



84th Reading
(1st Earley St. Peters)

Registered Charity No. 306101/SC038437

Newsletter November 2023

#Skillsforlife



Your latest edition includes an urgent request for a volunteer for Chairperson, updates from our sections about activities and camps, information about our Finch Road site, news from our Exec Committee and some Save the Dates!

PARENTS – We urgently need your help!

We urgently need a volunteer for the role of 'Chairperson' of our Trustee Board (Committee).

This is an **urgent request**, as we **must** have a Chairperson to continue operating (to comply with Charity Commission rules).

The 'Trustee Board' (Committee) is mainly made up of volunteer parents of existing young people in our Beavers, Cubs, and Scout Sections. We meet approximately twice a term.

The main responsibilities of Group 'Chairperson' are:

- i) Chair the Group 'Trustee Board' (Committee) meetings
- ii) Follow up the completion of actions from these meetings
- iii) Act as a trustee for our Scout Group (as we are a charity)
- iv) Act as a point of contact for the Leaders of our Group Sections
- v) Support the Group Treasurer and Secretary
- vi) Keep in touch with the Scout District and other relevant community members

The volunteer would be supported by all members of the Group (especially if they are new). No previous experience of Scouting is needed (though it would be preferable). The role could be shared.

If you have a young person in our group, could you or your partner please consider volunteering for this role?

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Malcolm Paine (Parent Volunteer)

malcolm@84threadingscouts.org.uk

Other Vacant roles:

1. Group Scout Leader (GSL)
2. Long term Sea Scout Leader & Assistant Leader
3. Assistant Treasurer
4. Property Maintenance
5. Executive Committee members
6. Sailing Instructor
7. Assistant DBS checker

Some of these roles are purely administrative and others could be shared if you are concerned about the time commitment.

84th Reading depends entirely on its volunteers to continue operating successfully.
Please consider supporting our current volunteers
and let us know if you think you can help.

A Message from the Exec Committee

Leaders

We would like to thank our Beaver Leaders Alison and Martin; our Cub Leaders Lisa, Mark, Ronan and Ananjan; our Scout Leaders Richard, Jordan, Oscar and Natasha; our Sea Scout Leaders Alvin, Natasha, James and Gaurav. The hours they volunteer to give the children brilliant experiences and life-long lessons which en-rich their lives is unbelievable and we are truly grateful to them.

Goodbyes

We have said a big thank you to Jane, our Cub Leader, who is stepping down after 15 years. We are extremely grateful for all the time Jane has committed to the Group for so many years. Jane will continue in her role of District Training Co-ordinator, so will continue to support the Group.

Finch Road update

84th Reading have an old building in Finch Road that is used to store all the equipment that is needed for camps and other events and activities. The building was originally a Scout hut used for weekly meetings, but as the group grew in size we outgrew the building and decided to use it for storage instead.

Over the last few months, our Property Maintenance Coordinator, Ian Abbott, has been investigating various options for improving the site, as it is in much need for some maintenance and TLC. Over a weekend in July, some parents and Scout leaders helped clear a large area of the site, filling a skip with soil, rubble and green waste, which has made a big improvement and helps to get the site ready for the next stage of refurbishment.

The plan for the next few months is to replace the old asbestos roof and guttering, repair the brickwork and fit some new doors. Some of the plumbing also needs renewing, a new fence added and a concrete slab laid where the soil and rubble were removed. We then hope to repaint both outside and inside to tidy it up and get it ready for the winter months. This should give us a refreshed storage site that will last for many years to come.

The roof is due to be replaced in mid-November but there are lots of small jobs to be done before then and afterwards. If anyone would like to help with some of the painting, DIY jobs or occasional weeding, either as a one-off or something more regular, this would be much appreciated. Please let Ian Abbott know if you would be happy to help.

ian@84threadingscouts.org.uk



A Message from the Exec Committee cont..

Jamboree

In August this year, one of our current Scouts, and two of our former Scouts (now Explorers) attended the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. More than 40,000 Scouts/Explorers attend from all over the world, providing an unforgettable experience.

The Board of Trustees

Chairperson *Vacant position*

Treasurer *Jason Sutton*, ensures our accounts are in order, manages our budget and deals with payments and funds received. Jason also runs the Christmas tree fundraiser each year. Jason's oldest son was a Beaver, Cub and Sea Scout, and has now joined the Explorers. His younger son was a Beaver and a Cub and is now a Sea Scout.

Secretary *Tiffany Forshaw*, arranges our Trustee meetings and takes the Minutes. She initiated our Additional Needs form to ensure all children are included and given the right help where possible. Tiffany's son was a Beaver and a Cub and her other son will start as a Beaver next year.

