



GROUP NEWS

March 2021



As all face-to-face Scout meetings, activities and events are still suspended the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are organising some virtual scouting for their members to do at home, via zoom meetings, emails and their Facebook pages.

Your child's leaders will contact parents with details

As the children are returning to school, we have no idea when we will be getting back to normal Scouting.

Invitation to join!

PG Scouts **Parents' Support Group** plays a vital role in the running of our Scout Group
[The Group Executive Committee | Scouts](#)

We ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to our young people.

Our focus includes co-ordination of:

- fund raising
- Scout hut and equipment maintenance, and repairs
- finance, census etc.

We meet once a month (on-line at the moment) for just an hour.

We're keen to encourage more people to get involved:

- ✓ **to support the group**
- ✓ **suggest new ideas**
- ✓ **make a difference**
- ✓ **enjoy volunteering**



If you would like to get involved, or want more information, please contact:

Erica Hunter (Group Scout Leader) erica.hunter2@btinternet.com or

Natasha Medhurst (Executive Committee Chair) natasha_medhurst@yahoo.co.uk



Founders/Thinking Day is celebrated on 22 February. It was the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Robert Baden-Powell and of his wife Olave Baden-Powell. It is celebrated by Scouts and Guides across the world.

Zoom meetings continue to be the only way we can meet at the moment until we get more information, most sections are now meeting either weekly or fortnightly with a varied range of activities.

We now have our Group walks on our Web site; there are currently 4 in various lengths from 2 to 4.5 miles. I recently added another 2 and will be adding some Littlewick based ones over the next couple of weeks once Chester and I have explored. Any walks you do as a family will count towards badge work, please let your section leader know which walks you have done and also send us your photos. Currently all walks will require Wellies or waterproof boots.

In January each year we complete a group census, our numbers are slightly down from last year to 184 from 193, I would like to thank all of our leaders for adapting where possible to give the sections activities to keep us entertained until we can meet face to face.

Group Scout Leader (Erica Hunter)

Derek Noden



We are very sorry to hear that Derek Noden has sadly passed away.

Derek has supported PG in the background for over 30 years, starting when his son Richard joined the group. Over the years Derek repaired and made the group many items. Which began when the Troop invited Hungarian Scouts over in the early 90's when he kindly made us new patrol boxes and other equipment so we could have nine patrols at camp. He also lent the Scouts his van (which the Scouts called the "Noddy mobile") and his very large trailer. This helped the Troop take Scouts and their equipment to camp. Derek continued to help repair a lot of equipment over all the following years.

Our Best Wishes go to his wife Pauline, his son Richard (*Noddy*) and daughter Emily. His grandsons are due to join the group in the next couple of years.

Local Walks

We have had a few members and friends do some of our local walks, If families or members are looking for a local walk details below.

If a Beaver / Cub / Scouts takes part in one of these walks it will count towards their staged hikers badge. If you do one of them please email a photo to your child's leader or pgtips

Details are on PG Web Site www.pgscouts.org.uk/act or link below to each walk

These walks can be done as a family unit with the current lockdown restrictions. You might need to wear wellies or boots, as some of them are quite muddy.



Walk 4 - 4.5 miles www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/walk-4.pdf

Starts at NT Car Park next to Cricket Pitch Pinkneys Drive. Includes Mount Farm Long Lane

Walk 3 - 2 miles www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/walk-3.pdf

Starts at NT car park in Pinkneys Drive near Henley Road. Includes Robin Hoods Arbour in Maidenhead Thicket

Walk 2 - 3.5 miles www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/walk-2.pdf

Starts at NT Car Park next to Cricket Pitch Pinkneys Drive. Includes RAF memorial in Carpenters Wood

Walk 1 - 2.4 miles www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/walk-1.pdf

Starts at NT Car Park next to Cricket Pitch Pinkneys Drive. Includes Brick and Tile Works Nature Reserve

Laptop / Tablet / Web Camera

A couple of sections are struggling to run or hold zoom meetings, do you have a Laptop with web camera, tablet or **USB Web camera** we can borrow

If you can help us please email help@pgtips.org.uk

Easyfundraising Online Shopping



During this challenging time when we can't fundraise in person and events have been cancelled, PG needs your help more than ever.

If you're shopping online for anything at all, please remember to go via easyfundraising to raise free donations for us.

Easyfundraising has over 4,000 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to you, including lots of big name retailers like John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible. All you have to do is go through the easyfundraising website or App whenever you shop online and we'll receive a % of your spend as a free donation, at no cost to you or us.

We really need all the help we can get at the moment and any funds we raise will make a big difference to us. Please remember to use easyfundraising and if you haven't signed up yet, you can find our easyfundraising page at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pgscouts/

Thank you goes to everyone who has gone via this page when you shop online

BEAVER NEWS

Winter Hill Colony

As we're still locked down we continue to do our scouting via Zoom. Over the past month the Beavers have enjoyed several Zoom meetings.

We did an evening to help the Beavers gain their 'my skills challenge' badge.

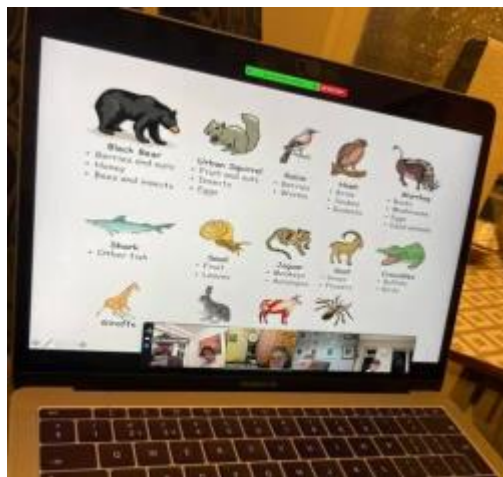
They learnt about healthy eating, looking after their teeth and how to keep their body fit and healthy.

