

# The Fog Horn

Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maidenhead Sea Scout Group

## Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

We have lots planned for this year, as in the past, and I hope you are able to attend all or as many as you can - we have tried to make them social and fundraising events at the same time.

Your child should also be presented with the Diamond Jubilee Badge in the next few weeks - The Queen has yet to come back to me about presenting them...I suppose I could ask Kate - after all, she is our latest famous leader recruit...talking of Kate, we are still looking to increase our Leader Team, and if you know anyone who would like to volunteer please pass on my details to them - after all, if Kate can, everyone else should be able to!

Wayne - GSL

## Quiz Night, Christmas Fayre and Bag Packing

It was an action packed end to 2011 for the Group! Our Quiz Night was so popular we're running it again in March & it was followed by a brilliant Fireworks Night and of course the Christmas Fayre - more about that below. We rounded the year off with bag packing at Homebase over two weekends in the run up to Christmas. It was brilliant fun and we received a really warm reception from the shoppers while raising over £1000 for the group which is fantastic! Those are going to be much needed funds as the HQ needs quite a bit of maintenance work doing on it in the near future. Homebase were really impressed with the Young People from the Group and have offered us the opportunity to bag pack again at Easter and in the run up to Christmas 2012 (dates below).

## Upcoming Social & Fundraising Events

At the end of Foghorn, there's a full list of everything coming up in 2012 (at least everything we know about so far!) so please put the dates in your diaries! We're having another Family Quiz Night on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March - more details will be coming soon about that. On Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> we'll be having a Diamond Jubilee Tea Party along with our AGM - and the Bouncy Castle will be there! We're also going to have another family camp in September as everyone enjoyed last year's event so much.

## Fundraising and Grants

We need to raise as much money as we can if we want to keep Subs as low as possible - your support at our fundraising events is really important, but we've found it is also possible to get quite a bit of money from grants - most recently Pfizer kindly awarded us £1000 towards a new kitchen. We know we could get more money if we had a few more hours to investigate and apply to the various funds available: could you help? No experience is necessary and we could provide some good leads. If you think you could give a few hours to help with this, please either speak to your Section Leader or contact Catherine Oliver on [cdoliver@waitrose.com](mailto:cdoliver@waitrose.com)

## Useful information

### *What to do if...*

- You need new uniform or equipment for your young person: *go along to the Scout Shop which is open every Thursday in term time from 7pm - 9pm at 19th Maidenhead Scout Hut, Holmanleaze Maidenhead SL6 8AW - just behind the Magnet. All the profits go back into Scouting and some come to 1<sup>st</sup> Maidenhead!*
- You want to hire the HQ, a marquee or tents: *for the hall, please contact Catherine Oliver, [cdoliver@waitrose.com](mailto:cdoliver@waitrose.com), 07717 753450. For the marquee or tents, please contact Bryan Barnard on 07899 791170 or [bryan.barnard@landyman45.org](mailto:bryan.barnard@landyman45.org).*

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## Section Reports

### Beavers

We missed out on our Christmas Party, so we held a New Year party instead on our first evening back. Hopefully this term there will be 7 new Beavers starting. Wayne will have 2 Beavers joining Cubs after half term and we are looking forward to a busy half term with lots of activities leading to the awarding of some badges.

Our Young Leaders Harriet and Holly are working hard with the Beavers and are a great asset to the section. Jackie too is a fantastic assistant Leader, and will soon make her promise, and become a full member of the Group. We hope to do a torch and wellie walk, have a visit from an Astronomer, and visit Pets at Home among other things this term.

Any Parents who would like to stay and help one evening, please let Jackie or me know. If anyone has a job or hobby that they would like to talk to the Beavers about, please do contact us, and we can arrange it.

Hawkeye

### Sea Cubs

After a well deserved break over Christmas and New Year, we started back getting into the swing of things again - remembering names, opening and closing ceremonies and generally seeing everyone again - and that was just Wayne!

