



Happy 2024

It's been another busy year at 1st Harpenden, I hope everyone has had a safe and peaceful festive period, and wishing everyone a very happy 2024.

Andy Wrentmore, 1st Harpenden Group Scout Leader

A Wonderful 2023...

Our Beavers have taken part in camps at Phasels Wood and Tolmers with activities such as Cresta Run, Caving, Open Fire Cooking and Camp Fire Songs. They have also been to Ninja Warriors, created Halloween crafts, played Wide Games, celebrated Chinese New Year, made scarecrows at Hammonds End Farm, night hikes, District Beavers Carol Concert and floated recycled boats down the River Lea.



Our Cubs have been camping at Tolmers (twice) and Lees Wood with Pioneering, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Open Fire Cooking, Camp Fire and songs. The Cubs have also been busy Raft Building, Hiking, Self-Defencing, Ringos at Hemel ski centre, Fire-Lighting, Lambing as Hammonds End Farm, Backwoods Cooking, Trebuchet Building, Canoeing, Bike Riding, Cubs Got Talenting, visiting Bayfordbury Observatory, Ice-Skating, Carol Singing for the Elderly and Christmas Card posting (more on that later).

Our Cubs also came second in the annual **District Rothamsted Challenge**.



Our Scouts had their week-long Summer camp on the Isle of Purbeck where they took part in Coasteering, Altar Fire Cooking, Sea Kayaking, Hiking and Wide Games on [Brownsea Island](#). The Scouts have also been Fishing, Assault Coursing, Bike Riding, Learning to Sail, Go-Karting, Lambing at Hammonds End Farm, Ice-Skating, Collecting for a Food Bank and using their pioneering skills to construct a tripod bridge over the River Lea.



Our Scouts entered 5 teams in the annual County Green Beret competition, from our very youngest to our very oldest Scouts. With 148 teams competing 1st Harpenden retained two trophies achieving 3rd Place overall (we've had a top 3 finish for the sixth year in a row!). Our Scouts retained 1st place in the Night Bases and came both 1st and 2nd in the District. The Scouts made us all proud and showed resilience, tenacity and team spirit in very wet and muddy conditions. [Green Beret Photos](#)



Green Team with their 3rd place trophy **Davis Tam, Luke Jacobs, Will Rees, Freddie Barker, Max Wilson and Archie MacFarlane**

New Appointments

Please join in congratulating our recent New Appointments:

Beaver Volunteer Team: Carol Kong, Hasina Geeson (Section Lead role), Karen Lin (Section Lead role), Katy Lewis (Section Lead role), Shirley Mankowitz (transferred from Scouts), Jenny Lyon (Admin)

Cub Volunteer Team: Ed Scriven, Edwin Jeu and Joe Guy.

Scout Volunteer Team: Dickson Tam, Sally Rees, Stuart Roberts (Section Lead role), Nicola Crellin (Admin), Zoe Lin (Admin)

Group Volunteer Team: Catherine Kennedy-Hawkey (Section Moves Manager), Grant Denny (Quarter-Master Team), Lisa Box (Quarter-Master Team), Mark Wilson (Trustee Board),

Richard Dalton (Quarter-Master Team), Rachel Pepperrell (Trustee Board), Suzanne Mills (Group Secretary), Tim Archbold (Quarter-Master Team Lead)

We are in **great need for parents to step forward** to become part of the volunteering team at **Wednesday Beavers, Tuesday Cubs, and Wednesday Scouts**. As we are 100% run by volunteers, and have 60 volunteer roles to fill, **each and every family should be stepping forward to help at some point**. If you have never volunteered please contact your child's volunteering team for how you can get involved, it is not as difficult as you might think 😊.

Volunteers Stepping Down

Many thanks to those stepping down from their roles, we simply would not be here without you....

Beaver Volunteer Team: Alexis Turrall, Brian Abrey after 4½ years of service **thank you so much Brian**, Caryn Bayles (Admin), Clare Roberts, Erica Lewis after 5½ years of service as Section Lead **thank you so much Erica**, Julian Jones, Peter Kuna stepping down from Section Lead after more than 5 years, remaining a team member for now, **thank you so much Peter**.

Cub Volunteer Team: Daria Godding and Emma Ibson. Anita White is stepping down after more than 4 years looking after Cubs badges and previously as Hut Lettings Manager - **thank you so much Anita**.