We did another evening towards the 'My outdoors challenge' badge. The Beavers learnt what to do if someone has an accident, how to get help and how to administer simple first aid if someone has a cut.

Coming up we have an evening based on St David's Day and an evening of cooking.



Tic Tac Winter Hill (Tom Beynon)



Littlewick Colony

We have been getting between 4 and 8 Beavers on our weekly Zoom call and the feedback from the parents has been positive!

Over the last few weeks the Beavers have learned how to get help in an emergency situation, how to treat minor cuts as well as how to spot hazardous items around their surroundings.

For Chinese New Year the Beavers learnt how to make a pot noodle as well as say Happy New Year in Chinese and we worked out which Animal year they were each born in.

We had great success with our first zoom microwave cooking experience (donuts) and are looking forward to more experiments this half term!

Hawkeye Littlewick (Bruni Brar)

CUB NEWS

Winter Hill Pack

It's been great to see the group of cubs meeting online grow during the start to the Spring Term, thank you to everyone for bringing their sense of humour and willingness to get involved.

In a few rounds of Quick Change Spot Difference, we saw both virtual and real Zoom backgrounds arranged and then rearranged in the sport of observation. Hide and Seek was made easier with those hiding heading to the waiting room whilst the rest of the pack worked out who was missing: possible only with the help of master Zoom administrator *Hathi* (Catherine Corbitt). In the two weeks leading up to half-term however, *Akela* was on his own behind the Zoom controls which turned out to be not a problem with the assistance of *Raksha* (Sheila Stinton), *Chil* (*Avril Broadley*), *Mysa* (*Graham Wolfe*) and *Mang* (*David Barnes*) who have been in regular attendance this term.

During a game of Task Master, the Cubs undertook the challenge of Throwing Away a Piece of Paper (in the most outrageous way) and Building the Scariest Monster they could (using only items from the Kitchen). Needless to say, the results were hilarious, if not somewhat concerning in some instances too.

In the week before half-term, we found the 'jokers in the pack' whilst working to Caption the Photos. Who knew Wednesday evenings could be such fun.



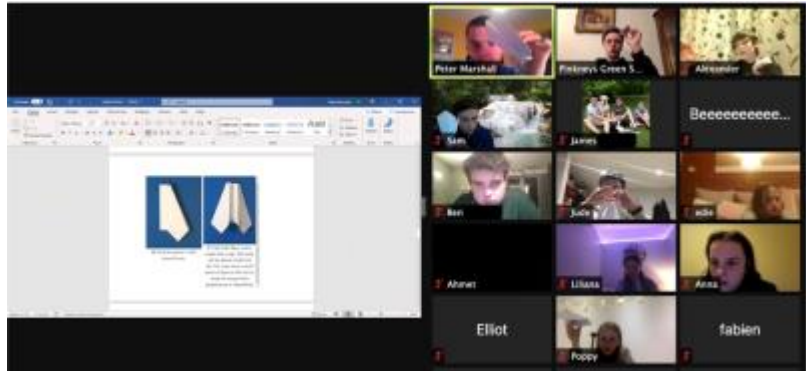
Zoom Meetings will continue at least for the half-term ahead and we're hopeful of being in a position to return to some face to face in the Summer Term if safe and compliant to do so. Will keep you posted!

Akela Winter Hill (Jon Corbitt)

SCOUT NEWS

Littlewick Troop

For one meeting we had a paper aeroplane competition. *Peter Marshall* led the scouts through three different designs of aeroplane with the designs increasing in complexity for each one. The final design included an accordion fold which is quite a challenge to explain over Zoom! It seemed to work though. Designs 1 and 2 seemed to fly the best.



For our meeting closest to Chinese New Year we did some paper cutting of a couple of Chinese characters to make decorations. We also found out which animal from the Chinese Zodiac corresponded to our birth dates and were lucky enough to be shown a lion costume's head over Zoom.

Our most recent meeting was the day before Shrove Tuesday so pancakes were in order. Each scout took over their kitchen and got cooking. It was good fun to watch the various production lines occurring and pancakes being flipped, all over the Maidenhead area. Holding a pancake cooking meeting is pretty much an annual tradition, so I am glad we could continue it, despite being all online at the moment.

Scout Leader Littlewick (*Mark Courtier*)

Winter Hill Troop



We have had another very busy month, continuing with video meetings. We started off with an evening where the scouts were taught how to carve a face, we were very impressed with all the results, they were all very good and the Scouts spent a long time doing them on.

You can see some of their carvings they did are on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/pgscouts/

The following week, the Scouts decided to do some baking and made some very tasty biscuits, I think they enjoyed the activity as most of their biscuits disappeared during the second part of the meeting.

Our young leader ran an evening teaching the Scouts how to make three different design of paper planes, they had to decide on which one flew the best and went the furthest. We also did something for the Chinese new year, which fell on our Friday meeting, the year of the Ox was explained

Another evening the Scouts had to construct various structures using spaghetti (dry not tinned) and marshmallows. The following Scouts won the various competitions we held; *Austin Wilson* built the sturdiest, *Isambard Medhurst* built the tallest and *Sam Wicks & Edward Coppins* built the one that would most likely collapse - as they did. Some of the Scouts complained that their desks were very sticky at the end and we are sure a lot of the marshmallows disappeared during the construction of the structures.

Some Scouts have completed their Personal Challenge award and are working towards their Chief Scouts Award.

Scouts have the choice of 77 Activity badges so there is a lot they can do at home: www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/activity-badges/



Don't forget to send me photos and let me know what you have been doing at home.

Scout Leader Winter Hill (*Simon Wheeler*)