

11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

We wish a **Happy New Year** to all our members and their families. Many thanks to all who came to support our **Carol Service** last month: the Church was over flowing as usual.

The Group is busy planning for 2015 with an exciting camping season the highlights of which will be **County Camp** ('Get In') in May, **Summer Camp** in July and for a lucky few, a trip to Japan in the Summer for the **World Jamboree**.

Iona Brown, Michael Ford and Mike Bent from Explorers are three of 36 young people in Warwickshire to be going to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan. In November they found out that, as well as going to the Jamboree, they will be living with families in Osaka Prefecture - the home of the first conveyor belt sushi - for four days before they head to the Jamboree site! Iona, Michael and Mike can't wait for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be totally immersed in Japanese culture. Leaders can share their Jamboree experience by booking them to run a Join in Jamboree programme night: visit scouts.org.uk/JapaninaBox to book with the Unit Leaders.

We hope this year to complete the **building project** with the demolition of the old hut and the construction of a new camping and canoe store and car park.

In the meantime, we would appreciate members bringing a change of footwear during the winter months, to save mud from the outside areas being deposited into the building.

There are a considerable accumulation of coats in the hallway of the headquarters. Please check to ensure none are yours: they are destined for the charity shop in the near future. (This really underlines the need to NAME items of clothing so that we can return them easily). We also have a collection of drinks bottles which need to be cleared from the kitchen.

In order to complete the building, the **fund-raising** will continue! Many thanks to all who helped to raise money last year, especially with the Charity Stall and Sainsbury's Bag Pack.

We have been asked, once again, to provide refreshments at the open weekends at Raymond James Caravans this month. This is an important fund-raiser for us and we need some uniformed Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers to be present to collect donations at the events. Please consider giving up an hour or two on the weekends of 17th and 18th January and 24th and 25th January. Details of times and an outline rota will

soon be on the notice board at Headquarters. As usual, any time given to helping on those weekends will be recorded as voluntary service for the requirements of the relevant badges.

The **building** is available for hire for events/meetings/parties. Charges are £90 a day, £50 a half day or £15 an hour. Please speak to a Committee member or Leader if you wish to hire the building.

Our annual **Group Party** will be held at the headquarters on Saturday 31 January. Beavers and Cubs will celebrate between 4pm and 6pm and Scouts and Explorers from 6.30pm until 8.30pm. This is always an enjoyable occasion; please enter the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there. Uniform is not required and a light supper will be provided.

The Scout Association have recently switched to a new membership management system called **Compass**. It is therefore very important we have up to date details for all members and their parents/guardians. Please complete a new membership form so that our records are accurate. Email addresses will start to be an important communication method so please ensure we have your correct details. Apologies for this, but it is really important. Thank you.

We have taken this opportunity to review our policies, particularly regarding photography and social media. Please read the revised details via our new website.

Thank you to all who **pay subscriptions** online: these are £10 per month for 10 months of the year. We encourage those members who have not yet switched to the new method to do so as this is much easier for our volunteers to manage and means we don't have to chase payments. To start paying using the easy online system, please send an email to myscout@11thnuneaton.org.uk from the account you wish to receive the payment requests and we will set up the system for you. You just need your bank account number and sort code. Full details can be found at <http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk/our-monthly-payments-policy.html> Alternatively, please speak to your section leader.

For those unwilling to use the online system, your cheque for £25 to cover the first quarter of 2015 is now due. Please pay to your section leader promptly.

Thank You.

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We look forward to our busiest term of camps, outdoor activities, important fund raising and the completion of our building works.

Next Sunday, 19 April, is the annual **St George's Day Parade** when the Groups from around the District come together for the ceremonial parade and presentation of awards. This year the event is being staged by Wolvey Scouts who have organised an outdoor ceremony. Members will be meeting at Wolvey School at 1.30pm, dressed appropriately for the weather. Section leaders will have further details.

Our **Charity Stall** on Nuneaton Market is Saturday 9 May. This is a significant fund-raiser for the Group; raising at least £500 most years. So we need donations of tombola items (unopened gifts, bottles etc) in addition to cakes and plants to sell.

Please take any contributions to the Scout Hut on any meeting evening or deliver to Carol Cottrell, 16 Winchester Avenue (02476387375) or Sandra Parker, 67 Shanklin Drive (02476328738). We really do depend on your donations to make the occasion worthwhile. We also need some Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers in uniform to help attract customers to our stall. Please have a word with a Leader or Committee member if you think you could help: as usual any service will be entered on records.



