

# 11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

## Introduction

We are well into an important new year at Weddington Scouts. The group will be going through some changes this year whilst still looking forward to our usual timetable of events and camps, in particular the Cub County Camp (17-20th June) which is celebrating one hundred years of cub scouting.



Already this year our Leaders joined with Cub leaders from throughout the County to enjoy a special dinner at the beginning of the year to kick start the celebrations. We also had another successful group party in January.

## All Change

Doug Shorter has been lead volunteer (Group Scout Leader) of Weddington Scouts for many years and before that a Scout Troop Leader and Venture Scout Unit Leader. In fact he has been involved since his days as a Cub in the 1950s and the Group owes immense gratitude to his dedication and commitment in building up such a successful and flourishing Scout Group.



It is now time for him to retire from the GSL post, but he remains active and integral to the organisation of events, activities and management of the building. Thank you, Doug, for all you have done.

Chris Ball, our Treasurer and the driving force behind our fantastic new headquarters, will also be stepping down from his role early next year. Again we offer our sincere thanks for everything he has done for the group.

Chris Cottrell, currently Tuesday Scout leader and also involved with Weddington Scouts since joining as a 6 year old Beaver in 1989, will succeed Doug as Group Scout Leader. We wish him good luck with his new responsibilities.



Chris will begin his role by leading an adult recruitment drive to bring more volunteers into the Scouting family and enable us to continue to offer amazing opportunities and experiences to our young people. We want to bring new ideas and energy into both the Scouting side (the leaders you see at every section meeting) and also the background

roles, starting with treasurer. Other background roles include fundraising, record keeping, catering and HQ maintenance.

If you would like to get involved in any capacity, please contact Chris on [chriscottrell@me.com](mailto:chriscottrell@me.com) or visit our website [www.11thnuneaton.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk/volunteering) which has lots more information about the opportunities we have available.

## Sign up now for Family Camp

Planning is well underway for our ever-popular Family Camp. This will again be held at Beaumanor activity centre on the weekend of 1-3 July. Letters, with details, are now being distributed. Please ask leaders for anything else you need to know, or better still ask parents who have attended previous family camps: they are sure to be enthusiastic!

## Summer Camp

Annual Summer Camp for Scouts and Explorers will be at Walesby Activity Centre, near Sherwood Forest, the week of 23-30th July. This year there will be an opportunity for a couple of parents to join us and help with the running of the camp. Details available very soon.

## Fundraising

Fund-raising remains an important concern: we still have our grounds to landscape and the new store to paint and equip. The Charity stall on Nuneaton Market is our next opportunity to raise money. This year we have the stall on Saturday 21 May. We really need donations for the tombola: unwanted gifts, and new or nearly new items which you no longer need, will be much appreciated. Please bring contributions to the Headquarters at any meeting between now and the middle of May, if possible in a bag or box marked 'Tombola'. If anyone would like to volunteer with us for this one morning or can donate cakes or plants to sell, please get in touch.

## Safety Alert

It has come to our attention that some parents are driving up the drive and turning round in the car park. For safety reasons parents are asked to walk up the drive or park in Ambleside. Please do not drive right up to the gate as this is contributing to the significant problems with mud there. Thank you.

## Sainsburys Vouchers

Once again we are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please bring your vouchers to the Scout Hut and post them in the box there. This is a fabulous opportunity for us to improve our facilities and equipment. Previous years have seen us acquire sports mats, rucksacks, games equipment and even a fridge!

## Signing up for Beavers

For those wishing to register new members for Beavers, you can either go to the web site OR ask for a form at the Headquarters. Your details will be entered onto our database. Places will be offered as and when they become available, on a first come first served basis - so the earlier you sign up for the waiting list the better - we sometimes have people sign up the day they are born!

## St George's Day Parade

Watch out for details of the District's St George's Day Parade which will be on the afternoon of Sunday 24 April. We would like everyone to join us for this annual celebration of Scouting.