IT specialist *Kevin Deadman*, runs our website, emails and creates our Newsletters along with his wife, Sara. Kevin and Sara's son was a Beaver and a Cub and is now a Scout. Their youngest son will start as a Beaver in the new year.

Assistant Scout Leader *Jordon Norval*, who is also joint **Quartermaster** maintaining and distributing equipment across the Group. He also helps to maintain our Finch Road and St. Peters Scout Hut

Scout Leader *Richard Taylor*, who is also **Leader Representative**. Richard communicates on behalf of all the other Leaders at the Board of Trustee meetings. He is also a joint **Quartermaster** and looks after our minibus.

Parent Volunteer *Malcolm Paine*, organises our annual Regatta fundraiser event which includes the catering and stake boats over two weekends. Malcolm's sons were Cubs and Scouts and Sea Scouts and he still has one son in Scouts.

Property Co-ordinator *Ian Abbott*, takes care of our property as it requires regular maintenance and is also under review to be renovated which means a lot of time and effort has gone into obtaining quotes. Ian's son has been a Beaver and a Cub and is now a Scout.

Membership Co-ordinator *Vicki Randall*. She is also our DBS check coordinator and manages the annual census. Vicki's son was a Cub and Sea Scout and is now a Sea Scouts Section Assistant. She also had another son in Cubs and Scouts.

BEAVERS

Beavers had a wonderful summer term with the highlight being our katakanoe session on the Thames at Wokingham Waterside Centre. We also enjoyed a hike through the High Wood and round the South Lake, and Highland Games in Sol Joel Park.

The Health and Fitness activity badge was achieved as we learnt about looking after our bodies, taking exercise and making sensible food choices. We made healthy snacks and created posters. The Digital Creator badge was awarded after a fun evening learning about technology, graphics and programming. The Builder badge was achieved in silence as the Beavers were so absorbed in designing and building their models using K-Nex.

Beavers had a fantastic time at Paddicks Patch in July when we joined the cubs for challenging games. It's always great fun when we play together.

We returned to Paddicks Patch for more games at our first meeting of the autumn term and got very wet which was ideal since it was rather hot! So far this term we have learnt about how foodbanks help our community and helped to pack eggs. The next week we went to Asda to develop our budgeting skills to buy donations for the foodbank. We also went on a walk to Redhatch Copse for a mini beast hunt and have made machines from recycled materials.

Yet to come this term is our Beaver Sleepover in Emmer Green, a ten pin bowling trip, learning morse code and first aid, having fun in the dark, our International Evening and the District Christmas Party!

Many thanks to the Explorers who are our Young Leaders and to all our parent helpers.



cubs



Cubs had a great summer term. We started with an amazing Origami evening (thank you to Callum's parents!), followed by Map reading and then our Back to Basics camp at Compton, which involved lots of snakes and lizards (from Berkshire Reptiles).

We had a great night hike from Mortimer, went Katacanoeing, had fires and water games at Paddicks Patch and cycled round Dinton Pastures. Summer camp near Winchester, together with Compton Cubs was a great success, with lots of on site activities, as well as water sports near Southampton.



We said a sad farewell to Jane as she left our Cub Leadership team after summer camp. We have moved into Autumn with Lisa (Akela), Mark (Rocky), Ronan (Baloo), Ananjan (Kaa) and our young leaders Elliot and Laura.



SCOUTS

With Monday night Scouts running at capacity of 24, our Scouts spent the summer term focusing most of their attention on the expedition challenge award. After beginning the term celebrating the King's coronation by making themed no-bake sweets, Scouts started learning all the skills and knowledge required to go on a successful expedition.

Map reading skills sessions ensured the Scouts knew how to navigate a route and understand how to go the right way, but also what to do if they go wrong.

This was followed by a night hike and orienteering course to put learnt skills into practise.

Trangia cooking taught the Scouts how to safely cook a meal on a compact stove and how sensible meal planning can mean you can take meals with you that have minimal weight to them.

Our bag packing session showed the Scouts that this can be sensibly done to carry everything, including your Trangia in your kit, whilst not being too heavy but still well organised so you can easily get to what you will likely need.

The first aid night taught Scouts the basics of emergency



A Radio scavenger hunt was a fun way for the scouts to learn how to correctly transmit and receive messages over radio, so that on an expedition, successful communication could be made between Scout teams and the leaders when help is required.

All the above, amongst other fun activities such as a visit to Coral Reef, team building games and a BBQ, all built up to our expedition to the new forest.

