

## 1st Harpenden Scout Group Update

I hope everyone is well.

I'd like to keep everyone up to date with what is happening across our Scout Group, our Scouting District, and I'd like to thank all our parents and leaders for everything you are doing to continue with Scouting during these difficult times and ensuring that our young people and adults stay safe.

Best Wishes

**Andy Wrentmore**  
**1st Harpenden**  
**Group Scout Leader**

### **Scout-In.....Scouting Indoors Has Arrived !**

**Scout-On** As you are all aware, at the moment we cannot run face-to-face Scouting meetings, so if you can't come to our meetings, then our meetings will come to you ! Each section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, are looking into holding **Online scout meetings**, please see emails from your leaders to find out more.

As staying in is the new going out, a whole host of resources are available:

- [#TheGreatIndoors](#) - Inspired indoor activities to help everyone stay busy, focused and cheerful. Keep your kids learning new skills and having fun (and avoid hearing 'I'm bored' every 30 seconds) all in [#TheGreatIndoors](#). [Hear Bear's message about The Great Indoors](#).
- [District 'Lock Down Scouting' Magazine](#) - Ray Vassie, District Scouter, has put together some fantastic ideas and projects to keep you active called Lock Down Scouting. There are things to do for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Some ideas as to how to help others, make things, entertain your siblings. Lots of things to do and learn....
- These resources and more are all available on our new [HOME-Scouting page](#) on the [1st Harpenden Scout Group website](#)

## **Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI)**

This weekend there is a special edition of the [Jamboree On The Internet](#) (JOTI). Aimed at Scouts and older Cubs, the weekend programme is packed with online activities, including campfire and chat room to connect with overseas Scouts of all ages. Have you ever had a conversation with a Scout from Indonesia or eSwatini ? Note this event is **not run by your leaders**, this is a **parent-led event**. Parental support is advised and expected, please make sure all participants step through this [Be Safe Online](#) guide before joining JOTI. Please login on Friday 3rd April to join in the fun and stay safe online. <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

## **Doing our bit**

I think we'll agree that it's in challenging times like these, that our Scout values matter most. We are talking to Local Government and other community organisations to see how Scouts can support our community during this crisis. Of course, this will all be done in the safest possible way.

## **Foodbank Donations**

As camps have been cancelled, rather than the food stocks in our stores going to waste we have donated items to local food banks, many thanks to Jane Thomas for organising. We are continuing to collect local foodbank donations and have a number of collection points. If you would like to donate you are very welcome to drop-off in the collection boxes outside these houses:

- Jane Thomas 4 Gilpin Green, Harpenden AL5 5NR
- Andy Wrentmore 13 High Firs Crescent, Harpenden AL5 1NB
- Alan Grace 4 Jameson Road, Harpenden AL5 4HQ

Please see here for items most needed now <https://stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

## **Helping the Elderly in our Community**

We will soon be asking Beavers, Cubs, Scouts to write letters, draw pictures etc to remind local people that they are not forgotten and perhaps help with any feelings of isolation. More to come on this soon.

## **Harpenden Cares**

Harpenden Town Council is supporting a new initiative called Harpenden Cares, a community-led response to the coronavirus that involves lots of Harpenden's voluntary sector groups. The initiative aims to support local

people at risk, help keep key services running, and to be a trusted source of information.

Here's how adults can get involved if you wish:

- Harpenden Cares Contact centre and befriending, being led and managed by the Harpenden Trust with their existing team of volunteers. The contact centre opened last Friday and is running Monday – Friday 10-2pm using this number 01582 460457. [Facebook group](#) and [Website](#)
- There is a need for volunteers outside of the contact centre initiative, such as helping to deliver essential supplies and medication to vulnerable and/or isolated people. Our Harpenden Cares volunteer coordinator is **John Swain**.
  - If you are already a volunteer with Scouting and already have a DBS, please email John Swain directly at [john.swain@bethanycc.org.uk](mailto:john.swain@bethanycc.org.uk).
  - Any new volunteers please register with the Communities 1st – Community Connector scheme, details of which can be found here:  
[www.communities1st.org.uk/COVID-19-community-signup](http://www.communities1st.org.uk/COVID-19-community-signup)

For some of us life is more pressured right now and we have less time free than ever; for others, we may have more time available and are keen to know how to help. We can all only do what we can, so you should not feel pressured to get involved, but if you can and want to, please get involved.

## Looking ahead

- Our annual St George's Day Parade in April has been cancelled so we are thinking of different ways to mark this occasion
- Gangshow 2021 is planned for Tuesday 12th to Saturday 16th January 2021, applications are open from 5pm on Sunday 29th March. Please watch your emails for application information
- Activities, events and camps we were planning to run until September have been cancelled or postponed, we are in the process of arranging refunds where possible [www.harpendercubs.org.uk](http://www.harpendercubs.org.uk)
- Green Beret 2020, Contact us for 10th-15th November!

*This email has been sent to all parents and leaders of 1st Harpenden Beavers, Cubs and Scouts*

**Thanks to all our Leaders at 1st !**