

Group News November 2015



It appears that our last newsletter was back in March and we have done so much since then! Over the summer we had a number of great camps:

Family camp at Walesby was very grey and wet, but didn't dampen our spirits – we even managed some outdoor drumming, pass the parcel with a difference, climbing, body boarding and more. Taking cover indoors led to some interesting dance moves which certainly lightened a dreary day! If you would like to join us next year the date is June 10th-12th.

Group Camp was a lovely sunny weekend AFTER a deluge of water when we arrived. Everything was soaked, especially when we were caught off guard through dealing with a one wheeled trailer. But hey – the sun came out, dried us all off and we spent the weekend chopping and cooking on wood fires and gas stoves, to prepare a scrummy 3 course meal, which would have been the envy of many catering establishments. We also managed to take part in cave tunnelling, catapulting, and pioneering.



Scouts Summer Camp was spent in a beautiful spot overlooking Ullswater in the Lake District. Following a very sunny arrival and a lovely warm walk in the hills, we then spent our time either, in, on or under the water! It rained most of the time we were there – but we didn't let it spoil the camp. We canoed 10 miles across Ullswater, went gorge walking, hiking (amid 6 foot high wet bracken) and had some indoor shelter on the climbing wall in Keswick. A great time was had by all.

Whilst we have been busy enjoying the outdoors, a former scout, Lisa Walden, challenged herself at the start of the year to learn to swim front crawl –

and to swim in the sea as part of the Boscombe to Bournemouth pier to pier challenge. Not only did Lisa achieve this but she also raised a whopping £1063.00 for our New Build funds. **Thank You Lisa!** Many thanks too to everyone who sponsored her.

Meanwhile over the Summer, Jess Gill a young leader with the group has been enjoying overseas camping in Japan, as part of the **World Jamboree**. Along with 33,000 scouts from almost every country in the world, Jess enjoyed non-stop activities, visiting Tokyo and Hiroshima, numerous activities on site and staying with a Japanese family. What an adventure!

Since returning in September, amongst many other activities the group have all been involved with leading the **harvest festival** at St John's Church, directed by Sarah, our Beaver leader. Lots of paint, cardboard, silver paper and drums were involved, but the service was enjoyed by many. Well done to everyone who took part.

At the end of September 12 Scouts took part in the **Yorkshire Rose Challenge** camp in the grounds of Hardwick Hall! A stunning setting. We had a great time. Both teams took part with great spirit, but we were really delighted when one of the teams came second. For some it was also a great location to be invested in to scouts – what a stunning back drop.



Of course we can't have the kids having all the fun, it's important that we get parents taking part and climbing trees too!



In October the Beavers took part in a **District Badge Day**, achieving their Experimental & International badges, by trying lots of activities, including making butter. Some of our Cubs took part in **JOTA (Jamboree on The Air)**, with the Worksop amateur radio group, learning how to communicate with other scouts throughout the world by radio.

In November, we had some very welcome support for our **“All Hands on Deck”** session at the scout hut. We are very grateful to everyone who took part – parents and children. A lovely Autumn day – even the rain stopped. It is surprising what can be achieved when we all work together – and what a difference we made! Hopefully everyone noticed how tidy it was the following day when we gathered together for our **Remembrance Parade** and service. What a great turn out we had. We are



all very proud of how smart everyone looked and how well behaved all our members were. For our tomorrows, so

many gave their todays. Hopefully by encouraging the children to reflect on this, we will become a more peaceful world.

The **Scout Band** has continued to flourish under the guidance of Joe Bairstow and Frankie Shaw and it has been great to get some new members. They have all excelled themselves too, taking part in both the Harvest Festival and the Remembrance parades, with style. Not easy when you are trying to play and to march at the same time.

The weekend saw most of the group at Walesby Scout Activity centre for our **Walesby Activity Day**. Our annual shooting competition, making fires, burning sausages, wide games, a festival of light and chatting to parents around the fires made a very special afternoon.

As time starts gathering pace towards Christmas we still have much to look forward to. Our **shoebox service** is Sunday 22nd November. We would

welcome any donations of toiletries, hats, gloves, small games, colouring books and crayons – or you can collect a box to fill at home. So little to give for so much appreciation in return, take a look at our footage in the scout hut. The shoeboxes will all be taken to the service at Church, which everyone is welcome to attend.

We are taking part in the Church **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 28th November, so please come along and have a bacon butty or make some lovely edible Christmas treats.

The **Cubs have a walk in Derbyshire** on 5th December, travelling by train. Parents are welcome too.

The annual **Scout & Guide Xmas party** is on the 10th December, with a disco and party games for the younger ones and a surprise treat for the older ones..

Saturday 21st November, the scouts are doing a good turn, supporting **Help for Heroes** by helping them to bag pack at Morrisons in Worksop, raising funds for this worthwhile cause.

Our own fundraising efforts continue both for the group and our new build. We will be starting to sell **reindeer food** at the end of the month so please help us to sell as much as we can. If you can take some to sell at work, or know of a local shop or pub that will sell them, then please get in touch. The Beavers will be making some but we also need **volunteers** at the scout hut on Tuesday 24th November 7pm to help.



Our **100 Club** is short of numbers, we have at least 50 still available. Please encourage friends and family to join. The forms are all in the scout hut and on the web site.

