

News

1st Bagshot Spring 2012 Newsletter

Scouts Canal Boat Trip

In October a group of about 20 Scouts, Steve, Spence, Lisa and Andy set off on a Friday night in a minibus to go on a canal boat trip on the Grand Union Canal. The journey took about 1:30 hours and it was pitch black as we tumbled out of the minibus at Braunston Marina, our starting point.



At the canal we were met by two Scout leaders from another group who were going to be our skippers for the weekend. We were split onto two boats, Lancelot and Gwynevere ("Gwynie") and after a quick safety briefing we climbed onboard.

On the first night we had one activity which was to carve pumpkins which we then put candles in, lit them and put them on top of the boat. Most of us had hot chocolate and then we went to "bed" – I say bed but I really mean a plank of wood attached to the side of the boat with some foam on it. It was basic but I guess that's all there was room for onboard.

At 7:30am our skipper Barry stomped along the roof of the boat to wake us all up, not that we needed it (well maybe one or two did!). After a delicious cooked breakfast we got going because we had to get through seven locks before lunchtime.

Everyone joined in at the locks and by lunchtime we were ready for our soup and sandwiches which we ate sitting on top of the boats. The weather was pretty good.

After lunch we went through two tunnels at Daventry. The tunnels were almost 1 mile long. Because there wasn't any lighting in the tunnels we had to open all the curtains and doors and turn all the lights on onboard. We also lit the candles in the pumpkins we'd carved the night before and they looked great in the dark. The tunnels were only just wide enough for two boats to pass and one of the boats coming the other way crashed into us. No damage was done but one of the pumpkins was knocked off the roof of the boat and amazingly, landed the right way up in the water so that it floated off downstream with the candle still glowing gently.

After the tunnels we came to a flight of 7 locks at Watford Gap. It was great fun going up/down the locks.

Soon after the staircase, we stopped for the night. Dinner was a delicious Shepherd's pie. After washing up we had a quiz and some free time before lights out at 10 (ish)...although most of us didn't get to sleep until much later.

Sunday was pretty much the reverse of Sunday and by then we were used to going through locks and were even getting quite good at it. Back at the start we thanked our skippers and piled into the minibus. We arrived home exhausted but happy after a great weekend.

Thanks to Lisa, Steve, Andy and Spence for taking us.

Aniela Nahajski - Scout

Gold Chief Scout Award Presented

We're proud to be able to say that Ben Faruqui has achieved the Chief Scout's Gold Award. This is the highest award available in the Scout Section.

In order to gain the award and badge Scouts need to complete a number of challenges over a period of approximately 2 1/2 years including learning about different communities and cultures, completing a schedule of fitness training, assisting in a community project or charitable work and learning skills to navigate, cook and camp in all conditions. Additionally, Scouts are required to demonstrate that they take part in a variety of adventurous activities from sailing and kayaking to climbing and abseiling and that they can complete a one night away distance hike carrying their own tent, food and equipment.



The Chief Scouts Gold Award challenges young people to do their best in a wide range of events. Ben is one of a small number of Scouts who succeed in gaining this accolade. Ben was presented his award by Robin Hooper, the Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts in Surrey Heath District. Well done Ben.

Replacement for the Stores

As anyone who has been involved in sorting out the debris post-family camp will know our storage facility is in dire need of replacement. We have a plan to get this ancient wooden shed replaced by a purpose built, more secure, rodent free metal building at the rear of the Parish Hall if all goes well with the Planning Office and the Parish Hall committee.



The estimated cost of this project, including the groundworks and planning costs is about £19,000. We have £5,000 already in the group funds for this project from previous fundraising and have been fortunate to recently

receive a grant of £7,200 from the County Council towards the project. This still leaves us £7,000 short of our target. Can you help?

We are looking to a number of sources to raise the outstanding sums or reduce the costs:

- Workplace giving schemes – many employers such as Lilly, GSK and Amoco have corporate giving schemes that can be applied for by employees
- Other charitable organisations – The Lions, Round Table, Rotary Club etc
- eBay for Charity (more on this below)
- Local construction companies who could potentially do some of the work at a lower cost or for free

If you have any ideas or contacts could you please get in touch with a Leader.

eBay for Charity

Earlier this year 1st Bagshot Scout Group registered with ebay for Charity.



