



## 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Scout Group Newsletter

Winter | 2019

### 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead at 90

*To celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Scout Group we're publishing this special newsletter.*

### Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup>

Welcome, on behalf of all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and other volunteers, to the 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Scout Group. Now at 90 years old we're proud of our group, and everyone involved in it. We've decided to publish this newsletter as a "one off", but if it's popular then we'll aim to issue it more often to keep you updated on all the things going on in the group.

*...we hope you enjoy reading it.*

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Want to get involved?  
...turn to the back page to find out more about joining us!

# Our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

## *Celebrating 90 years of 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead at our annual campfire evening.*

On Friday 18th October Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, along with parents, leaders and former leaders celebrated 90 years of 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead at our annual camp fire evening at Dorney Wood, near Burnham.

The evening was a great success and the weather was kind to us.

Ian Stimson did his usual great job of opening the campfire, and getting everyone joining in with the campfire songs, including the firm favourite of the Cubs "Rare bog, Rattling Bog", as well as a few energetic numbers, getting everyone warmed up.

Charles Berger, our Group Scout Leader, gave an informative insight into the early years of our Scout group, since its origins in 1929 through to the 1950s when the association with the Methodist Church began (*you can find out more about our history on page 3*).

Charles also revealed our new special 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative badge, having been selected by the group exec after running a competition for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to come up with a design. Teddie

Fogg's very creative use of Roman Numerals to represent both the group name and the anniversary, was the winner. Teddie then had the honour of coming up to be presented with the very first one. All section members will be presented with the badge at the next section meetings, and can wear it on their uniform above the World Membership Badge.



We also enjoyed some great comedy sketches from the Cubs and Scouts, with Oliver Wynne-Evan's surprise performance as a giant baby emerging from "Mr Fandango's" enlarging machine raising a lot of laughs from the audience.

Ian closed the campfire with some more fantastic singing, and a rendition of "Everywhere we go" that could probably be heard from Slough to Marlow.



# The World Scout Jamboree



*Marc Bediat reports on his experience at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree which took place in the USA this summer.*



On the 20th of July 2019 I set off with my 36 friends and leaders. I had no idea what was coming, and was slightly apprehensive to what might come. Now as I look back on that experience I realise how lucky I was to go the 24th world scout jamboree. This was no regular camp. Two years before my leave for the jambo I turned up to a selection camp frozen to death with another 200 participants. I was one of the 72 people that got through. A handful of meetings later, I landed in Newark New York and that was the start of my rollercoaster of a trip.

We visited New York, saw the memorials and sightseeing points. We then took a long coach ride to West Virginia for the main event. This was a 12-day long event with 45,000 scouts from all over the world. We were left to the Koreans and Brazilians where we learnt how to play the drums and how to cook mouth-watering Korean food. No day was the same, some days we went zip-lining or the next we might be getting henna from the Indian cultural hut. It was incredibly easy to make friends as we all had the same basis: scouts. It helped even the shyest person create lifelong friends. But the biggest highlight of the whole trip was the opening and closing ceremonies. These were huge concerts with music and speeches. It was organised so that we would stand next to a completely different person we're didn't know. We saw fireworks and even saw Bear Grylls, the chief scout.



During these wonderful days, I felt at home. It felt right. I will do anything to go back again in 2023 for Korea; and for any of you who are young enough and brave enough (yes brave) to have a go. I promise you will have the most mind-blowing time of your life. Myself and 45,000 scouts can vouch for that!

Marc

## Our History

Did you know that the 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Scout Group was started in 1929, at what was known as the Congregational Church in West Street.

Mr Robin Symons, a member of High St Methodist Church, formed the Scout Troop which met at the church in West St.

In the late 1930s a hut was acquired and erected on a site "up the Gullet", which is land between the railway and the path leading from Ludlow Road (off Shoppenhangers Road) to Boyn Hill. It had previously been a rifle range but had become very overgrown. The land belonged to Lord Desborough of Taplow Court (as did large parts of Maidenhead) and the Scouts had it for a peppercorn rent. There was no electricity or water laid on!

The group thrived in its new location. However, by 1944 the hut had become quite dilapidated and was demolished, with the group meetings moving the Burberry Hall on St. Marks Road. This did not last long and by 1956 the group was meeting at the Methodist Church, changing its name from Free Church to Methodist to reflect this new association, and gaining approval to use the Wesley badge on the group scarf.