# CAN YOU INSPIRE?

The first half of 2016 has once again been a busy year of activities of section meetings, activities, events and camps. Our young people have been on camps, been to district events, earned lots of badges and awards and learned many new skills. However this success has masked a leadership issue which we are currently in the middle of tackling.

We have an urgent need to recruit new adults into the group in order to cover a number of adults who have either retired or are due to retire in the near future. Specifically, we would like volunteers at Monday Beavers, Monday Cubs, Thursday Cubs and Friday Scouts to come and join in the fun - its not just for the young people! Without adults volunteering, we will be forced to close down sections which will result in a loss of Scouting for our young people.

More details regarding volunteering as a section leader are attached to this newsletter. Please have a look and see if you can help us.

We have already had a great response to our parent rota on Monday Beavers - we wouldn't be able to run without the help our parents have already given - so many thanks to them all. If you can volunteer once a term you will still be making a massive contribution!

If volunteering sounds like something you can help us with, please get in touch with any section leader or Chris Cottrell, GSL, via our website. There really are no qualifications to join us - just enthusiasm and a desire to have fun yourself! We thank those who have already put their hands up and hope more will join them.

Our website has much more information so please visit [www.11thnuneaton.org.uk](http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk) and click on Can You Inspire?

Meanwhile our Scouting has continued apace. Cubs have enjoyed special activities to celebrate one hundred years of cub scouting, culminating in the centenary camp for over 1,000 Warwickshire Cubs. This was held in June at the Heart of England centre near Meriden and involved a whole range of very different activities including rowing, kayaking, climbing, abseiling, archery, bush craft, games, challenges and craft work. They attended welcoming and closing ceremonies and watched an impressive firework display.

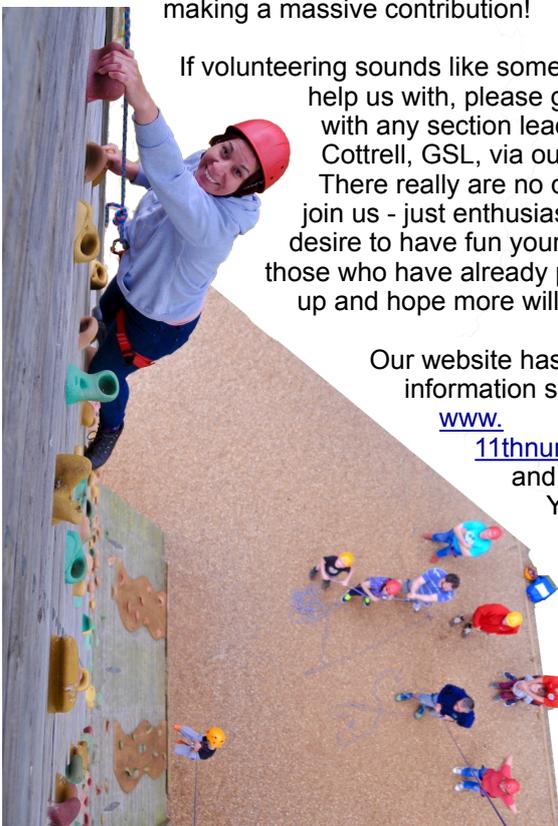


Many members of our Group have just returned from another very successful **Family Camp**. We travelled to Beaumanor Outdoor centre in Leicestershire for a weekend of fun activities and challenges for youngsters and parents alike. The weather was kind to us on the whole and the activities provided proved to be very popular. Thanks to all who participated and special thanks to Leaders and committee members who worked so hard to make the weekend a success. Special thanks to Doug and Myra Shorter for the overall organisation of the camp.

During our **Annual General Meeting** at Family Camp, awards were presented to both Doug Shorter, our retiring Group Scout Leader, who received his 50 years service commendation and to Chris Ball, our retiring Treasurer, who received the Medal of Merit in recognition of his many years of service to Weddington Scouts. These awards come in addition to the Medal of Merit awarded to Carol Ball and the Silver Acorn awarded to Myra Shorter at St George's Day Parade in April. All must be truly thanked for their invaluable contribution to our flourishing scout group.

