

# 1ST WARGRAVE SCOUTS

## WOGGLE



Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wargrave Scouts Group

November 2016

## 2016, What an epic year for 1<sup>st</sup> Wargrave!

As we approach the end of the year I look back and see what has probably been one of our busiest ever. We have endeavoured to capture as much of the fun and excitement in the next pages (without running to a tome as large as War and Peace). The programme, camps and each sections' evening activities are a result of the time and dedication the leadership team and Executive Committee selflessly give. As a charitable organisation we survive and rely on a too small bunch our friendly, passionate volunteers. The more we have of these good people, the more amazing activities and adventures we can include in our evening and camp programmes.

Across all of our sections we could do with more parents volunteering to help. We specifically face a challenge for the Pumas (Tuesday Cubs Pack) as after many years of running the pack Fiona has decided it is time to step back from the Cub Leader role next Easter. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all her hard work over these years and wish her well on her new nights off! It does mean that we now need to find a new Cub Leader and Assistants for Tuesday – if we can't find a new leader team the Pumas will have to be suspended until we do.

If you share our desire to help young people learn new things and experience Scouting to help them gain new life skills and become good adults please let us know. Just remember, the more hands, the lighter the load. We can work around jobs and family by running a 'job share' rota – but only if we have a reasonable number of people prepared to commit to few nights a month.

We also need a much, much bigger executive committee, this is the behind the scenes group that runs group events to fundraise to help the leaders give kids once in a lifetime experiences like the Finland International Jamboree. This is non-uniformed and more informal, and does not involve a weekly commitment, more like a two to three monthly commitment (usually down the Pub!) to meet and come up with ideas and to help run annual events like the Fireworks, Family Camp etc. Please give me a call if you're interested.

*Pete Fry, Group Scout Leader*  
07913576453 and [gsl@wargravescouts.org](mailto:gsl@wargravescouts.org)

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## Forthcoming Events

### December - Fourth Almost Christmas Show

THE 1<sup>st</sup> WARGRAVE SCOUT GROUP  
"ALMOST" CHRISTMAS SHOW



FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
WOODCLYFFE HALL, WARGRAVE

DOORS OPEN 6.45  
£5 ADULTS, CHILDREN FREE  
INCLUDES MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES.  
CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA TICKETS FROM 6.45  
ALL PROCEEDS TO CAMP MOHAWK



Its back! ...Please donate a box or bag of  
CHOCOLATES OR SWEETS  
for the Tombola at the  
1<sup>st</sup> Wargrave Troop Christmas Show  
on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Bring your gift to your troop night and give to a leader,  
thank you! All proceeds to this years chosen charity,  
CAMP MOHAWK.



On Friday 9th December, 1st Wargrave's hugely popular "Almost Christmas" Show returns to the Woodclyffe Hall on Wargrave High Street for the fourth consecutive year! Boys and girls in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been busy rehearsing, and we will soon be ready to show you our collective talents!

An evening of entertainment, celebration and fun awaits you, starting at 7pm. The programme finishes at 8pm-ish.

Tickets are £5 per adult on the door with all accompanied children free.

Refreshments (mulled wine or squash, and a mince pie) are included and will be served until 8.30pm.

The amazing "Chocolate and Sweet Tombola" returns for another year. Please donate gifts before the event by taking them to your troop night, and buy raffle tickets on the night.

All proceeds from this event will go to this year's local children's charity, Camp Mohawk. Camp Mohawk is a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside next to Bowsey Woods, in Wargrave.

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### December - Village Christmas Post (Scouts only)

Once again 1st Wargrave Scouts are providing a community service to the village, and raising funds for the Troop, by delivering local Christmas cards. We rely on the participation of as many Scouts as possible to deliver the cards. It is an opportunity for the Scouts to contribute to their community, appreciated especially by the older folk.

Cards will be collected from Saturday 3rd December to Thursday 22 December. All Scouts are invited to come to the HQ on the allotted "sorting days" to help stamp and sort the village post. The Scouts will sort the cards at the hut on:

- **Friday 9th December at 4.30pm**
- **Friday 16th December at 4.30pm**
- **Friday 23rd December at 10am**

Each sort will last about three-quarters of an hour (probably less for the first and last and more for the middle sort). Parents are welcome to stay and help too! After each sort, each Scout will get a bundle of cards to deliver over the weekend.