Charles

# Section News

**Updates from each of our section leaders, to let you know what's been going on in the group.**

## Beavers

The Beavers have had a fun 2019 under Matthew and Becky. Becky organised a sleep-over for the Beavers at the end of the year which was well attended and enjoyed by all. This was an opportunity for many Beavers to complete tasks which counted towards their challenge awards. When speaking of awards, we must mention Leo for receiving the trophy, his bronze award, and the "Well Done" badge from Merlin for earning the most badges by any Beaver in that last several years. Well done Leo!

Sadly, we said farewell to Becky as over the summer she moved to Leeds, and we wish her all the best. In September we were joined by Elspeth Kinns and Alison Isherwood.



This year we've made insect hotels, Chinese lanterns, 'smores, Christmas boxes for children in Sierra Leone, and friendship bracelets. We learnt about

the Uganda Project with Becky, and about North America as part of the Berkshire Scouts Join-In program – more to follow in 2020! Matthew hosted the Beaver Craft Competition on the 17th of November, where Arjun, James TG, and Toby placed third for design, and honorary Beaver Jamie placed 2nd for build.

For the remainder of 2019, the Beavers will be doing Christmas-themed activities, as we make gingerbread men for the Beavers' "Decorate a Gingerbread Man" stall at the Church Christmas Fair. In 2020, we look to continue building on the foundations of team work and cooperation through group activities and games. As spring arrives, we'll be doing more outside sessions to work towards the challenge awards.

## Cubs

As previously reported in this year's AGM notes the build up to the 13th Maidenhead Scouts 90th birthday has seen a packed programme for our Cubs in 2019. This has included learning about Project Africa and getting involved in the World Jamboree; and of course all the

hikes, map reading, sports and sno-tubing we all love to do. This year's camp at Marion's Meadow was a massive success. The Cubs learnt about shelter building, wood chopping, camp gadget making, first aid, makeshift stretchers and emergency signals as part of their Scouting skills. They also took part in archery, rock climbing and of course backwoods cooking.

After the summer holiday we have regrouped and have selected new Sixers and Seconders. These leadership roles are very important as they allow Cubs to attain their Leadership Challenge badge and gives them the opportunity to display their maturity as senior Cubs. For the first time in a year we also have a Silver Six Cub. We don't do this all the time as a potential Silver Six has to show consistently high levels of good behaviour and engagement with the activities. Well done Chiara!

We have continued our Scouting skills with an excellent session by Peter on Pioneering and have also covered the Highway code. We have plenty planned for the remainder of the year including a Halloween party, Fireworks display, 'Cubs got talent' and the Christmas Panto.

The only downside this year is that the section continues to be very small. Peter, Sam and Dan have been proud of the Cubs that we have sent up to Scouts and we are glad that they are continuing their Scouting journey. We still haven't had many swim ups from Beavers and this is likely to be the case for at least another year as new Beavers join and work their way up. As a result, Dan has reached out to District to let them know that we have space. We would again urge your Cubs to tell their friends who may want to join our group to come and give it a try. They won't be disappointed!

## Scouts

The Scout section currently has good numbers with eighteen to twenty scouts attending meetings regularly. It is a shame that there are only three girls so if you know any girls in the 10 to 14 age range, please tell them about us! Having said that the number of girls is low, the ones we have certainly manage to challenge the boys on a regular basis!



The highlights of this term so far have been cooking and nights out. One night we cooked an Italian meat ball spaghetti main course followed by a frying pan cookie desert. If the proof of a meal is in the eating this was a great success as very little food was thrown away. This meeting was to select our team to be entered in the District Cooking Competition. Our team spend several weeks hard at work preparing for the competition on 9th November 2019 (...see their recipes on page 6!).

We also ran a hike camp where 18 scouts hiked from the other side of Maidenhead river bridge to Dorney Wood scout camp site. With guidance and corrections from the leaders the scouts navigated themselves the whole distance. Once at Dorney Wood they enjoyed hot drinks and hot dogs before sleeping under tarpaulins. In the morning eggs and bacon were prepared over an open fire and enjoyed by all. As always, the woods were left as we found them.

Samuel Kinns organised an ice-skating trip to Slough ice rink for the week before half term. The numbers are always low on the night before a holiday but despite this it was well attended and enjoyed by all. Charles Berger escorted a group of scouts who had entered in the District Cycle Orienteering competition on Sunday 13th October. They did very well and found all the bases. This was very impressive as they were some of the youngest scouts in the troop.

As we meet on a Friday some scout nights are used for other events. At the start of the term we had the rounders and barbeque evening which was fun and quite well attended. We also had the group camp fire where we welcomed a few past leaders, and the cubs and scouts successfully reintroduced camp fire sketches!

