

11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

**JOIN US
EVERY
STEP OF
THE WAY.**

family, to become involved in the walk through participation and/or sponsorship. If we can raise a considerable sum, we can guarantee the completion of the project in a reasonable period of time, without delay or cut backs.

Details of how to take part have been distributed. Additional sponsorship forms can be downloaded from our web site.
www.11thnuneaton.org.uk

To sign-up for the walk, please see your section Leaders, who will collect names for registration, or visit our website and fill in the form, or e-mail our treasurer directly; Chris Ball at chris@avondaleparkhomes.co.uk

Other money raising activities are ongoing. Those of you who have not yet signed up for **gift aid** will be asked to do so soon as this is a painless way to raise at least two and a half thousand pounds annually.

We have also signed up to the **easyfundraising** scheme. This will enable us to earn cash every time you shop and search online, simply by accessing your favourite websites such as Amazon, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, M&S etc via our page.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Please visit
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/
11thnuneatonscouts next time you shop online!

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.

We are always collecting items suitable for **raffles** and **tombola** prizes. Please bring suitable donations to any meeting and leaders will pass them on to the Group committee. Thank you.

The Group is once again collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**. Thanks to your generosity in the past, we have benefitted from a good variety of games and activity equipment and look forward to ordering more this time. There is a collection box on the desk in the hut.

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.

Finally, please remember that **cars are not allowed up the drive**. In order to ensure the safety of our youngsters, parents should park at Ambleside and come through the connecting gate.

Dates for the Diary

22 April	St George's Day Parade
29 April	Sponsored Walk
15-17 June	Cub Camp
29 June - 1 July	Family Camp
21-28 July	Summer Camp

Our big priority this year is fund-raising for our **new Scout Hut**, which we recently gained permission to replace. The main activity will be a **Sponsored Walk** on April 29th. We are joining Nuneaton Rotary Club and using their routes of 3, 5, 8 or 21 miles. We are urging all members, and their friends and



Monday Beavers have been working towards the Friendship Challenge. This involved a Beaver Bazaar which raised money towards the building of our new hut. Thanks to all the parents for their pockets full of 10p's! We also enjoyed visiting the Nuneaton Fire Station and finding out about the job of a fire-fighter.

In February we hosted the district Beaver quiz. Congratulations to our team who came joint second! Last but not least, congratulations to Lucy Miller for achieving her Young Leaders award. She is a real asset to our Beaver leader team!

Friday Beavers have been working on their Creative Challenge Badge. We have made wooden spoon puppets and badges, performed poems by A.A. Milne and enjoyed an evening learning about astronomy when we made rockets, built star constellations using tea lights and recreated our solar system using fruit!

In keeping with the spirit of 2012 some of our meetings have had an Olympic theme. We have painted and constructed our own Olympic rings and held an evening of balloon sports organised by the Explorers (thanks guys!). We have also been experiencing first hand some of the sports of the Paralympics and were lucky enough to be visited by a Guide Dog for the Blind with her trainer which was kindly organised by one of our parents (thanks again!).

Monday Cubs have invested six new Cubs. Welcome to Harry, Finlay, Noah, Harvey, Daniel and Ethan. The Pack has completed the Creative Challenge and is now working on the Fitness Challenge.

Thursday Cubs welcome new member Evie and have said farewell to Fay who has moved on to Scouts. Most of the Pack have gained the map reading badge and are hoping to gain the book reader's activity badge in the coming weeks. They enjoyed an archery session at the beginning of the year and are planning a local walk to test map reading skills in the near future. They also look forward to a visit to the Gang Show.

Both Cub packs sent representatives to the recent **District Activity Day**. They had a very enjoyable day and each came away with the Scientist Badge.

Tuesday Scouts have been working towards their Global Challenge by completing activities based on the ShelterBox charity. They will be improving their navigation skills over the next few weeks with a hike to prepare them for the Hike Camp at the end of the month, as well as map and compass sessions.

Friday Scouts have been looking at the Scout law and promise and have benefitted from a talk on internet safety. Chief Scout Gold Awards will be presented by the County Commissioner to four members of the Troop. Congratulations to James, Georgia, Iona and Geena who have worked hard to achieve this. Friday leaders have recently taken part in training to deal with diabetes.

Both troops sent Scouts to Gradbach in the Peak District in February for **Winter Camp**. All Scouts completed a hard day of walking on the Saturday, and enjoyed playing in Rowtor Rocks on the way home on the Sunday.

Explorers have been tobogganing at Swadlincote Ski Slope and working towards their Environmental Award by helping to clean up a stretch of the River Anker through Weddington. A team also completed a 19 mile activity night hike for the District Pineapple Cup, finishing 4th.

Network have continued to be busy - a team recently took part in a Monopoly Run challenge in London, completing against 25 other teams to collect as many famous landmarks as possible. Seven members have signed up to take part in an Explorer Belt challenge in Belgium and Luxembourg this summer.



