

11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

We have already enjoyed a very active start to the year: Most weekends have seen our members out and about involved in a variety of activities and events.

Most recently was the **District Swimming Gala**. And very well done to all who swam so well for our Group and helped to secure victory in all sections of the competition.



Scout Winter Camp, Peak District, February 2013



Winning the District Scout Quiz, February 2013

Dates for the Diary

16 March	-	Scout Hut Working Party
23 – 24 March	-	Scout Hike Camp
6 April	-	Bag-packing, Sainsburys
21 April	-	St George's Day
28 April	-	Rotary Walk
21 – 23 June	-	Family Camp
5-7 July	-	Cub Camp
20-27 July	-	Summer Camp (Scouts and Explorers)

New Building and Fund Raising

Work should start on the replacement of our Headquarters building in the near future. We are planning to clear the small meeting hall on **16 March** in preparation for its demolition. We are transporting all our equipment to an offsite storage facility for the duration of the build. Any adults available for an hour or so during that Saturday would be very welcome to join our working party – we are there from 9.00am and have a lot of gear to move. The construction of the new Hall will then commence. We are aiming to keep our meetings going during the building work although there will inevitably be some disruption.

Fund raising remains a top priority so that we can finance the equipping of the new HQ and a new storage facility, fence and car park.

Many thanks to **Raymond James Caravans** who hired us to provide a barbecue at their January open weekends and helped us to collect donations to the building fund. We raised an impressive £2,000.

The next important event is **bag-packing at Sainsburys** in Nuneaton on Saturday 6 April. We need youngsters and adults to give up an hour or so on that day to help raise money from outside the Group. Please sign up on the rota posted at Scout Headquarters. We need you to commit to this in the next 3 weeks before the Easter break as 6 April falls on the last weekend of the school holiday. All under-18s need an adult to pack alongside them and while there will be Leaders to do this, if any parents would like to come, please sign up. We will be able to provide you with a red top as we need to be in uniform.

Nearly £10,000 was raised by those who braved the terrible weather of last year's **Rotary Walk**. We are encouraging as many as possible to walk again this year. There is a choice of routes: 3, 5, 8 or 21 miles. Hopefully Sunday 28 April 2013 will be a better day! To sign up for the walk please visit our website and fill in the form, or e-mail our Treasurer directly: Chris Ball at chris@avondaleparkhomes.co.uk

The Group has raised over £220 so far from **Easyfundraising**. Please continue to use this. Details in the last newsletter or on our website.

Please save **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers** again. We have received a considerable amount of very useful equipment in the last few years so this has proved a very worthwhile collection.

We are currently reviewing our **subscription** level and method of payment. You will be receiving a letter to explain this very shortly. Meanwhile the **gift aid** for the current financial year is being completed. If you have not already subscribed to this (and most of you have, thank you so much!) there is a form attached to the newsletter. Please fill it in if it applies to you, this really is a free and painless way to raise extra revenue. Many thanks.

The annual District **St George's Day Parade** will be held on Sunday 21 April. We encourage all our members to take part in this so please reserve the day in your diary. Details will follow.

Finally we wish to appeal for your help in any of the above opportunities, whether it be helping at the working party, bag packing, filling in a gift aid form, taking part in the rotary walk or signing up to easyfundraising, everyone can do something to help us raise the money we still need to provide the much-needed replacement building in which our youngsters can continue their scouting careers.
Thank you.

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We must thank everyone who has supported our activities, camps and fund-raising events this summer. Thank you also for your co-operation in the face of the inevitable disruption to our weekly meetings as a result of the current building works. It has been a busy (and rather damp) camping season with section camps (and activity days), Family Camp and with Cub Camp and Summer Camp still to come. We extend our appreciation to all Leaders and Committee members who have worked so hard and given up so many weekends to make these events possible. They will be due a good break during the summer.



The **new building** could well be ready for us in the autumn: an exciting prospect for all of us who have struggled with inadequate accommodation for several years and who have been involved in relentless fund-raising. Of course there is still much to be done. Phase one of the development is going ahead, that is the destruction of the extension building and the erection of a new headquarters. That building still needs to be equipped (the floor alone will cost £8,000) and the fence and car park renewed. We then need a new storage building for camping equipment and canoes: for the time being part of the original hut will be used.



So we continue to appeal for parents' help. If you have any contacts which could prove useful in the equipping of the building, please let us know. We are planning two major fund-raising events, please support these if you can.

Our **charity stall** this year is on Saturday 7 September on Nuneaton Market from early in the morning. We need contributions for the tombola stall (unwanted gifts, bottles, un-used items etc) and plants and cakes to sell on the day. Please take any tombola items to any meeting between now and the end of term (mark the bag tombola) and put the date on the diary so that if you can contribute any cakes or plants they can be delivered to Carol Cottrell, 16 Winchester Avenue 02476387375 or Sandra Parker 67 Shanklin Drive 02476328738 or indeed to the stall itself on the day. We also need some Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers in uniform to help attract the customers. This will go towards a service or community requirement of their badge work



Webb Ivory Catalogues for Christmas cards and gifts have in the past generated a good profit but caused a lot of work for a few people. Now that we can order on line and

fewer schools seem to be organising this collection, we thought we would try again to raise money this way. We need help so that it is not the same few leaders and Committee members left to distribute the purchases and collect the payments. If you think you could be involved in this please let a leader know so that the Committee can have your contact details. In any event, please consider ordering from the catalogues when they come your way later in the year.