Scouts will deliver cards during the weekends of 10-11th and 17-18th December and after the final collection on Thursday 22nd December. We have allocated roads for each of the Scouts, trying to choose roads close to home for the younger boys and girls. Older Scouts may be given cards for roads further from their home, but still within Wargrave village. If Scouts are not at the sort, their bundle of cards to deliver will be brought around to them.

### Recent Events:

#### November - Remembrance Day



Every year Wargrave turns out in great numbers in remembrance of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live our lives in safety, peace, and freedom.

This year on November 13th it was no different. As usual the Royal British Legion led the parade following St. Sebastian's band from Church Street around to The Mill Green; splendidly supported by the Fire Service and the many young people from the Scout



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Group and the Guide Company; all proudly parading their colours.

No one present could have failed to be impressed by the turn out of the young people from the Village taking part in the parade.

The prayers in Church were superbly led by the Cubs, Scouts, and Guides. Isla Keen from the Cubs, and from the Scouts Pascal Giret with Lara Lancaster from the Guides, and Adele Brown from the Senior Section of the Guides. Will Harmer from the Scouts did an excellent job of taking the bible reading from Psalm 91.



The final action around the War Memorial was the placing of Crosses of Remembrance. One named cross for each serviceman and woman who fell and whose names are etched on the Roll of Honour. This was undertaken by the Scouts and Guides supported by, the head boy and girl from the Piggott School (in remembrance of those from the Piggott school who fell), and from surviving family members.



A great day with a great turn out from the young people. Their continued attendance and memory of the sacrifice is essential to maintain this great village tradition.

The Royal British Legion plays a great part in keeping the tradition alive by visiting the young people and telling them of their experiences and I know from first-hand that the young people appreciate the memory. When

told they were having a special visitor to their cub night just before the Remembrance Day Parade one of the Cubs remarked, *"is that old bloke who was here last year coming back again to tell us about the war? He was great."*

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### Scouts at the Finland International Jamboree



Scouts Summer camp this year was very special with 1st Wargrave participating in the [Finland International Jamboree](#). It was a truly unique outdoor immersive experience, camping in the forest with over 17,000 Scouts from 45 countries. Our group consisted of 12 young people from the village (10 boys and 2 girls aged 11-18) and 3 adult leaders Caroline Atkinson, Paul Worthington and Pete Walsh. We took 16 luggage bags, but no thanks to BA only 12 made their way to Helsinki airport, the rest were

delayed at Heathrow. This meant a number of Scouts and Leaders had to wear the same clothes for the first couple of days! We discovered via Social Media that other UK troops had bags that were delayed and after numerous tweets and calls from the UK to BA (thanks Nige Board!) eventually they were delivered to the camp on Day 3! We were very lucky to be paired with an incredibly helpful Finnish host Scout and Guide Troop called 1st Toimarit. Their leaders Aino, Roosa and Ari provided us with all our tents, and quickly sourced extra sleeping bags and blankets and various kit to compensate for the delayed bags.

Overall Finland this was an unforgettable experience and our Scouts will have lifelong memories of the 2016 summer camp. After 2 years of planning and fundraising we all agreed it was well worth the effort. Many of our Scouts were so inspired by the trip that some hope to apply for a place at the next World Jamboree which will be held in River Gorge, West Virginia in 2019 – a chance to meet 50,000 Scouts and Guides from over 100 countries. I'd like to thank all of the Scouts and Leaders who were involved in the Finland trip. Special thanks is due to our Exec Committee who provided a group funding contribution that coupled with the parent and Scout fundraising, made the trip possible.

### Scouts Triple Chief Scout Award at Hammock Camp

Earlier this term we held an Autumn Survival & Hammock Camp at Paddocks Patch in Woodley, where we made a very special award to 3 of our older Scouts. The Chief Scout Gold Award is the highest award in the Scout section, and recognises a significant personal achievement and contribution to Scouting. At 1st Wargrave, for the first time in the groups 105-year history, we made a triple award to Christopher Fry, Jamie Howells and George Luckwell who all live within the village.