Easyfundraising is as easy as it sounds. Just log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and seek out 11th Rotherham Scout Group, when you make any purchases on line. So far we have raised over £500 towards activities through this and there is potential to raise much more. Of course the beauty of this is that it doesn't matter whereabouts your friends and family live in the country they can easily take part.

The more we manage to raise the more subsidised activities we can provide in 2016.

Over the Christmas period we have been given the opportunity to **bag pack** at Sainsburys, Crystal Peaks. Our Scouts and older Cubs are great at doing this and really enjoy it, but of course it does rely on parents helping by transporting them about. The list will soon be up in the scout hut so please encourage your children to help where they can and thank you in advance for your support.

Good communication is always something we strive hard to maintain in the group, so please help us to help you by ensuring that we are communicating with you through correct email addresses, phone numbers etc. For anyone who has not yet registered on our website, please do so as we have lots of lovely photos on there of your children, but you need to be registered to access them. www.11throtherhamscouts.org.uk

With the ever increasing part that social media plays in our lives we have also started a **facebook page** for our group (11th Rotherham scout group). This is a public site, so that we can promote what our group is doing and share information with you and others. Everyone should have received a consent form for photos to appear on the site. Please make sure that we know if you do not want your child to appear on this site. There will never be an occasion when a photo of your child will appear on the site with their full name attached. Also all content will be carefully monitored.



Be Prepared is our scouting motto and “we are prepared” is our group response, so just a reminder about a couple of things... We do not have running water in the scout hut so you may want to send your child with a drinks bottle. We have to access St John’s hall each time anyone needs the loo, so it is a big help if you can ensure that the children have been before they come to a meeting. If we have an outdoor activity planned it will not be cancelled unless the weather is **extremely bad**; we expect that your child will arrive suitably prepared, hats,

gloves, boots, waterproofs etc. If you don’t hear otherwise always assume that the planned event is taking place. Activities are really just as much fun in the wind and rain – honest.

Everyone in the group achieves so much outside of scouting, whether it is as part of a club or hobbies and commitments at home, but very often these **achievements** will qualify for badges in scouting. We have badge books available to buy or log on to www.scouts.org.uk to see what your child needs to do to gain their activity badge and have a chat with the leaders.

Congratulations to the following people who have recently achieved their Chief Scouts Awards – the highest award in their section.

Cubs – Silver Award –Ella Mae Ashby, George Bolsover, Stefan Oczadly

Scouts – Gold Award -Katie Lawrenson

Congratulations too, to Marek Oczadly who was awarded an **Outstanding Good Turn certificate**, for organising a sponsored bike ride himself and raising lots of money for Bluebell Wood.

Not forgetting our leaders too. Paddy Bass, was presented with a carriage clock on Remembrance Sunday in recognition of the 40 years he has played the Last Post for our local community- not to mention all those years playing in the Scout Band.



A great way to keep all your child’s badges and to collect badges from all the places they visit in scouting, is to have a camp blanket. Any fleece or blanket is fine, badges can be stuck on or sewn on and the blankets can be brought to camp for extra warmth around the campfire or on the sleeping bag at night.

Already we have so much to look forward too in 2016, so much so that there is a diary attached to remind you what is happening and when, with deadline dates where required.

2016 is the Cub Scout Centenary – 100 years since Cubs started and we are going to celebrate in style. In February we have a County thank you event taking part at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. In the Spring we will be having a “pop up café” and inviting everyone who has been a cub in the last 100 years to come along – so please spread the word. In May we will be taking part in a 3 night Cub Centenary camp at Walesby, in July we are having a Cub Centenary float in Harthill Carnival and in December we have a Promise party. And if you are wondering if the Cubs are changing their uniform back to wearing caps- no – they are just for the Centenary.

At the start of the year the group will be attending **Aladdin on Saturday 9th January** at the Montgomery Theatre performed by our very own local Wales Musical Theatre group. Tickets for our group visit are available now – but are limited, so don't delay in booking your tickets.

Saturday 16th January is the **NESST challenge walk** which the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers took part in last year. This time the Beavers will be taking part too. Places need to be booked before the end of the year. Letters out soon.

Of course there are lots of camps too, so keep an eye on the diary dates sheet which will be regularly updated on the website and in the scout hut.

Next year part of our focus will be on the **Million Hands** project. Our challenge is for all our young people to be more understanding about dementia, how it affects people in our community and what we can do to make things better. If you have any suggestions on how we can help in our community we would love to hear from you.

At half term we said our farewells to Alice Foster who has been a Scout leader with the group for

many years. Alice has regularly travelled from Sheffield, sometimes on 2 buses each way, to volunteer at our scout group – but now that she has re-located to the Orkneys the travelling back and forth is going to be a challenge too far! We are sad to see Alice go but wish her well in the Orkneys – and hopefully she will be joining us at camp in the summer. Fancy taking on her role? Or know of anyone who might be interested?



Scouting is fun for adults too, so if you want to come on board and join us we would love to hear from you. Whether it is helping in the background as secretary or fundraiser or being a leader, we are sure you won't regret it. Give our Group Scout Leader, Sue, a call on 07974308479 to find out more.

We welcome any ideas, feedback, constructive criticism and praise!

**MAKING EVERY DAY
AN ADVENTURE.**