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Many, many thanks to all who took part in the **Rotary fund-raising walk** at the end of last month on what turned out to be the wettest day in the 24 year history of the event! The organisers were impressed with the numbers of you who turned out and completed the challenge. Very well done to everybody.

Please work as hard as you can to collect and hand in the sponsorship raised so that we can start our building project on the new headquarters as soon as possible.

You can still donate to our appeal via text message by sending the following to **70070**

HUTT11 £1 or **HUTT11 £5** or **HUTT11 £10** depending how much you wish to donate.

Congratulations to our Scout Troops for finishing as runners up in the Best Scout Troop competition in the district (2011-2012). Our Network Scouts won their competition for best Network Unit. Well done!

The awards were presented at the St George's Day Parade in April and are scored on programme, activities, nights away, awards gained and participation (and success) at all the various district events throughout the calendar.

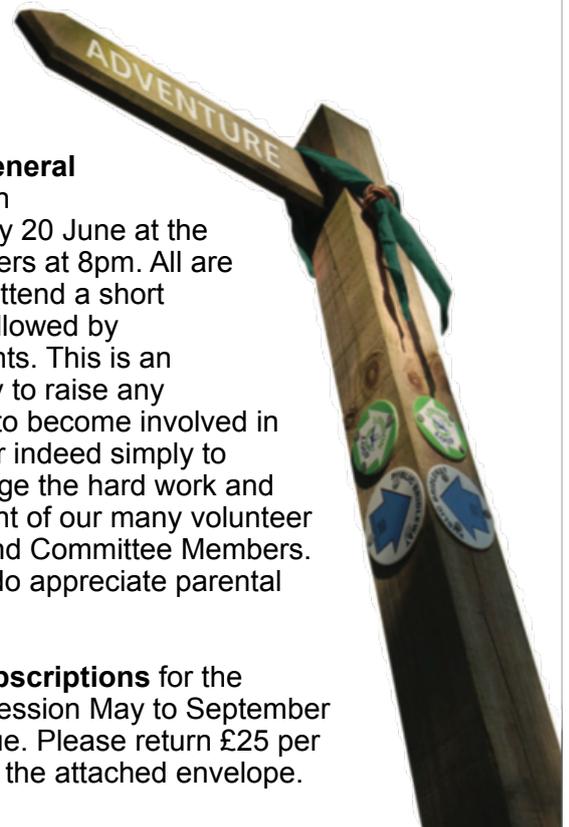
We have a busy summer ahead of us. Invitations will soon be distributed for our annual **Family Camp** at Shugborough 29 June – 1 July. This has always been a popular and enjoyable weekend when families of Beavers and Cubs are invited to join Scouts, Explorers and Leaders for an action-packed Saturday and two nights of camping. Meetings for those who have not been with us before and for anyone who needs more information have been arranged on

Friday 1 June and Monday 25 June at 6.30pm at the headquarters.

The oldest Cubs will be attending **Cub Camp** 15-17 June. Scouts will be preparing for Summer Camp at **Patrol Camp** on May 18-20th. Explorers will be going to **Sun Run** 6-8th July. The camping season is rounded off with the annual **Summer Camp** for Scouts and Explorers 21-28 July.

The Group holds the **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 20 June at the Headquarters at 8pm. All are invited to attend a short meeting followed by refreshments. This is an opportunity to raise any concerns, to become involved in our work or indeed simply to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our many volunteer Leaders and Committee Members. We really do appreciate parental support.

Finally, **subscriptions** for the Scouting session May to September are now due. Please return £25 per member in the attached envelope.



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Cub Camp



Family Camp



Summer Camp



Explorer Belt

We look forward to getting under way with our new Scouting session after another good summer camping season. In spite of the weather, all enjoyed a successful **Cub Camp** in June and a very active **Family Camp** in July. The weather really improved for **Summer Camp** at the beginning of the holiday.

Network Scouts Steph Sanderson, Richie Morgan, Sarah Sambrook, Robert Tambini, Pierre Taylor, Jonathan Allred and Edward Ford joined other members from Nuneaton and South Wales to complete the Expedition part of the **Explorer Belt Award**. The Expedition was a 160 km hike from Wiltz in Luxembourg to Sint Joris Weert near Leuven in Belgium which took place from Tuesday 21st August to Thursday 30th August. The Explorer Belt, which is an actual Scout Belt, will be awarded when the participants have explained how they achieved completion of a major project and its results and how they succeeded with their 14 minor challenges on route, at a presentation which they must give at a later date. Congratulations must be given to all for achieving the expedition part of this demanding challenge.

On October 6th, many members of the group will be attending **Bear Day** at Stoneleigh Park. The coach will leave from the Coniston Pub car park at 8:45am. We aim to return between 5 and 5:30pm.

The money collected from the Rotary Club **sponsored walk** so far is £9,036.61. Any money or donations still outstanding from this event should be received by 30th September, and then we can decide who the lucky prize winners are!