Scout Volunteer Team: Ana Rodgers, Grant Denny after 6 years of service, moving to Quarter-Master Team, **thank you so much Grant**, Philip Newman leaving the Group after more than 6 years of service, **thank you so much Philip**, Jane Thomas stepping down from Section Lead role, remaining a team member, **thank you so much Jane**, Paul Pepperrell leaving the Group after more than 6 years of service, **thank you so much Paul**, Shirley Mankowitz transferring to Beavers, Claire McDonald (Admin), Juliet Jacobs (Admin), Zoe Lin moving from the Leadership team to the Admin support team.

Group Volunteer Quarter-Master Team: Chris Smith, Sara Batchelor, Vahit Namli, Dinesh Desoyza and Rick Mobbs.

Group Scout Leader: After 13 years of volunteering at 1st Harpenden as a Cub leader, a Scout Leader, and the last 5 years as Group Scout Leader, I have decided it is time to step down. It has been an honour to support 1st Harpenden over those years, I have built lifelong friendships and many fond memories, but since my children are actually no longer children and left the Group long ago, I think now is the right time to step down. We are blessed in our Group with many others who would be able to take on the role and create a new vision for the Group. If you think that might be you, or you have an idea of someone you think would be great for the role, please can you contact me gsl@1stharpendenscouts.org.uk. If you would like to talk about what the role currently entails, and what it might be in the future, let me know and I would be very happy to chat with you about this.

Fundraising News

A great time had by all at our **Summer Fete and Annual General Meeting** in May, we raised over £730. A special thank you goes to **Bhauna Mehta, Peggy Man** and **Michelle Lynch** from the Fundraising Team and all our parents and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout!

At the AGM we also gave a very warm welcome to our new Trustee Board members **Mark Wilson** (Section Lead Volunteer), **Rachel Pepperrell** (Section Lead Volunteer) and **Suz Mills** (Secretary). [AGM photos](#)



Thanks to every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Leader, Volunteer, Mum, Dad, Auntie, Uncle, Grandma and Grandad who supported our young people at our **Annual Bonfire and Fundraiser** in November, or more accurately an “**Autumn Fete**” since the weather was too inclement for the bonfire. The evening was great fun and raised an amazing **£720!**

A special thank you to our Fundraising Team and those organising and running the stalls.

[Autumn Fete Photos](#)



Over 90 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and adult volunteers from 1st Harpenden came together across 3 days for our first Group Camp since before the Covid pandemic. The camp at Tolmers Activity Centre was huge fun with an array of activities including 'Water Wars', Archery, Climbing, Air Rifles and Human Hungry Hippos.

Thanks to **Alan Grace** everyone went home having made, cooked and (mostly) ate their own "Twist" roasted over an open altar-fire.



Around the campfire we were treated to plenty of songs and memorable skits, it was great to see and hear so many performers young and old(er).

We were very well catered for during the event with **Jane Thomas** and **Tim Archbold** leading the menu, cooking and kitchen crew - thank you both! Who can forget Tim's famous chicken curry which made a re-appearance by popular demand at the Autumn Fete event, delicious!

See our [Group Camp 2023 Photos](#) for the tent inspections which met Scout Leader approval, and those which failed!

Hut Spring Clean

Thanks to all the parents and volunteers who attended the Spring Clean and kit sort event on 20th May. The busy team achieved a huge amount which puts our hut and grounds in good

shape for another year. Just some of the jobs: Hedge tidying and cutting, Ivy clearing, Spider hoovering, Kit sorting, Stores re -ordered, Tents checked, Dusting, Windows cleaned and Clearing the old compost area.

As ever, we are in gratitude to Alan Grace for organising the event and the jobs

Thank You Alan!

St George's Day

We were pleased to see so many of our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders at the St George's Day Parade in April. A spectacular event involving all Scouts and Guides from the Harpenden & Wheathampstead District. [St George's Day Photos](#)





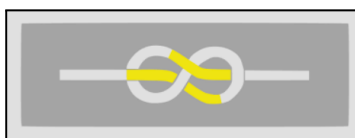
Awards

After completing all of their Adult Volunteer Leader training modules **Jane Thomas** and **Rich Horne** have both achieved their Wood Badge and Wood Beads. Jane and Rich join a small group of leaders to have achieved this milestone, currently only two other 1st Harpenden leaders have achieved this award.



