

The GSL is often contacted (by text or e-mail) just prior to Section meetings with apologies for a young person's non-attendance. The GSL usually has no direct involvement with the Sections so the message rarely gets to the correct person at the right time. To notify Leaders of any Section-night issues please **TEXT only** to:

Beaver Scout Colony: Kirsty Lockwood ☎07974 378597
Cub Scout Pack: Nigel Gibbins (Bagheera) ☎07824 486424
Scout Troop: Jason Bletcher ☎07747 125828

You should initially discuss any Section issues or concerns with the Section Leaders. Only if it is Group-related (or urgent), should it be addressed directly to the Group Scout Leader: David Fern ☎08450 946236, or E-Mail: stnicksscouts@btinternet.com

Coming Events

2020

7 th January	Scouts restart
13 th January	Beavers and Cubs restart
26 th April	St George's Day Parade & Service (tbc)
13 th June	Shepperton Village Fair
17 th June	Group Annual review/AGM
27 th June	St Nicholas School Summer Fair
8 th November	Remembrance Sunday



On behalf of the Leader Team, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Remember the Scout Troop website: www.1stsheppertonscouts.org where you will also find a link to the Group's Data Protection Policies.

A Scout Group column is in the Parish Magazine, Shepperton News, each month. If you do not receive one, copies are usually available on the HQ noticeboard.

Please ensure that any change of address, phone number, or e-mail is notified to the Section Leaders (so that the Emergency Contact Form can be updated) and also to the Group Scout Leader (see below) as well as updating OSM. Please remember that it is **your** responsibility to ensure that all information we hold is correct and accurate.

For further information on any of these issues, or to make comments, please contact David Fern (Group Scout Leader), 45 Tanglyn Avenue, Shepperton, TW17 0AD.

☎ 08450 946236 or by E-Mail: stnicksscouts@btinternet.com

GOLD SCARF


Scouts
1st Shepperton
(St Nicholas)

1st SHEPPERTON (ST.NICHOLAS) SCOUT GROUP



**December
2019**

Restart of Meetings

After the Christmas break, meetings will resume as follows:

Scouts	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Beaver Scouts	Monday 13th January 2020
Cub Scouts	Tuesday 13th January 2020

Once again, and from now on, Gold Scarf will continue to be circulated electronically via OSM e-mail. Please keep a copy somewhere as Gold Scarf always contains some important information such as restart dates, coming events and the important contact numbers for Section Leaders.

Poppy Memorial Badges 2019

We have been proud to wear this special commemorative Uniform badge either side of Remembrance Sunday BUT it is only sanctioned by the Scout Association for wear up to the 31st December. Please, therefore, remove these badges from Uniforms before the restart in January. The badges may, of course, be used elsewhere such as on a camp blanket and, if anyone would like an additional Badge, we still have some available at the special price of £1.

The Russell Vinter Hall – the Group Headquarters

I'm pleased to tell you that we now have an Estate Manager/Co-ordinator after a break of around 7 years. Beaver parent, Tom Oakley, has taken on the role and will be organising some more working parties in 2020. The last session in September was fairly well attended and a lot was achieved – the doors now have their 2nd protective coat, so only one more to go now! Earlier this month we also completed the 2nd major project and now have new fascias and soffits behind the guttering (thanks to Mr Gutter) but the lighting wiring now needs to be re-attached. Please support the working parties when they are announced and help with some minor essential tasks.

Census 2020 – Important information

Now that we are using the new On-line Scout Management System (OSM) we believe we hold all the necessary information to allow us to complete the annual census without bothering you with additional questions. Obviously it is important that you keep your details up-to-date by using your personal OSM log-in – details about how to register for this were sent a couple of times in the past few months but a few of you still appear not to have accessed the system yet to check and update the details we hold. If you have lost the sign-up information, please let us know at the e-mail address on the back page. Remember, under the Data Protection Policy, it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure we have the correct information and to amend it as necessary. Please also note that new members will be invited to sign up following Investiture.

