



## GROUP NEWS

April 2021



We will be able to return to face to face scouting in restricted size groups for the Summer Term.

More details will be given to parents by your child's section leaders.

Meetings will be outside following social distancing rules.

All parents need to have read and agreed to the *Pinkneys Green Scout Group COVID-19 Policy and Response*. If you have not already done so, last term.

## Request for Support – Closure of Golden Ball Lane

Dear Parents/Guardians and friends of PG.

We are asking for your urgent help relating to an important road safety issue that has only recently been brought to our attention. In short, the Council are actively considering permanently closing Golden Ball Lane to vehicle traffic. As you will be aware, Golden Ball Lane forms a crucial part of the PG one-way system that is place to keep your young people safe at drop-off and pick-up times, keep traffic moving as smoothly as possible and maintain the best possible relations with our neighbours.

The current proposal being considered by the Council is to close Golden Ball Lane via an "Experimental Order" which is expected to be in force for a minimum of 6 months, but could be up to 18 months at which point a permanent closure decision will be taken.

**Impact** - Without Golden Ball Lane being available there are no practical alternatives to maintain the current one-way system that we believe is absolutely essential to mitigate the risk of a young person being injured, or worse. Were the one-way system to be removed we unfortunately foresee:

- an increase in two-way traffic outside the Scout Hall, placing our young people at risk;
- long queues of vehicles on Furze Platt Road waiting to turn right into Winter Hill Road;
- vehicles cutting across the oncoming, fast-moving Winter Hill Road traffic to park next to the verge to allow young people to get in/out of vehicles safely;
- additional traffic delays on Winter Hill Road due to parking manoeuvres resulting from not being able to easily 'park at the back of the line' for drop-off/pick-up;
- the use of Malders Lane as an inappropriate turning circle or cut through to/from Canon Court Road area; and general disruption to our neighbours who show us great patience and tolerance already.

We do appreciate the Golden Ball Lane residents' concerns around volume of traffic, noise and safety. However, we believe that the safety risk, particularly to children, needs to be viewed holistically and consider the purpose of all road users of Golden Ball Lane. As always, the safety of everyone attending the Scout Hall is our primary concern and after a number of traffic incidents and very near misses over the years it is an issue we are passionate about, as we are sure you already know.

For the safety of the youngsters using the hall, please send a letter or email to council, details on our web site:

Full letter <http://www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/GB-letter.doc>

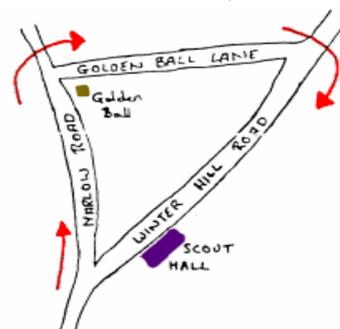
Template <http://www.pgscouts.org.uk/pdf/gb-template.doc>

Thank you for your support.

On a more exciting note. We will be able to return to face to face scouting in restricted size groups for the Summer Term. Your section Leader will let you know of the arrangements.

We are really looking forward to being able to see you and enjoy the outdoor activities we have all missed so much.

**Erica Hunter**



## **Emma Neeves 1973 - 2021**

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that Emma Neeves died on Monday 22 March at The Thames Valley Hospice.

Emma and Tim have been associated with the group since Harvey joined. He was followed by Ava and Edie who is currently a Littlewick Scout. They have been members of the group parents committee for over nine years. Emma ran our successful raffle and silent auctions at summer fairs. We are pleased that we were able to award Emma and Tim with a Chief Scouts commendations awards, for all of their time and efforts given to the group.

Our Best Wishes go to her husband Tim, son Harvey and daughters Ava and Edie.



## **St George's Day 2021**



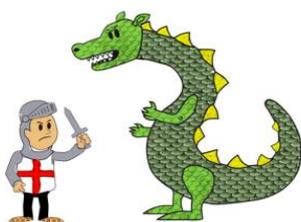
This year's St George's Day celebration will be slightly different! In the run up to the event on Sunday 25th April, we would like all members of Maidenhead Scouts to take part in an art exhibition. We will display all contributions in Maidenhead Town Centre so the whole community can see the art. Please share the task far and wide amongst members and ask them to submit their photos via the link below.

**While we can't meet in person,  
let's join together through art!**

Create your own interpretation of our Scout logo using whatever you have at home - indoors or out, and send us a photo.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebYC3kjkB8DDEu22ukul3nznpuVoyRa7Asvy6OXXkqrrBaOZA/viewform>

If you don't have google account send photo to your child's leader



On **Sunday 25th April**, we will come together on Zoom at **2pm** for a celebration event which will include a Magic Show, Camp Fire Songs and renewing our promises.

Let us know what your favourite Camp Fire Songs are by voting in our poll! <https://forms.gle/arpSw2tiq1C8Q2nw5>

## **Easyfundraising Online Shopping**



During this challenging time we still 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/](http://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 Zoom meetings continue the beavers have enjoyed a meeting based on St David's day. They learnt the history of why the leek is a symbol of Wales and who St David was. They even learnt some Welsh phrases.

The beavers also had an evening completing their My Skills Challenge badge. The beavers learnt how to tie a tie, tie their shoe laces and light a candle. (with parents help)

Hopefully our next Zoom meeting will be our last as we should be able to get back to face to face scouting after Easter in a COVID safe way. Keep an eye on your emails



**Tic Tac Winter Hill** (Tom Beynon)



### **Littlewick Colony**

Once again we have been busy on a Monday night with our group of zooming Beavers.

We've continued experimenting with our microwave baking- this time pizzas in mugs, along with learning about bike safety and cycling skills.

This week we discussed our favourite books, shared some books on zoom and made useful bookmarks (see photo).

Next week we are working towards our Animal Friend badge before planning our decorated hard boiled egg competition!

Hawkeye and I are really looking forward to getting back together, hopeful after Easter.

**Rainbow Littlewick** (Sarah Brodie)

## **CUB NEWS**

### **Winter Hill Pack**

Planning is well underway for a return to face-to-face cub meetings in the Summer Term. The Zoom meetings have been enjoyed by all but I think everyone is in agreement that it's going to brilliant to get back outdoors!

We finished February with some Junk Modelling. Creating various animals of all shapes and sizes from... toilet roll - and other materials. The result included some impressive creations including a 12-legged octopus, horizontally striped zebra and short-tailed horse. That was the leaders' efforts, the cubs were much more successful at creating a virtual zoo.

Mysa organised an intense game of Map Symbol Dobble as part of the Navigator evening and introducing the cubs to map reading - skills that will certainly come in handy over the summer.

Kitchens were no doubt destroyed during *Hathi's* Mug Cake meeting. Who knew you could make cakes that quickly and "easily"?

By the time of print, the cubs will have enjoyed a virtual visit from Blue Cross to talk animal/pet welfare and a round or two of Pictionary to complete our artist badges before the end of term. More about the Blue Cross and the wonderful work they do for sick, injured and homeless pets can be found at: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk>

As we begin to think about returning to some normality, Raksha has started preparing our new joiners ready for investitures. We've got a lot of catching up to do: 16 to invest!

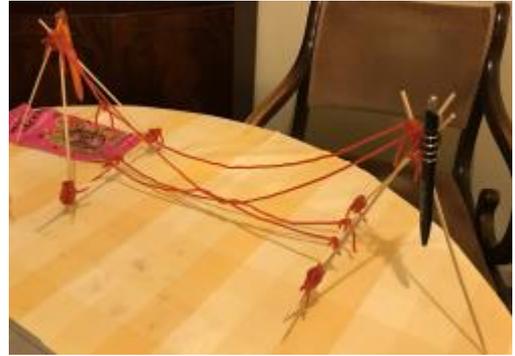
**Akela Winter Hill** (Jon Corbitt)



## **SCOUT NEWS**

### **Littlewick Troop**

We seem to have had a bit of a building things phase for our recent run of online meetings on Zoom. For the first of these we built towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows on a collection of tables and kitchen worktops. The leaders had a go too and I found this quite cathartic. We had a lot of decent structures, with many reaching over 50 cm, along with the occasional collapse, mine included.



For our next meeting we built bottle sailing boats from plastic bottles, card and paper. Each had the key components to move including a mast, two sails, a keel, and a rudder. The boats went to sail in various kitchen sinks and baths with wind supplied from fans, tea trays and by just blowing. We investigated how the angle of the sails and the angle of the wind dictated whether the boat would move and in which direction.

The final construction based evening was doing some indoor pioneering with small 'poles' and Strawberry Laces for rope. Everyone built two tripods then connected them to make a bridge. Dismantling the tripods is a lot more fun when you can just eat half the equipment.

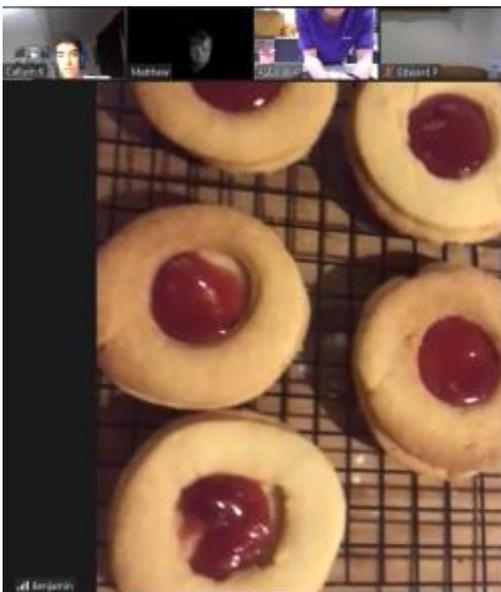
For our most recent meeting we had an evening about the truth and lies. First we played two truths and a lie. Then each scout was given a news headline. First they had to make a truthful poster about that headline. Then they swapped headline with another scout and had to make a false or conspiratorial poster about the second headline. It was an interesting

exercise and, safe to say, I do not know what to believe any more!

**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 made pizzas from scratch. The bases were made from a two Ingredient Dough Pizza using self raising flour and greek yogurt, the Scouts chose their own topping, we were very impressed how they turned out and they were very tasty



The following week, the Scouts completed some mapping challenges and did some challenges

where the Scouts had to work out where they were in the world

The following week the Scouts were split into four teams (breakout rooms) and solve a whodunit: Murder at Mansfield Manor. This was an interactive whodunit solving the clues, trying to beat the other teams to find the murderer first, very similar to cludo, Bens team was the first team to work it out in just over 45 minutes

Last week as it was red Nose day the Scouts made and cooked Red Nose Day raspberry cookies (Jammie Dodgers), the results were very good and they looked very appetising. There were a couple of mishaps, one Scout forgot to add the plain flour and another used self raising flour.

You can see some of thier Red Nose Day raspberry cookies they made on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pgscouts](http://www.facebook.com/pgscouts)

**Scout Leader Winter Hill** (*Simon Wheeler*)