This is a scheme which allows people to give some or all of what they get by selling stuff on ebay to charity. Here's an example of how it works:

- Fred has got a set of golf clubs he no-longer uses and decides to sell them on ebay
- Because his daughter has so much fun at cubs he decides to give half of what he makes to the Scout Group
- When he is adding his golf-clubs to ebay he fills in the Donations section by searching for the charity "Bagshot Scouts" and selecting 1st Bagshot. He also decides how much to give and selects 50%.
- Because Fred has chosen to give 50%, ebay will only charge Fred 50% of their normal charges.
- The golf clubs sell for £100 plus £12 postage.
- Fred gets paid the £112 by the buyer and sends the golf clubs to the happy buyer.
- About 45 days later, Ebay takes 50% of £100 – ie £50 from Fred's account and pays it to Ebay for Charity (run by MissionFish).
- Because Fred is a UK tax-payer and because he remembered to tick the "Gift Aid" box, the extra £10 is claimed.
- £60 gets paid into the 1st Bagshot bank account (less a very small processing fee).

How magic is that? Of course if Fred had been a bit flummoxed by Ebay, he could of simply given the golf-clubs to the Group to sell.

A few of us have been beavering (excuse the pun!) away, helping clear a garage and a loft and have sold some stuff and given 100% to 1st Bagshot. Here's a sample of what we've raised so far:

- 3 Mini bumpers £130
- A vintage lacrosse stick £25
- Manual Sewing machine £19
- Tannoy record player cartridge £113
- Vintage turntable £700

Yep, by the time some Gift Aid has been added that'll be over £1000!

Ebay top tips

- Start at 99p – anything worth selling will find it's true price (The turntable was listed at 99p and sold for £700)
- Don't put a reserve on the item because bidding almost always slows down or stops once a reserve has been met.
- Find other items like yours and look for ideas for how to describe or list your item
- If you can, ask for cash or other payment methods that don't cost. Unfortunately Paypal haven't joined in with the charitable spirit and charge you for receiving the money. You might want to consider that when you decide what percentage to give.
- If you pay tax in the UK, please make sure you set your Gift Aid option to yes:
 - My Ebay – click on "Account" tab and choose "Donation Account". Under "Settings" choose "Gift Aid", then make sure the "I want to add Gift Aid..." box is ticked

You can see the Group's Ebay for charity listings at http://donations.ebay.co.uk/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=48219

If anyone could give some time to help keep the momentum going with listing, selling and shipping items or if you have anything cluttering up the garage or loft that we might be able to sell then please get in touch with Andy Woodward or Stefan Nahajski.

Future Dates

May 4th – 6th Cub Camp at Runway's End

September 21th to 23th Family Camp, location tbd.

AGM May 15th – Location tbd

Your Leaders and the Exec Team

As many of you will only have regular interaction with your section Leaders we thought it would be useful to give you some info on the group in general.

Group Scout Leader – Spencer Watson

Beavers

Leader – Kate Cox
Assistant Leader – Andy Woodward
Young Leader – Kieran Runnacles

Cubs

Leader – Andy Woodward
Assistant Leader – Fraser Sampson
Assistant Leader – Pat Vesey
Pack Assistant – Beth Reed

Scouts

Leader – Steve Lamb
Assistant Leader – Lisa Brewer

We are all volunteers with limited time so we would always welcome anyone to help on a regular or irregular basis. Please let anyone know if you feel you could help more.

Exec Team

Group Chairman – John Bauld
Group Treasurer – Claire Bates
Group Secretary- Jayne Lifford
Quartermaster – Paul Newman
Member – Adrian Ringrose
Special Projects – Sam Goggin
Member - Ian Hill
Member – Lorraine Gunn

The Exec team currently has a project to modernise the invoicing and collection of Subs via Direct Debit or other electronic means. If you have experience of this and could help, or would like to take this on to gain experience, please let us know.