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Mark Ballard, Loddon District Commissioner presented the awards, highlighting the individual effort required to complete the 8 Challenge badges (Adventure, Creative, Community, Fitness, Global, Outdoor, Outdoor Plus and Promise) which make up the Gold Award. As Leaders we are really proud of the commitment and effort Christopher, Jamie and George have demonstrated during their time at Beavers, Cubs and

Scouts culminating in this award. We wish each of them well as they continue their Scouting at Loddon Explorers.

### JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) for Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

1st Wargrave Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had a fun time participating in JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) and JOTI (Jamboree On The Internet) which took place at our Hut on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 16th October.

JOTA-JOTI (<http://jotajoti.info/>) occurs over the third weekend in October and is an international jamboree taking place around the world simultaneously. It is organised by WOSM, the [World Organisation of the Scout Movement](#). Scouts from all over the world communicate over the Air (using Amateur Radio) and the Internet using any technology locally available. There are lots of different ways to communicate, including text-based chat, voice chat, video chat, emails, blogs, and social media networks. JOTA-JOTI allows you to build friendships around the world and to find out more about scouting culture and scouting life.



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Over 5 hours we had a steady trickle of about 20 young people (so 20% of our troop) visiting our OFCOM licensed radio station “GB6WSG” (Golf-Bravo-Six-Wargrave-Scout-Group) learning about and experiencing the wonders of Short Wave Radio. We made contact with JOTA Scout & Guide Groups from all over the UK in Huddersfield, Cornwall, Scotland, Kent, Sussex and London. Further afield contacts were made into Germany, Ireland and Russia. We particularly enjoyed working the Scout Association stations GB2BG (GB2-Bear-Grylls) in Cheshire and GB2GP (GB2-Gilwell-Park) in Essex.

Our young people were fascinated by the physics and technical aspects of Amateur Radio and they also practised sending their names and messages in morse code to each other. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were able to send greetings messages and talk to other Scouts over the radio waves. The conversations were largely about the weather, exchanging names and general greetings, and information about what they like best about Scouting!

For the first time we also ran a JOTI (Jamboree On The Internet) station this was extremely easy to do and just involved a computer, a web browser and an Internet connection. We used ScoutLink, the IRC Chat that is set-up by WOSM and staffed out of Kuala Lumpur. ScoutLink is a leader moderated series of forums and chat rooms where Beavers, Cubs and Scouts log in and exchange text and voice messages. Conversations are typically simple – so your name, location, and anything else you want to chat about. There was also a networked Minecraft server that we logged into. Scouts shared and collected unique codes called a JamPuz (Jamboree Puzzle) ID. Ours was 5GB20E. Our young people had text chat conversations with Scouts and Guides in Namibia, Zambia, Canada, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines and India. JOTA-JOTI brings together over 1 Million Scouts and Guides from 150 Countries. Its a great way of experiencing International Scouting.

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts throughly enjoyed trying out something new, talking and chatting to fellow Scouts and making friends with other young people across the globe. In July, our Scouts had a fantastic time at the [Finland International Jamboree](#), and JOTA-JOTI allowed us to provide an International Scouting experience to our Beavers and Cubs – from the comfort of our Scout HQ in Berkshire.



### Cubs News - Wildcats

Wildcats on a Thursday evening may often live up to their name but at least once a year we manage to get all the pack sitting fairly still.

We are busy preparing for the "Almost Christmas"



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show on 9th December, the Wildcats Christmas party on 15th December and the District cubs 100 promise party on December 16th to mark 100 years since the first "Wolf" Cub pack meeting, we may have dropped the "wolf" part but cubs is very much the same as Lord Baden-Powell first envisaged 100 years ago.

### Cubs News - Pumas

Pumas meet on a Tuesday evening and are as wild as their name suggests. After watching the amazing accomplishments of the competitors at the Paralympic Games we decided that we would like to gain our Disability Awareness Badge. We have tried to make sandwiches blindfolded, written each other messages in braille using lentils and had a very exciting visit from Sandra, Jenny and Kashmir, the Guide Dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind.