Thanks to everyone who contributed towards and helped with our **Charity Stall** on Nuneaton Market in May. We raised £585 towards the completion of the building projects.

Over the summer we will be looking at using **Gift Aid** as a fundraising tool. Please look out for an email from our subscriptions service (My.Scout) and fill in the details when requested. This allows us to claim tax back on all subs payments without any extra cost to either parents or Scouts.



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As 2016 draws to a close, we can reflect on another successful, enjoyable and active year with highlights including the Cub 100 celebrations, many hikes, camps and outings to run along side our busy section programmes.

We must thank our very dedicated leadership team, our hard-working committee members and our very supportive parents without whom some sections would find difficulty in meeting on a regular basis. Monday Beavers particularly wish to thank all those parents who have willingly stayed to help with their sessions. We are also very grateful to the five parents who responded to our plea for **new Cub leaders** and have agreed to head up a section in the new year. We wish them good luck and will do all we can to support them in their new roles.

Thanks to all who collected **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**. We have gained some floor mats, cooking equipment and further games items from the collection we made.

**Cubs** from both packs took part in a memorable District visit to RAF Cosford last month. Monday (Fosse) Cubs enjoyed a brilliant visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind when they learned about the training of a puppy who came to see them. They also experienced various activities while blind-folded. Congratulations to Charlie Woods who won the District Fishing Competition.

Thursday (Watling) Cubs have worked for their navigator badge and have had a couple of evening hikes. The Pack is preparing for a change of leadership and a new meeting evening. Cara Cramp is stepping down as Akela from 15 December. She has been involved in 11<sup>th</sup> Nuneaton for 30 years and intends to remain involved in other roles within our Group. Meanwhile we must thank her for her tremendous commitment and for guiding Thursday Cubs for so many years and helping a large number of youngsters to fulfil their potential in scouting. Ed Ford will also be leaving the Pack at Christmas as he concentrates on his university course: we thank him for his committed leadership over several years and wish him well with his studies. Ed also intends to continue his support within the Group and will help when he can.

From 13 January 2017, Watling Cubs will transfer to Friday evenings. We will meet directly after Beavers at 7.15 pm and will finish at 8.30 pm. In order to help the transition, we are asking that Cubs arrive promptly, so we can start (and therefore finish!) exactly on time. We hope these changes will help in the future, improved organisation of the section programmes and will not inconvenience too many of our members.

Cubs from both Packs will attend a district event on 16 December to renew their Promise and bring the Cub centenary year to a close.

**Scouts** have had a successful Summer Camp, in Walesby, Nottinghamshire, where 3 members, Josh, Ellen and Laura, completed their Gold Chief Scout Award.



In October, we entered and won the District Ghost Hunt Competition. In November we came second in the District Football Tournament, a week later had a brilliant visit from Poppy the sniffer dog from the UK Border Agency and then had a sleepover camp at Mancetter Scout Hut the next day.



Due to the change in cup pack meeting nights, Friday Scouts will now be moving to a Thursday, still from 7:30 - 9pm. This change will be from January 2017.

**Explorers** are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and have been taking part in first aid training over the last four weeks.

All members and their families are invited to our **Carol Service** at St James Church in Weddington on the evening of Monday 5 December at 6.30pm. This is always a lovely and very popular start to our Christmas celebrations.

Our **Group Party** will be held as usual in the new year. On Saturday 28 January, Beavers and Cubs will party between 4.00pm and 6.00pm followed by Scouts and Explorers between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. This will be non-uniform and a light supper provided. So please make a note of the date now.

It will be necessary to update our records in January as the annual census is required by Scouting Headquarters. So we will need everyone to fill in the membership forms again in the new year. Please return them promptly so we can keep our records in order.

Happy Christmas to all our members and their families and we all look forward to another good scouting year in 2017.