However, at this time of year we always canvass parents to ensure that we know who will be with us next term - the annual census is completed at the end of January and this is the basis for the annual Capitation fee and Group levy. EVERYONE who is included on the census must pay the Scout Association capitation fee so, if your son is 'wavering' over remaining in Scouting, now would be a good time to make decisions. If your son has left – or is planning to leave the Group - you must notify the **GSL** (not Section Leader) by **Tuesday 21st January**. This will prevent the embarrassment of our having to chase you up after your child may have left the Group.

In addition, the Group Levy (which is dependent on the Group's budgetary requirement and includes 'subs') will be discussed by the Group Executive Committee on 8th January 2020. Without pre-empting any decision of the Trustees, I should point out that, whilst we have not yet been told of the District and County elements, the National portion has increased by £1.00. Letters advising you about any changes to the fees will be e-mailed via OSM shortly after the 9th January meeting. The preferred method of collection will still be by continuous monthly standing order. Please monitor your account to ensure that your regular payments are being made and remember, it is your responsibility to cancel the Standing Order when your son or daughter leaves the Group.

Remember, however, it is an absolute policy of the Group that no boy or girl will be denied Scouting through an inability to pay – be it capitation, 'subs' or camp fees. The only requirement is that you talk (in complete confidence) to the Group Treasurer, or GSL so that each case may be dealt with as appropriate.

Fireworks Night – 5th November 2019

We held our fireworks display on Monday 5th November with around 150 people enjoying a wonderful evening and about £500-worth of pyrotechnics. Thanks to everyone involved with the event and, because the sausages were donated, we managed to raise £204.32 for Group funds.

Leader shortages and Parents Rotas

We now have a fantastic new (experienced) Leader in the Beaver Scout Colony – Kirsty Lockwood – but she is on her own. Parent rotas continue to be a vital part of the running of our Sections and it is absolutely vital that parents fulfil their allocated session – we cannot now give contact details on the rota so we must rely on parents making their own 'swops'. Whilst occasional help no longer requires a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – previously known as a CRB check – we now have 2 Beaver parents who have agreed to help on a regular rota basis and have received DBS clearance. These mums are a welcome addition to the normal rota and help to boost the adult help available. It does not, however, help with the underlying Leader issue and we urge any parent who may be able to consider a Leader role to get in touch. It would also help to repeat this initiative in the other Sections, especially the Cub Scout Pack, and have a pool of DBS-checked parents who could help on a regular (but pre-arranged) basis. Please consider it and get in touch with the GSL – it really is painless!

Payments to the Group and Sections

Just a reminder that we now request only 'electronic' transfers – both for Group payments (capitation/subs, etc.) **and** Section payments (outings/camps, etc.). The Group and the Sections have different accounts, so it is important that payment is made to the correct **Barclays** account. The Sort Code for all accounts is: **20-90-56** and account numbers are as shown below:

1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) **Scout Group – A/c No. 60370517**

1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) **Beaver Scout Colony - A/c No. 30022438**

1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) **Cub Scout Pack - A/c No. 30370894**

1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) **Scout Troop - A/c No. 50370592**

Obviously, the relevant details will be given when any payments are requested.

Shepperton Village Fair – 13th June 2020

As has been mentioned previously we still do not have anyone to co-ordinate our fundraising efforts, or a Supporter/s Fundraising Committee at present. As a result, we had no presence at Big Tree Night this year and the Fireworks Night was organised by the GSL. We really do need to put a small team in place SOON to plan and organise for Shepperton Village Fair which contributes in a big way to our income and enables us to keep our fees down whilst still providing excellent programmes for your young people. There is plenty of past experience and documented procedures to call upon so, if you feel you could be part of a small organising team, please speak to David Fern on 0845 094 6236 or at stnicksscouts@btinternet.com.