The following weekend 15-17th May will see over one hundred of our Group participate in the **County Camp 'Get In'**. Thank you to everyone for getting the final balance paid off - details regarding times and coach travel will be available to all participants in the very near future. It promises to be another great event!

Details and an invitation to this year's **Family Camp** on the weekend of 12-14 June will be distributed very soon. This year we have moved from our usual location to Beaumanor Hall Outdoor Learning Centre, near Loughborough. There will be a whole load of new activities, plus many of our traditional ones, in a similar format to previous camps.

Preparations are well under way for this year's **Summer Camp**. Its open to Scouts, Explorers, Network and Leaders and is held in the first week of the school

holidays, 18-25 July. We are to return to Buddens Campsite in Dorset. Letters have already gone out for this camp, so please return them as soon as possible. Additional letters are available from your section leader. As normal, we shall be holding a parents meeting on 23rd June where the final balance and health forms will be due. We can also discuss the final details, kit and any other issues you would like to ask.

Many thanks to those of you who collect **Sainsbury's Active Kids** vouchers. We have been able to purchase some very useful equipment in the past and hope to do so again this time.



Congratulations to our **Scout Troops** who have between them won the District Quiz, District Football Tournament, District Challenge Day and District Tug of War Competition in the last couple of months!

More congratulations need to go to Edward Vernon for completing his **Scouts of the World Award**. He has been working for many months with all sections educating our young people and building insect boxes of varying sizes. This culminated in installing a 7 pallet high bug box at our local campsite, Fox Coverts, with some other Network Scouts.



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BEAVERS  **cubs**  **SCOUTS** 

EXPLORERS  **network** 

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We are well underway with another busy and successful camping term. **County Camp**, held last month at Ragley Hall, proved to be a memorable experience for all involved: so many varied activities on offer that few were able to get round everything. The weather was kind to us in spite of cold nights, and leaders were impressed with the cooperation and good behaviour of all our youngsters. We are sure all enjoyed the weekend and took something home with them of what it means to be part of such a large and flourishing organisation as the Scout movement. Special thanks must be extended to Doug and Myra Shorter who worked so hard and put so much time into the planning and organisation of the Weddington contingent of such a large camp.

Family Camp turned out to be an enjoyable and rewarding weekend in spite of the very wet weather on Friday and Saturday. Campers took part in some different challenges including an impressive high ropes course, climbing,



abseiling and group pioneering tasks such as bridge building. They enjoyed a barbecue and campfire on Saturday evening when the rain held off and were able to have breakfast and break camp during some welcome sunshine on Sunday morning. Thanks to those who bought a baked potato supper on Friday evening – you raised a useful £68 for our building fund. And of course many thanks to everyone involved in organising and supporting a Group camp that is always very special in our camping programme.

Scout and Explorer Summer Camp, to be held in the first week of the school holidays, is very close now. There will be a parents meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 23rd June. At this meeting we will require the balance payment (£130 for those that have already paid the £50 deposit), complete the medical forms (two per person), fill in a shooting permission form and discuss the final details such as pick up times. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions and discuss kit required etc. We encourage all Scouts to pay into our Camp Bank system to keep money safe - it would make our admin easier if this could be paid in on the night as well.

Many thanks to all who contributed towards and helped with the **Charity Stall** on Nuneaton Market at the beginning of May. We raised well over £500 for the building fund. This fund is still short of the amount needed to complete the building works at our Headquarters but we are hopeful that the demolition of the old building and the replacement with a purpose-built store will still go ahead in late summer/early Autumn although the landscaping and car park may have to be put on hold for now.

We are hoping that the next fund-raising event will be a supermarket bag pack but have no date for this as yet.

Our Scout Group has a special interest in recent events in **Nepal**.

For the last seven years, 11th Nuneaton has sponsored the education of Nepalese girl triplets, Shradha, Shreha and Shristi. Their father, Balram, a Scout leader in Kathmandu (who came to England for the Jamboree of 2007), has been very involved with rescue work after the earthquakes which hit the city and is now trying to help young people come to terms with what has happened.

He desperately wants toys and activities to entertain the children. Unfortunately we are unable to send actual toys as the Nepalese Government puts an import tax on anything arriving, which the scouts in Nepal would have to pay; therefore the only thing we can send is money.

We have photos of the family, working in the earthquake aftermath, on the notice board in the Headquarters and a collection box for any contribution you might like to make. Otherwise please give a donation in a marked envelope to a leader who will ensure that Myra Shorter (who is our contact with them) can add it to the money we have already collected. Thank you.