Well done to those who completed the **Rotary Walk** in April. You raised just over £2,700. (We registered some walkers who have yet to hand in their sponsor money: please do so as soon as you can). Many thanks to Friday Beavers who have raised an impressive £283.95 towards the kitchen fund and to Monday Cubs who have raised £131.86 so far. We look forward to the contributions raised by the other sections and thank all friends and parents who have supported these efforts.



A huge thank you to all who are helping us to operate the new system for paying **subscriptions**: this is really helping all of us to pay and collect the money more efficiently.

We look forward to a time when newsletters are not quite so concerned with fund-raising. While the building project is ongoing, our normal scouting activities continue with our members still enjoying the impressive range of activities provided for them and still working towards their badges and awards.

We wish all members and their families a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Sections will meet again during the first week of term: parents will be e-mailed if different arrangements have to be made.

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From the Treasurer:

Nearly There!

We took effective ownership of our New HQ on 31st October 2013, 21 months after acquiring planning consent!

During that period we have raised £250,000 predominantly from local business, individual donations, some grants and a lot of fundraising by your committee!

There are still things to do:

- *As yet the floors have not been laid due to a concern between the relevant contractors concerning the moisture content in the concrete floors, it is anticipated that this will be resolved during the next 2 weeks.*
- *The kitchen needs to be completed, this is outside the scope of the main contract. See other articles in this Newsletter as to how the funds are being raised for this!*
- *Further work will be required to complete the pathways around the building and improve the landscaping, again outside the main contract.*
- *There are a number of small issues which are being worked on.*

Because of the issues concerning the floor, activities in the New HQ will be restricted until this is resolved.

The original plan to demolish part of the old meeting room has been postponed. This is for a number of reasons. Firstly with the removal of the laurel hedge and the fencing of the perimeter to the proper boundary we have more space for car parking than we had anticipated. Secondly it did not seem to make sense to spend money on a building which would eventually be demolished and replaced.

Therefore we have decided to retain all of the old building as a temporary store and to concentrate on raising the funds to build the dedicated equipment store, hopefully next summer!

Come and see what you think at the AGM on 20th November!

So we are still fund-raising to equip the building (particularly the kitchen) and really do appreciate the support you have all given to these activities. The Charity Stall in September raised £650.

Monday Cubs have raised funds through the sale of their Family Favourites Recipe Book which are still available to buy and at only £3 make good Christmas presents. They have had good feedback including the following e-mail from the Stratford District Chairman –

"So glad I bought the Cookery Book your Cubs have put together. Rob and I had the Chicken Curry last night and followed the instructions to the letter. It was BRILLIANT.. Please pass on my congratulations to the Cubs, I can't wait for the next edition."

Well done to Monday Beavers who raised £115 from their 20p Fair.

Some sections still have fund-raising events to stage. An open invitation to all members of the family is extended by Thursday Cubs to their Bring and Buy sale on 21 November at 7.00pm. We are asking for unwanted toys, books and games to be donated for sale. There will be refreshments and tuck shop available.

The **Remembrance Day Service** will be held in Nuneaton on Sunday 10 November.

The Group extends its annual invitation to all parents to attend the **Annual General Meeting** which should be held in the new headquarters on Wednesday 20 November at 8pm. This is an opportunity to raise any issues of concern and to acknowledge the commitment of all our Leaders and Committee Members and indeed to look at the new premises. Refreshments will be provided after what is usually a short meeting.

Monday Beavers, like all sections, have said farewell to several of their number as they move up to the next stage of their scouting career and have welcomed some new members. They are working towards their Faith Badge and hope all will be able to attend the Group Carol Service on 9 December to complete the requirements of this badge. Beavers will also be working towards the Safety Badge and plan some fun activities in the next few weeks.

Friday Beavers have been out and about while the building work has been progressing. They had a special outing to Astley Castle in September, have visited the Fire Station and Life Church and went on a mini hike down Coronation Walk.

Cubs have been learning new skills (knotting, throwing and catching, learning how to play conkers and learning how to 'finger spell' their own names). They have been working towards badges such as the Astronomers and the IT awards. Good luck to those Cubs taking part in the District Quiz next week.

Scouts have been on Expedition, attended an extremely wet Ghost Hunt, been on their autumn camp and some joined in with Jamboree on the Air. Tuesday Scouts have had a visit from the guidedogs and visited BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire studios. Friday Scouts have been on a tramp camp, raising money for the new kitchen.

Explorers have been on D of E expeditions, for their Silver Award.



The new system of collecting subs is working well. There are still some quarterly subs outstanding for October. Individual reminders will be sent out shortly, your prompt attention would be appreciated.

Payment using the monthly direct debit system via online Scout Manager is the most efficient method saving costly reminders, trips to the bank etc. If anyone would like details please e-mail chris@avondaleparkhomes.co.uk