

The Fog Horn

Newsletter of the 1st Maidenhead Sea Scout Group



Seasons Greetings from the team!

GSL

Well my first term as GSL has passed and I am very grateful for the support and help from everyone.

We now have a focused, eager executive committee, which makes the whole group run smoother and better - **thank you to all!**

My main focus for this term was Fundraising and Repairs/completion to the Scout Hut. Well, you cannot do one without the other...

We have had an amazing term fundraising; Boundary Walk, Christmas Fayre and Bag Packing at Homebase and Marks & Spencer's - being my main focus for the term, I am grateful for all the support and help people have given to this area and we are so close to the target of £2000 which will start off the first stages of repairs and completion at the Scout Hut.

I hope you all feel part of our group and your continued support of our events will continue, if you have any ideas, or wish to give more back or pass on knowledge - why not become a helper or leader in one of the sections, perhaps a job share with other parents? Maybe a neighbour, work colleague, family member, retired friend has the time each week - We would love to have you onboard!

Comments, questions, ideas to gsl@1stcubs.org By Wayne Davie

Fundraising Update

On Sunday 3rd October a good number of scouts, a Beaver and parents participated in the Maidenhead Boundary walk; this raised a brilliant £236 towards our fundraising target.

A huge thanks to all that helped and came to the spectacular Fireworks Night and the festive Christmas Fayre. They were two great events that between them raised £1050 and made valuable funds for the group.

Over the weekend of the 4/5th December several scouts and their parents carried out bag and tree packing at Homebase. We raised a whisker over £700 which will be split 50:50 with Anna's Jamboree 2011 fundraising efforts. See Anna's report below

So far this year we have managed to raise around £1600 towards our fundraising target of £2000, a fantastic effort from the whole group. We are planning more events next year, please continue to support us and help your child's scouting. These are exciting times for 1st Maidenhead Sea Scouts - please share them with us.

Upcoming Social & Fundraising Events

- **M&S Bag Packing - Sunday 19th December 12-4.** Please contact Keith & Caron Wheeler wheeler.army@googlemail.com to confirm your hour slot - the more that can help, the easier it is for all. We recently raised £700 doing this at Homebase and would like everyone possible to spend an hour helping us if possible - including the Cubs and Beavers (for cuteness appeal) who will probably be holding our money buckets and not crushing eggs!

The Fog Horn



Newsletter of the 1st Maidenhead Sea Scout Group

- **Swimathon: 8th Jan 8pm**
We have managed to grab a last hour lane in the Swimathon next year - if you or your Cub or Scout is able to swim for us (an hour in total), please speak to their Leader and request a sponsor form. A good opportunity to raise funds for the group!
- **Quiz Night - Friday 11th March**

Other events we're looking at for 2011 include:- Easter Egg Hunt, Mothers' Day Photos, Family BBQ / Sponsored Kayak, Fathers' Day Photos, Riverboat Shuffle / Grand Draw (Raffle). Please let Rachel Volpe Rachel_volpe@hotmail.co.uk know if you have other ideas or would like to help organise or help at an event.

The Christmas Fayre

What an excellent festive afternoon! Much fun was had by all and a fabulous £700 was raised towards our fundraising target. A visit from Santa made the day very special, as did the visiting barn owl! We wish to thank all the helpers, those that donated items and all the people who came and supported us on the day. Hope you saw the lovely pictures in the Maidenhead Advertiser.



Bag packing at Homebase

Last weekend on 4th and 5th December, we went to Homebase to do some bag packing as a fundraiser. Many Scouts and parents spent their time helping out and Kevin spent a lot of time carrying Christmas trees to people's cars. He said he needed the fresh air. The majority of the customers were in good mood, though one man replied 'Is it?' when James said 'Merry Christmas!' Other than that people were willing to give large contributions towards the Sea Scouts and Libby Passey did her very best to encourage last minute donations at the Exit with her winning smile. There was a competition who could get the most notes in their bucket - yes NOTES! Some of us found a singing penguin, which cheered up the younger customers, but annoyed their parents (and ours too). We then played 'hide it from Marley' before it gave us all headaches. Juice and biscuits kept us going and we wore our Visitor stickers with pride. Sometimes we got a bit chatty and had to be reminded to face the customers and get on with bag packing! The cashiers played a game of 'Till-hopping' so we had to keep our eye on when tills were being opened or shut, which could leave us standing at a shut till for quite some time looking a little silly. Thank you to everyone for coming, which helped us get a grand total of just over £700!

By Anna Wheeler (Scouts)

The Fog Horn

Newsletter of the 1st Maidenhead Sea Scout Group



Grants - Help Needed!

There are also various funds which might be able to offer us grants - perhaps towards the much needed new floor, for example. We're doing our best to follow up any leads (we're waiting to hear back from the Government-funded Grassroots grants, for instance) but it's tricky to find the time along with the other roles we're carrying out. It would be brilliant if someone could take on the role of co-ordinating grant applications - and might well mean we could get some more funding. No previous experience is necessary - and it's something that can be done at a time to suit you. If anyone would like to know more, please speak to any of the Leaders or Catherine Oliver on 780375 or 07717 753450 or email her at cdoliver@waitrose.com.