Scouts all met at a start point before being set off on their route of nearly 16km. The expedition saw the Scouts safely trekking through the gorgeous countryside whilst carrying their kit, walking at their own pace and working well as teams to succeed at their task. One or two slight hiccups along the way such as learning compasses don't work when held next to a radio, so walking east when you think your walking south, did nothing to lower the spirits of the Scouts. With leaders spotting the error whilst tracking the Scouts, they were quickly put back on course to successfully complete the route and make it to Ferny Crofts to set up camp.

A well earned evening meal and camp fire were greatly enjoyed before having a good nights sleep. Sunday then saw the Scouts use their Trangias once more to cook their morning porridge, before heading off for a fun day out at Beaulieu Motor Museum.

A huge well done to all those that came on the expedition, as well as all the Scouts and leaders for another successful term.





Friday troop began the term by making and decorating sweets to celebrate the King's coronation and then spent the rest of the summer completing parts of their Outdoors and Adventure challenge awards. This included a treasure hunt around Earley (solving cryptic clues in teams), games in Sol Joel park and then eight weeks of water-sports such as raft-building, kayaking, canoeing and paddle-boarding.

In July, the troop went on a 5-day camp in Winchester. The scouts completed a 9 mile hike on the South Downs to practice their map-reading skills in teams. They also went paddleboarding in Southampton and then explored Winchester city centre - learning some local history via a themed (fictional) murder-mystery challenge. On the campsite, the Scouts did more outdoor activities such as tomahawk throwing, crate-stacking/climbing and played wide-games in the woods.



The Scouts also made their own meals using different cooking methods throughout the week: group cooking on hobs, patrol cooking on Trangias and individual cooking on open fires, having first made the fires themselves. In addition, they participated in many team challenges and games (contributing towards an overarching camp-long patrol competition) and tried miniature pioneering using dowel rods. We are very grateful to Lisa for all her hard work in organising the Sea Scout camp (while Jane ran a separate Cub camp on the same site with different activities).

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:



Christmas Trees Fundraising –

weekends of 2nd/3rd, 9th/10th & 16th/17th Dec

We will be holding our annual Christmas Tree fundraising event at Dobbies Garden Centre at Hare Hatch (near Twyford). We ask for volunteer Scouts and Cubs to carry Christmas Trees to customers' cars - usually in return for a festive donation!

We also run a 'guess the weight of the Christmas Cake' and 'guess the number of Jelly Beans in the jar' - both popular fundraisers. Further details to follow, including the volunteer sign-up rotas for the above events.

Annual Rowing Regatta Fundraiser - Sun 23rd & Sat 29th June 2024

We will be calling for volunteers for our annual fundraising event to provide catering and manning stake boats at the Rowing Regattas on the River Thames, at Thames Valley Park. We provide Scouts and older Cubs to run the stake boats at the start of the races.

We ask for volunteer parents to provide Catering in the form of Bacon rolls, Burgers, Teas, Coffees, Cakes, Snacks, in the catering marquee. Please save the above dates - further details, including volunteer sign-up rotas, will be issued in Spring 2024.

Family Camp

We are pleased to announce that the Group plans to hold a weekend Family Camp next year which will be held on 5th-7th July (TBC) at Ferny Croft in the New Forest. We would like to thank Cub parent Megan Purcell for volunteering to lead the organisation of this camp which we are sure will be enjoyed by many. Please consider volunteering to help Megan make this event happen!

Match Funding



Calling all employees of the following companies:

Sainsbury's



Microsoft

MARKS &
SPENCER



These are a few of the companies who offer to match the amount raised by an employee for a charity. Please check with your company to find out what they can offer as it can mean your fundraising efforts can go even further! If you are an employee of one of these businesses please make yourself known to

chair@84threadingscouts.org.uk

THANK YOU!



In June, we ran our Regatta fundraiser event held over two days on the River Thames, where our older Cubs and Scouts manned the Stake Boats at the start line of the Rowing. At the other end of the rowing course, we provided Catering to the event, cooking and serving bacon rolls, burgers, teas, coffees, cold drinks and snacks – all prepared and served by our team of adult volunteers (parents, Leaders and friends of 84th Reading).

The total money raised was over £3,500! - vital funds towards our Group costs, such as kit maintenance/replacement, building maintenance/overheads, minibus replacement fund.



A massive thank you to all the volunteers who made this event happen, including Sea Scout Leader, Alvin, who ran the Stake Boats. A huge thank you to Sea Scout parent, Malcolm Paine, for the overall organisation. We will need new volunteers to run this again next year – so please volunteer and join the fun!