Sandra told us all about the training involved in turning a puppy into a Guide Dog and Jenny explained how her life has changed now that she has Kashmir.

Kashmir was wonderfully patient with the Cubs as she lay and got her tummy tickled by everyone!

The Cubs all sat quietly and listened to the information given to them, I've never seen them sit so quietly! It costs up to £50,000 to train and keep a Guide Dog and only a very small percentage of blind people actually have

a dog, so next term we've decided that we would like to do some fundraising for Guide Dogs.



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### Beavers News - Lumberjacks

The Beavers had a recent visit from the crew from Wargrave Fire Station.

The firemen put on a fantastic display in Kings' Field, which included putting out a fire, a demonstration of the 'jaws of life' on a car door and a chance for the Beavers to try out some of the kit and, of course, dress up a bit!



They had a great time and presented the firemen with a handmade card and some chocolates as a thank you. We have also been invited to visit the fire station and have a closer look at the engine, which we will certainly do in the New Year.



### Beavers News – Triple Chief Scout Bronze Award

To mark a very special occasion, our Group Scout Leader (Pete Fry) and our District Commissioner (Mark Ballard) were invited to present three Beavers with their Chief Scout Bronze Award. This badge is the highest that can be awarded in Beavers. It is worn on their

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uniform through into Cubs, until they receive their silver award, and demonstrates to everyone their commitment to Scouting.



As the first Beavers to receive these awards in Wargrave in a very long time we are proud of Isaac Dawson, Malo Falaise and William Clarke and wish them every success in their future Scouting.

## Online Subscriptions

Since Autumn Term 2015, 1st Wargrave Scout Group has been managing its subscriptions through an automated online system, Online Scout Manager (OSM). Subs have remained at £30 per child per term across the whole Group. The initial setup process with GoCardless is very quick and easy, taking less than a minute. All you need is your bank details. Payments of £30 will then be taken (by direct debit through the GoCardless account) on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> June of each year (assuming your child remains in the Group). You will receive an email notification a few days before the payment goes out and then again, once it has been taken.

Please also register for Gift Aid very easily, which enables the Scout Group to benefit by 25p in every pound you pay.

Rest assured, as soon as your son or daughter leaves the Group, no further subs will be taken.

## Uniform

1st Wargrave Group does hold a considerable amount of second-hand uniform, although more is always welcome when you have finished with it. These uniforms are in good conditions and any contributions towards purchasing them go directly into Scout funds.



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If you are interested in purchasing any of the second-hand uniform held by the Group or indeed have any second-hand uniform no longer required within your family please contact Helen Vonka.

If you want to buy new uniform the nearest scout shop is at the 1st Woodley Scout Hall. They can be contacted on [Shop@LoddonDistrict.org.uk](mailto:Shop@LoddonDistrict.org.uk)

For diagrams of where to sew the various badges each section has the Scout Association website is the best place to look:

Beavers –

[https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform\\_diagrams/Beaver-Scout-uniform.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform_diagrams/Beaver-Scout-uniform.pdf)

Cubs –

[https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform\\_diagrams/Cub-Scout-uniform.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform_diagrams/Cub-Scout-uniform.pdf)

Scouts –

[https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform\\_diagrams/Scout-uniform.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Uniform_diagrams/Scout-uniform.pdf)

## Kids Party? Want to Hire the hall?

The hall is available for children's parties, family parties and society meetings when not being used for Scout activities. Bookings for hire should be made with: Sarah Ayele ([hall@wargravescouts.org](mailto:hall@wargravescouts.org))

## 2017 Diary Dates

- Scouts Winter Camp @The Hut - Saturday 25th February
- Scouts Summer Camp - Walton Firs, Cobham. Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th July.

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**Season's Greetings from the Exec Committee  
and from all of the Beavers, Cubs and Scout Leaders!**

**Thank you for your support in 2016, and  
here's to another great Scouting year in 2017  
at 1<sup>st</sup> Wargrave!**