This term we shall be looking at Scouting Skills and working towards the Olympic Programme that has been set up by HQ - this is something the whole group will be looking at.

Also, coming up is a Winter Camp on 25<sup>th</sup> February and a date for the diary is 29-1<sup>st</sup> June/July for Summer Camp - Oxford here we come!

We recently took part in the District Swimming Gala - Well Done, Tyler, James, Sam, Rohan, Steven, Oscar and James for doing great work!

Akela

### Scouts

#### Chief Scouts Gold Award

Following the last edition, I can also confirm that Marley Neville-Lister has also been presented with his award. I was honoured to award Jonathan Matthews with his Chief Scouts Gold Award. This is the highest award that a Scout member can achieve

This means that the Scout Troop has awarded 3 Chief Scouts Gold Award this year, a record year for the troop. Congratulations to the three achievers. I hope that we can continue on this success.

#### Incident Hike

On a cold, very cold November night, a team of Scouts took part in the District Scout Incident Hike, which took place around the outskirts of Burchett's Green & Wargrave. Beginning at 10pm the Scouts travelled by foot around the area following compass bearings given at each base. The Scouts did well and completed most of the bases, scoring highly in most - points are given for teamwork, challenges completed, etc. The Scouts finished the hike around 3.00am and were able to get home early. The event ended by 5.30am when all the teams had been accounted for, after which the leaders were able to go home. I can confirm that the troop came 5<sup>th</sup> overall out of the whole district



## OUR SPORTING ADVENTURE.



Over the next couple of terms, the troop will be working on a number of challenges and tasks being run by the Scout Association headquarters team to run in line with the Olympics. This is open to all sections across all the

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UK. The Scout troop is currently 34 out of 896 in the country. There are prizes supplied from HQ for the best teams later in the year.

## Camps

The Scout troop will not be having a week long summer camp this year. We will however run some weekend camps throughout the year and further details will be sent out closer to the time through troop meetings.

## Leaders

I am currently running the troop on my own and with 20 members this can be challenging. If anyone is interested in helping with the Scout section on a regular basis, please contact me to discuss how you can help. I can't guarantee a huge salary but you might enjoy it!

Kevin

## Explorer News

Welcome to our new members Emily and Beth

## Great River Race

Well what a day, the worst weather ever recorded during the race, but our intrepid crew completed the course and were not the last boat home

Thanks to all the parents help at the end getting the boat out, particularly those that tried going for a swim.

## District night hike

Not the usual walk in the park this year, congratulations to both teams for getting round the course (well almost)

We all know who set the course...

## Exams

I know this year will hard for some 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

## 2012 Dates for your Diary

14 January	Swimming gala - <b>Group</b>
5 February	Monopoly Run - <b>Explorers</b>
25 February	Cub Winter Camp - <b>Cubs</b>
17 March	Quiz Night - <b>Group &amp; friends/family</b>
6-9 April	Bag packing at Homebase - <b>Group</b>
14 April	The 3 Towers Hike - <b>Explorers</b>
29 April	St George's day - <b>Group</b>
5 May	Exmoor Challenge - <b>Explorers &amp; Scouts</b>
12 & 13 May	Rockley Sailing Weekend - <b>Explorers &amp; Scouts</b>
27 May	AGM & Diamond Jubilee tea party - <b>Group</b>
29 June - 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Cub Camp - <b>Cubs</b>
7-8 July	Help with Car Parking at Football tournament - <b>Group</b>
8-25 August	Summer Camp - <b>Explorers</b>
15 September	Great River Race - <b>Explorers</b>
22/23 Sept	Family Camp - <b>Group</b>
7 October	Boundary Walk - <b>Group</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Fireworks Night - <b>Group</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre - <b>Group</b>
1/2 & 8/9 Dec	Bag packing at Homebase - <b>Group</b>
February 2013	Winter camp Kandersteg in Switzerland - <b>Explorers</b>