Many congratulations on this significant achievement Jane and Rich!

For services to Scouting, including over 5 years as leaders at 1st Harpenden and taking the role as lead volunteer in their sections for many years, **Erica Lewis, Jane Thomas, Peter Kuna** and **Rich Horne** have been awarded the Chief Scouts Commendation.



Many congratulations to Erica, Jane, Peter and Rich from everyone at 1st Harpenden!

Christmas Card Delivery Milestone

Harpenden Town Mayor and Scout District and County Commissioners joined Harpenden Cubs for their 40th free Christmas card delivery service on 16th December. A total of 3,993 cards were sorted and delivered this year.



Rikki Harrington, who initiated the event 40 years ago and still drives it, said that over that period, the service has saved older residents more than £100,000 at today's prices and the Cubs love being posties for the day. Well done and thank you to all 1st Harpenden Cubs and parents who took part.

Your Beaver / Cub / Scout Needs You!

To run an outstanding programme for 150 young people only happens with the amazing efforts of our less-young people.

At the moment we are in **great need** of adults to join our volunteering teams at Wednesday Beavers, Tuesday Cubs, Wednesday Scouts and a Group DBS Manager (can be done in your own time, average 1 hour per week).

As we move into 2024 please please consider how you can 'do your bit' and give a bit back (like you've always said you would). **Remember, in fairness to everyone, each family should take on a role at some point during their child's time at 1st Harpenden.** Please get in touch with me, Andy Wrentmore on 07970619092 / gsl@1stharpendenscouts.org.uk.

Dates for the Diary

- Cubs & Scouts Gangshow Trip, Thursday 11th January
- Scouts Monopoly Run, Saturday 2nd March
- District Cub Camp, 22nd - 24th March
- St George's Day Parade, Sunday 21st or 28th April TBC
- District Beavers Skills Day, 11th May TBC
- Summer Fete & AGM, May / June TBC
- District Cubs Bike Ride, 23rd June TBC
- Beavers in Tents, June / July TBC
- Summer Scout Camp, 20th -26th July
- Bonfire Fundraiser, November
- Cubs & Scouts Remembrance Parade, Sunday 10th November
- Scouts Green Beret 2024, 16th-17th November
- Cubs & Scouts Joint Ice-Skating, December TBC

A HUGE Thank You to our Volunteers !

I'd like to thank each and every Beaver, Cub and Scout for making 1st Harpenden Scouts a fantastic place to be. And of course all of this would not happen without the immense effort put in by those who volunteer their personal time each week and month, so in addition to those already mentioned, I'd like to personally thank:

Our Young Leaders, you have all been amazing! Anneka Wrentmore, Ben Whiting, Benny Hanna, Charlotte West, Chloe Petevinos, Chloe Symons, Elise Wilson, Finn Kirkbride, Jonathan Bai, Josh Pepperrell, Lukas Kochs, Ollie Grace, Sam Horne and Tom Rae.

Our **Beaver Volunteer Team**: Carly Hunt, Julian Jones, Tom Wollaston, Adam Cheng (Admin)

Our **Cub Volunteer Team**: Dave Roberts, James Bingham, John MacFarlane, Paul Molloy, Anna Dalton (Admin)

Our **Scout Volunteer Team**: Ali Hallworth, James Bingham (yes, Cubs and Scouts), Konrad Caulkett, Rob Jenkinson, Steve Clark

Our **Group Supporters**: Alison Kirkbride (Hut Cleaning Rota), Charlotte McCrossin (Hut Manager), Kat Snelgrove (Group Administrator), Lucy Atherton (Hut Lettings), Mackenzie Gupta (DBS Manager), Marina Vayzert (Kitchen Manager), Robert Cooper (Training Adviser), Stefan Golaszewski (Finance Assistant), Lynne Davies (Waiting List), Tom Hickman (Group Safety Officer), Yvonne Murphy (Gift Aid)

Our **Fundraising Team**: Laura Drury (Grants Applications), Sara Hunt

Our **Trustee Board**: Sam Nash (Treasurer), Karen West (Chair)

2023....

[A Great Year for Scouting](#)

www.1stharpendenscouts.org.uk

[Contact 1st Harpenden Scouts](#)