The current economic climate is not helping with our task of raising £250,000 for our new headquarters. Grants which are available have numerous conditions attached which we would find difficulty conforming to. However we have received a number of donations from local business and together with our own efforts we have or have been promised a total of £165,000. We are currently pursuing a loan from the Scout Association which should give us enough funds to start work on the new building. Currently we have three tenders for the work and we will soon be entering into discussions with them and our architects to determine the best way forward.

The Group is very grateful for the amazing effort made by members and their families to raise the funds so far and now need to ask for your help again. Our next very important fund-raising event is the **Charity Stall** on Nuneaton Market on Saturday 13 October. This is a chance to raise money from outside our Group. **We need tombola donations of unwanted gifts, bottles, jars, tins etc and would welcome contributions for the cake sale.** Attendance at the stall by Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in uniform always helps to attract customers so we will be asking for volunteers for this. Please bring contributions to any meeting at Headquarters or deliver to Carol Cottrell, 16 Winchester Ave (02476387475) or Sandra Parker, 67 Shanklin Drive (02476328738) Thank you very much.

Finally, it is subscription time for the scouting session September to December. Please return £25 per invested member in the envelope provided. Thank you.



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We are coming to the close of another very active scouting year and are looking forward to 2013 when we hope work will be started on the new building.

One of the highlights of this Autumn session was the Group participation in the County **Bear Day** in October. We arrived in time to watch Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, arrive by helicopter and several of our members were privileged to be introduced to him. The day was spent enjoying an amazing array of activities, experiences and challenges.



The Sections have experienced a very **wide range of activities** including archery, shooting, rope-work, sleepovers, Halloween parties and lots of cooking. They have benefitted from visits out including evening hikes, and have welcomed visitors to their meetings including wildlife rescuers and sign language teachers.

Scouts have recently been on **Autumn Camp** at Fox Coverts, completing a number of challenges in order to find the best team of the weekend.

New Building and Fundraising

We are now in discussions with three **building contractors** and we hope to appoint one early next year with a start date in spring 2013. So fundraising remains one of our important preoccupations and again we will be asking for your support in this. That support is not always financial – we have several ventures in mind to raise money from outside the Group and will need lots of volunteers to commit some time to this. The more volunteers we have, the more successful we will be.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the **Charity Stall** in October. We raised an impressive £625.

The awarding of the prize for the **Sponsored Walk** has been quite difficult as the largest sponsorships were raised by committee members, leaders and their families. The first few people have decided that they would prefer not to accept the prize of a week's holiday in the Lake District. In this situation the Committee have agreed that the prize will be used in a future event, probably a raffle. Once again, many thanks to all who braved the terrible weather to help raise over £9,000 towards the new building.

However we are currently about £50,000 short of being able to commence the first phase: demolition of the small meeting room and equipment store and erection of new meeting halls etc. A number of grant applications are pending together with a request for a loan from the Scout Association, which should enable us to meet the target.

easyfundraising.org.uk

We are renewing our efforts to encourage everyone to sign up to **easyfundraising**. This is the easiest way to raise money by simply clicking on the link for your favourite online retailer via the easyfundraising website every time you buy online. A small percentage will be donated to our building fund every time you buy from websites like Amazon, Argos and eBay. The service also works for over 2000 online services, including those selling insurance, TV, broadband, bank accounts and utility services as well as fashion, DIY and electronics stores.

We urge everyone to install the "Find and Remind" toolbar after they sign up to easyfundraising - it will then remind you every time you visit a supported website to claim your donation. Its costs nothing more than an extra click. The more you spend on line, the more you earn for our cause. Please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/11thnuneatonscouts to sign up and start earning money in time for all your Christmas shopping!

Top fundraisers

1	Edward V.	£20.10
2	Myra S.	£16.19
3	Helen S.	£14.26
4	Jez S.	£13.83
5	Lucy M.	£11.90
6	Darren C.	£11.67
7	Aston W.	£6.14
8	Stephanie S.	£4.27
9	Carl M.	£2.42
10	Ella A.	£2.25

Would you like to claim donations for 11th Nuneaton Weddington Scout Group when you shop at B&Q?

Up to 2% Donation

easyfundraising

Dates for the Diary

10 December 2012
12-13 January 2013
19-20 January 2013
26 January 2013

9 February 2013
15-17 February 2013
2 March 2013
21-23 June 2013
20 -27 July 2013

Carol Service 7 - 8pm St James Church
Fundraising (1) Atherstone
Fundraising (2) Atherstone
Group Party: 4 – 6pm Beavers and Cubs
6.30 – 8.30pm Scouts and Explorers
Swimming Badges. Pingles
Winter Camp. Older Scouts
District Swimming Gala. Pingles
Family Camp. Shugborough
Summer Camp. Scouts and Explorers

Finally, in preparation for the annual census in January, we will be asking all members to complete a new Membership Form to ensure our information is up to date. So thank you in advance for your patience in filling out yet another form for us. During the early part of next year we will be reviewing both the level of **subscriptions** and the method and frequency of payment. This will be implemented from 1 April 2013. Please note that the payment due in January remains unchanged.

A **Happy Christmas** to all our members and their families with every good wish for the New Year.