Finally, a massive thank you must go to **Mark and Michelle Smedley** who are soon to leave the group for a new life in Cornwall. Their contribution to Weddington

scouting over many years has been huge; not just in the running of Friday Scout troop but in all aspects of our activities and scouting events.

They will be truly missed but everyone at 11th Nuneaton Scout

Group wishes them well for the future and the best of luck with their new venture. We know they will be back to see us.

There will be no meetings at the Headquarters during the summer holiday (although some of the older groups may arrange some off-site activities) and all sections will meet as usual during the week after the August bank holiday. We wish all members and their families a lovely summer break and look forward to meeting up again in September.

BEAVERS  **cubs**  **SCOUTS** 

EXPLORERS  **network** 

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A quick round up of the autumn term so far:

Monday Beavers have sent six members up the river and wish them well in Cubs, and are busy investing new Kits. They have learned first aid, have worked on skills and team work challenge badges and are planning a torch lit walk.

Friday Beavers have welcomed seven new members this term and are having fun getting to know each other. They have recently completed the global issues badge and have enjoyed some Halloween-themed cooking.

The highlight of the term has been the County Beaver Event where they had big adventures in the great outdoors and learned a lot about backwoods skills.

Fosse (Monday) Cubs walked a rather damp but well attended night hike and wish to thank all who turned out to help on the evening. The Pack has made bat masks and spider truffles. Congratulations to the members of their quiz team who won the District event and are looking forward to entering the County competition. Good luck to them.



The Pack is losing three of its young leaders as Jonathan goes off to university, Alison joins the RAF and Gillian, the Army. We wish all three every success for the future. Their departure does, however, leave opportunities for new adults to get involved with the leadership team. We would welcome anyone who feels they would like to help in any way on Monday evenings.

Watling (Thursday) Cubs have been working towards their Scientist Badge and enjoyed an interesting trip to Tesco in Bedworth to learn about the origins of the food we buy. Cubs wish to thank everyone who supported their Macmillan evening on 1 October: a very useful £66 was raised. Congratulations to newly invested member, Bailey, who came 3rd in the District Cub Fishing competition with the impressive carp he caught.

Tuesday Scouts enjoyed joining Friday Troop for a visit from International Adventurer Anna McDuff. The Scouts enjoyed a fascinating talk and took the opportunity to ask lots of questions about travel and finding adventure. They have also been working toward the Creative Challenge and Teamwork Challenge.

Friday Scouts have appointed new patrols, patrol leaders, assistant leaders and awarded numerous badges. They have been building armour

out of recycled materials as well as cooking up interesting kitchen creations and using their senses to sniff out hidden objects. Completing the Personal Challenge and attending Autumn camp will be next on a busy agenda for Scouts this term.



Explorers have been to Swadlincote tubing and tobogganing and have been scuba diving and snorkelling in addition to fitness training. They have been set the £1 meal challenge and many of them have been working hard on their Duke of Edinburgh challenges.

All this has been going on in spite of the **building work** happening around us. Work is well underway on the new store and we are now hopeful that the grounds and car park will be completed at the same time. This will necessitate the whole site being totally closed for a week in November. This will happen at very short notice and may mean notification by e-mail. Please watch out for this.

Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are asked to attend the **Remembrance Day Parade** in Nuneaton on Sunday 8 November. Please meet by the fountain in the Market Place at 10.15 in full uniform with a coat or waterproof if the weather is bad. Please wear a visible poppy. We should return to the Market Place at about 11.30 am.

The Group's **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the headquarters on Wednesday 25 November at 8.00pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend a short meeting followed by refreshments. This is a chance to raise concerns, pose questions, become more involved in the work of 11th Nuneaton or indeed show appreciation of the contribution made by all our volunteer leaders, helpers and committee members.

All members and their families are invited to the **Group Carol Service** on Thursday 3 December at 6.30. This is always a well-attended and special event in our year.

Another date for the diary: the Group's **Annual Party** will be held as usual at the end of January. Beavers and Cubs, followed by Scouts and Explorers will party at the headquarters on the afternoon and early evening of Saturday 30 January.

Looking further ahead:

- 17-20 June 2016, Cub Centenary Camp
- 1-3 July 2016, Family Camp
- 23-30 July, Summer Camp for Scouts/Explorers

BEAVERS* **cubs*** **SCOUTS***

EXPLORERS* **network***