing a poppy at the Market Place in the centre of town at 10.20am.

### Group Carol Service- Monday 5 December

Please reserve this evening – details will sent out later.

### Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

A big 'thank you' to everyone who saved these for us. We have received a wide range of equipment including hoops, balls, space hoppers and games which will be used by all sections of the Group.

The **collection of clothing** is ongoing – we have had a good response to this. Please continue to bring discarded clothing to headquarters to help with our fund-raising.

Our **Recycled Uniform Scheme** is in urgent need of contributions, especially Beaver and Cub outgrown or no longer required items. Clothing donations can be taken to any meeting at Headquarters. Thank you.

Check out our **website** for all sorts of useful bits and pieces - [www.11thnuneaton.org.uk](http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk)