



GROUP NEWS

January 2021

On behalf of all the Leaders, we hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas

We Wish You All A Happy New Year

HAPPY
2021
NEW YEAR



Due to us being in Tier four, all face-to-face Scout meetings, activities and events are suspended again

Each section will be organising some virtual scouting for their members to do at home, via emails and their Facebook pages.

We have no idea when we will be getting back to normal Scouting.

Berkshire Scouts @home challenge

You can still have a go at Berkshire Scout Challenges for those Scouts who want to complete whilst Scouting at home. This has been developed by the 'Berkshire Scouts @home challenge', open to all members of Scouting in Berkshire. The challenge can be completed as a section, as a Group, or by individual members, but the main aim is to have fun and give leaders and young people new ideas to try.

The challenge has been adapted to suit Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. To complete it, they should complete an activity from each of the six challenge areas:

1. Helping Others
2. Nights Away
3. International Scouting
4. Youth Shaped Scouting
5. Learning New Skills
6. The Scouting Family



More details <https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/scoutshome/>

Christmas Message

I would like to thank all of our leaders for being able to run meetings this year, whether that be on Zoom or face to face. No one could have created the scenario we have face in 2020. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm from all of our Beavers Cubs, Scouts and young leaders in response to the program and activities we have managed. I think every section has cooked at home, camped or made a Den.

As we are now in Tier 4 all face to face scouting has stopped and we anticipate starting 2021 on zoom.

I wish you all a Happy Healthy and safe Christmas with your families.

Erica Hunter

Group Scout Leader



PG Christmas Trees

Thank you goes to Peta & Charlie Almond for coordinating the sales and delivery of this year Christmas trees fundraising activity and to all the Parents and Scouts who delivered the trees and collecting them for recycling and of course to everyone who purchased a PG Christmas tree.

We have raised over £4,446.

This activity was especially important as it's our only fundraising event of 2020.



Used Postage Stamps -



Reminder, Tarka (Barry Palmer) is collecting used postage stamps for RNIB
We are still collecting stamps, please save them for us when they come through your post box or at your work. Make sure you leave a centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp. Then either put them through the Scout Hall letter box, or give them to your child's section leader.

Thank you to everyone who has already dropped off stamps.



During this challenging time when we can't fundraise in person and events have been cancelled, Pinkneys Green Scouts 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 used our online shopping page



WEB Camera

To help us run online Zoom meetings, do you have a **USB Web camera** you no longer require?

or

A 3.5mm jack plug or USB Microphone, so we can talk over zoom

If you can help us please contact Simon help@pgtips.org.uk

BEAVER NEWS

Littlewick Colony

We have been busy connecting via weekly zooms. A regular group of between 6-8 Beavers have joined us to practice wrapping presents, making festive cards and have a little Christmas party.

It has been great to continue to 'meet', Hawkeye and I have really enjoyed it and we have had some lovely feedback from Beavers and their families. Merry Christmas everyone and here's to a Happy New Year. Rainbow, Hawkeye and Bubbles.

Rainbow Littlewick (Sarah Brodie)



Winter Hill Colony

Luckily the Beavers were able to meet face to face one last time before the end of the year. We had a night of Christmas parties with two groups, with time in between for clearing up and sanitising. As they arrived the Beavers designed a Christmas card to take home. We then played some socially distant games including musical statues. They then had a little treat and a party bag, to finish the evening we sang a few Christmas songs. It was lovely to see so many Beavers attend and enjoy themselves.

Next year hopefully we can meet more frequently and continue to do the scouting we all know and love. If not we will definitely be on Zoom. It certainly has been a year like no other. I would like to thank everyone for all their support in person and on Zoom. I would also like to wish everyone a restful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing everyone in 2021. Below are some pictures of the year.



Tic Tac Winter Hill (Tom Beynon)

CUB NEWS

Littlewick Pack

We only managed to meet for a couple of weeks between lockdowns at the end of 2020. In that time we played lots of team games, and made some lovely Christmas cards for the residents of St Mark's BUPA care home. We couldn't visit the home to sing carols as we have done in previous years but it was still good to be able to share some Christmas cheer, a great community event - well done Cubs!!



Running two sessions per week has worked well, we will continue with this when we are able to and we are still meeting inside. We will move back to alternate weeks once we start to meet outside. But as I write this our readiness level doesn't allow any face to face Scouting, we will have to wait and see what the new year brings.

From all the leaders at Littlewick, welcome back to 2021.

Akela LG (*Pete Matthews*)

Winter Hill Pack

Like everyone, we're disappointed to have cancelled plans for outdoor meetings but we're looking forward to getting everyone back together online in the term and new year ahead.

The Winter Hill Cub Pack will be meeting online every Wednesday for 30-45mins from 7pm. Just follow the link sent to parents and check OSM for further information about individual meetings.

Next term, we will also be welcoming Alexander, Zachary, Reuben, Lucas, Flori, Cooper and Freddie (and their families) to the Pack. Welcome!

From all of the Cub Leaders - we wish you a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

Akela WH (*Jon Corbitt*)



SCOUT NEWS

Littlewick Troop

For the second half of November we continued with online Zoom meetings as the second lockdown prevented us from meeting face to face. One evening we made a cookie in a mug which involved the scouts taking over their own kitchens and doing some (microwave) baking whilst conferring on Zoom. These came out pretty well although comparing the consistency of our cookie mixes over webcams was challenging.

Other online meetings have involved a balloon debate where each scout was a famous person, route planning considering the carbon dioxide emissions of different methods of travel and various shorter challenges and games. During this period of online meetings we have met a menagerie of family pets which has been a bonus.

Before finishing for the term, we managed one face to face meeting. This was a hike around the Pinkneys Green area looking at the Christmas lights. Lots of houses are putting on an impressive show this year. As an activity to do whilst walking, the scouts were given a list of types of decorations and lights to spot. These varied from stars to reindeer to inflatable Santas. One team claimed to have spotted 53 out of 54 items. During this period we have welcomed *George Clarke* and *James Almond* to the troop who have moved up from the Winter Hill Cub Pack.

Before finishing for the year I would like to thank *Peter Marshall* and *Ben Almond* for their help since we restarted face to face in the summer. They have been very useful. Merry Christmas and see you in 2021!

LG Scout Leader (Mark Courtier)

Winter Hill Troop

It has been a very busy month, we managed to have our first face to face meeting since lockdown, before we moved to tier four. *Alex Woodhead Pavón*, *Edward Coppins*, *Austin Wilson*, *Will Spinks* and *Alexandros Antonas* made their Scout promises and were invested as members of Winter Hill Troop. Some of them left Cubs in March.



We have also held various zoom meetings including one with Christmas theme where PLs got the Scouts to dress up and a special zoom meeting just before Christmas where Ex. PG Scout and local magician and actor *Patrick Ashe* held a magic evening and taught the Scouts how to do some magic tricks.

Congratulations go to *Matthew Milston* on being awarded the Medal of Merit. *Matthew* has been a leader with the Troop for the past sixteen years. The **Medal of Merit** is awarded for outstanding service.

Also to *BoB Weingarth*, Troop Assistant Scout Leader, on being awarded the Chief Scout's thirty year Service Award and *Aidan Milston*, Troop sectional assistant on being awarded the chief Scout's five year service award, by our District Commissioner *Rob Harris* and Group Scout Leader *Erica Hunter* presented the award on their door steps, due to government restrictions



Hope you have had a Great Christmas and Wishing You all a Happy New Year & Best Wishes for 2021.

Let's hope we will be able to go camping in 2021

WH Scout Leader (Simon Wheeler)