

1st Wargrave Scout Troop

Annual General Meeting Report 2014/2015

So here we are again, happy as can be, we've been Scouting, look what we've done, hee hee!

(You have to read that with a certain tune in your head, if you do you'll be bouncing already!)

I want to start with a really big thank you. This year Mrs Nige left the Troop, needless to say that was a big change for me and without the massive help and support of Peter Walsh (whose enthusiasm is unbounded and who has kept the energy of the Troop at peak levels) and Richard Arnold during the whole of 2014 we would not be able to celebrate the success that we have. I too have had great support from Pete Fry, Bill Bookless and latterly Paul Worthington, so thank you guys for what you have done. Thanks also to Richard Best who organised our Group 'almost Christmas' show which raised £348 for Breast Cancer Care in Kim's memory, a touching tribute, thank you!

So what have we been up to? Well Pete has been posting blogs (www.wargravescouts.org) from time to time to let everyone know what we have been doing. I don't need to repeat that all here. I am proud to report that the Troop has grown over the year, we currently have 29 young people on our books, Two of them girls, with more young ladies to come I think. This is a tremendous development. We have awarded many badges too and offered camps in each term.

A particularly popular event has been the 'Camping at the Hut' where the youngsters pitch tents in the HQ after an evening of outdoor activities. Then its sleep (well a little) breakfast and off they toddle home again the next morning. We have also camped at Dorneywood surviving the massive ants for which the site is infamous. The boys all made their own shelters and despite them having tents pitched as a back up in the event of bad weather, it was great to see that those that started the night in their shelters finished the night there too.

On a camping theme we also participated at WINGS 2014. The Troop camped jointly with 1st Hurst on the Science sub camp (surely the best of all the sub camps and with a sub camp leader who truly offered the best experience possible for the 1200 or so on lucky enough to get that sub camp). Who was that I wonder Nige? We got to camp with Scouts and Guides from places including Canada, Ireland, France, Norway, New Zealand, andWargrave (yes the guides were on this sub camp too)! The youngsters have all told great stories from their week experiencing international camping and there is more opportunity to do that on offer in 2016 (see below).

Perhaps it is a testament to all the camping that has been offered that we were joint winners of the District Camping Challenge held over the recent bank holiday weekend. We were delighted and surprised in equal measure. Well done 1st Wargrave Scouts!

In addition to the activities that we offer on weekends we have completed a whole bunch of weird and wonderful activities including Pancake making at nearly every opportunity, Geocaching, Table-top pioneering, one-pot cooking, a Fright Nite, Japan-In-A-Box, a Burns Supper, Hobbies and Interests, Laser Quest and Chinese New Year. The Great British Bake Off also served as an inspiration as the youngsters all made Christmas cakes (in small baked bean tins) which were baked at Pete's house then returned a week or two later for decoration and gift wrapping. I even made one and gave it to my Mum as a Christmas present; it took me back to the days when I gave her a wilted bunch of daffs after Scout Mothering Sunday Church Parade. One each occasion she has of course been very chuffed!

So let's now look ahead. We have a strong Troop, a committed leadership team and a programme which is offering a wide range of activities to one and all. We are just putting in place plans now for a Scout Troop Summer Camp in Finland in 2016. This will be open to all members of the current Troop and also those Cubs who will have moved up to the Troop by Easter 2016. Details will follow to all very soon. To offer such an event takes a great deal of hard work and commitment, from the youngsters, the parents, the Executive Committee and the leaders. We seem in great shape to make that happen, here's looking forward to another successful year in the Troop.

Nige
Scout Leader