Subscriptions

We're now much more up to date with subscriptions - thank you to all of you for that. If you do know you have any outstanding subs, please give them to your Leader as soon as possible. Thanks as well to everyone who has set up Standing Orders - this will make all our lives much more straightforward. If you haven't yet done this, please email David Oliver on cdoliver@waitrose.com and he'll provide you with the information you need. We also need as many people as possible to sign the Gift Aid Forms, so we can reclaim extra money from the taxman (and you can reduce your own tax bill). Again contact David if you need the form or more information.

The Scout Shop

Many of you may not know that you can buy all the uniform items young people in the Scout Group need from the Scout Shop - and if you do, all the profits stay within Scouting & some of them come back to our group! Maidenhead Scout Shop is open on a Thursday Evening 7pm - 9pm during Term Time at 19th Maidenhead Scout Hut, Holmanleaze Maidenhead SL6 8AW - just behind the Magnet. They can also provide, or order in, much of the equipment you may need. Let them know you're from 1st Maidenhead Sea Scouts as this boosts our funds.

Section Reports

Beaver News

Beavers entered the Colony effort for the District Beaver Craft Competition, but in spite of their efforts, we were not even placed. Unfortunately, none of the Beavers entered the individual categories, and as not many other colonies entered individual sections, they would have been in with a good chance of winning. Never mind, maybe next year. There were only 3 parent entries, but they were of very high standard.

We are still looking for someone to take on an assistant leader role, because at the moment, if I am unable to turn up for any reason, the colony cannot meet. I am very grateful to those parents who regularly stay to help, please don't stop! Numbers are falling, as the older ones move up to Cubs. Please ask around at school in case there are any children who would like to join now.

The Beavers made some of the decorations for the Hall for the Christmas Fair, and were pleased to see them up. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success, and wow, what a success! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from the Beaver Section.

By Elizabeth Hogg

The Fog Horn

Newsletter of the 1st Maidenhead Sea Scout Group



Cub News

Another exciting, packed term over with, and with much excitement we look forward to the next one! Looking back we have enjoyed a day trip to Paultons Park, a Maidenhead Town quiz, took part in the Boundary Walk, been Swimming, Frightened each other with our Fright Night, learnt how to light fires, hiked for Chips and visited China and Mexico via food and facts!

Next term will have us taking part in 2 swimming events, a Scouting competition, sleepover, a hike and more. Thanks to all those parents who have helped out and special thanks to Annette. Merry Christmas to all!

By **Wayne Davie**

Scout News

At the start of the summer, a few of the Scouts along with the explorers provided a Guard of Honour following the wedding of Richard Hogg and Rebecca Barnard at Lillibrooke Manor. They were a credit to the group and it was a great surprise for the happy couple.

Summer Camp - The scouts along with other sections of the group attended a fun and adventurous filled camp at the Lochgoilhead Centre in Scotland. They took part in a number of activities including, sailing, raft building, kayaking and canoeing on the water, and a high ropes course on land. This was followed up with a report back & badge presentation evening upon our return where we showed the parents the fun that we all had.



Following our return to the headquarters after spending the summer at Longridge, we have concentrated this term on learning and developing the skills of the Scouts. We have completed a number of projects including maps, grid references, map symbols, and first aid. We also had most of the Scout Troop attend both the Christmas Fayre and more

recently the bag packing days at Homebase.

As with the other sections, the Scout section is also in desperate need of some assistant leaders. If you or a friend may be interested in helping me, please contact me for further details of what's involved.

Finally, may I wish all parents and Scouts a very "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

By **Kevin Stanley (Scouts)**

Explorer News

District night hike

Congratulations to those that took part for not getting lost this year and actually getting round in a respectable time.

Exams

I know next year will hard for most of the explorers taking exams, and we recognise that you will not be able to make all the meetings and activities; please can you let us know when you can't attend, as it makes planning a lot easier

By **Bryan Barnard (Explorers)**

The Fog Horn



Newsletter of the 1st Maidenhead Sea Scout Group

Dates and Contacts

8 th Jan	Swimarathon - Group
15 Jan	Swimming Gala - Cubs, Scouts & Explorers
6 Feb	Monopoly Run - Explorers
19-27 Feb	D of E Training - Explorers
5 Mar	Beaverree - Beavers
6 Mar	Flag Competition - Cubs
11 Mar	Quiz Night - Group
2 Apr	4 Inns Hike - Explorers
3 Apr	Football Competition - Scouts
9 Apr	3 Towers Hike - Explorers
7 May	St. Georges Day Parade - Group
7 May	Exmoor Challenge - Scouts & Explorers
1-3 Jul	Summer Camp - Cubs
6-13 Aug	Summer Camp - Explorers
20-27 Aug	Summer Camp - Scouts
Feb 2012	Winter Camp Switzerland - Explorers

Leader Team & Key Contacts

Group Leader: Wayne Davie	gsl@1stcubs.org
Chairman: Robin Denman	rsjedenman@btinternet.com
Secretary: Catherine Oliver	cdoliver@waitrose.com
Treasurer: David Oliver	cdoliver@waitrose.com
Fundraising: Rachel Volpe	Rachel_volpe@hotmail.co.uk
Hall Bookings: Catherine Oliver	cdoliver@waitrose.com
Beavers: Elizabeth Hogg	elizabeth.1136@btinternet.com
Cubs: Wayne Davie	akela@1stcubs.org
Scouts: Kevin Stanley	kevin.elaine@tesco.net
Explorers: Bryan Barnard	bryan.barnard@landyman45.org