## *The Stevens Trophy*

The Stevens Trophy is presented annually to an outstanding young person (Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer) in the 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Group.

Named after Robert Stevens, a former member of the group and, at the time, grandfather of a scout named Nicky Stevens. The gift of the trophy was announced at the 2004 AGM, held at Mowers Meadow campsite in Cookham, and that it would be awarded annually to a member of the group for "best endeavour". Michael Peter Scarfe has the distinction of being the first recipient of the trophy in 2005.

Each year, in the lead up to the AGM, the section leaders consider which young people in the group might be candidates to receive that year's award. We are looking for young people who have consistently performed above the level expected of a typical Beaver, Cub or Scout.

This year is went to Leo Yi from Beavers. Well done!

## Wings 2020

*Find out more about a unique opportunity coming up next year!*



Windsor International Guide and Scout Camp (WINGS) is an international festival for Scouts and Guides held at Windsor Great Park. Usually it takes place every 4 or 5 years, depending on clashes with other international Scout festivals, so each Scout will typically get the chance to attend one WINGS camp. The next edition will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and we are collecting names of interested Scouts right now, so if you have not already signed up via OSM then now is the time to act!

As it is an International camp, participants will get the opportunity to meet Scouts and Guides from all over the world: in 2014 WINGS was the biggest yet with 7,000 people from 41 countries from the far flung corners of the globe including New Zealand, Canada, Panama, Nigeria and Russia as well as Europe and the USA.

The camp lasts for 7 days and each day is packed with activities on land and water and even underground. In the evenings there is plenty of entertainment including bands, silent disco, cinema and talent shows. All the food is provided, and the Scouts work with their leaders to prepare the meals each day at their base and all different tastes and allergies, etc are catered for.

This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Scouts and Explorers so we strongly recommend that you attend. For more information go to: [www.wings2020.org.uk](http://www.wings2020.org.uk)

For Beavers and Cubs there is an opportunity to visit the camp for a day if the individual sections have booked this.

**Please note:** all WINGS bookings must be channeled through your section leader, not made individually!

# Scouts District Cooking Competition

*This year our team of Scouts (Bethan & Florence) entered a Japanese themed menu, and came second in the District cooking competition. Here are the recipes if you'd like to give them a try yourself!*



## *Starter: Carrot & Daikon Salad*

*You'll need:*

- 1 large carrot
- around 1/3 of a daikon radish (mooli)
- 50ml Japanese rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons of Mirin
- 2 tablespoons caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon black sesame seeds

Peel the vegetables and then shred into fine ribbons using the peeler. Mix the sugar and vinegar and marinade the vegetables while you get on with the rest of the meal (at least 1 hour). Sprinkle with the sesame seeds to serve.

## *Main Course: Teriyaki Chicken Noodle Bowls*

*You'll need:*

- 1 tablespoon corn flour
- 1/4 cup dark soy sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated ginger
- 2 tablespoons honey
  
- 500g boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil for frying
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 1 red pepper
- 6 to 8 shitake mushrooms

- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 250g pack of wholewheat or Soba noodles

In a small bowl, whisk together cornstarch and 1/4 cup water; set aside.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, add soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic, ginger, honey and 1 cup water; bring to a simmer. Stir in cornstarch mixture until thickened enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 2 minutes; let cool to room temperature. Reserve 1/4 cup and set aside. Use the remainder to marinade the chicken for at least 30 mins (longer if possible).

In the meantime, slice the mushrooms and red pepper.

Remove the chicken from the marinade and fry in a large frying pan or wok until golden brown and cooked through. Add the mushrooms and peppers and fry for another 2-3 minutes.

Prepare the noodles according to the instructions on the packet, and finish with the reserved 1/4 cup of marinade. Serve the noodles in bowls with the stir fry on top, and sprinkle with the spring onion and sesame seeds.

## *Dessert: Chocolate and Banana Takoyaki*

*You'll need:*

- 1/2 cup of self-raising flour
- 3 tablespoons caster sugar
- pinch of baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil
- pinch of salt
  
- 1 banana (cut into small pieces)
- 50g milk chocolate broken into small pieces
- Vegetable oil or butter for the pan
- Icing sugar

You'll also need a Takoyaki pan, but if you can't get hold of one you can also make these as small pancakes in a frying pan.

Mix the ingredients for the batter together. Heat the pan and grease with butter or oil. Then pour batter into each mould until about 3/4 full. Once the batter begins to set add some banana or chocolate (or both) into each one. Use toothpicks to turn the Takotaki and add a little more batter until they are perfectly round. Roll them in a little icing sugar and serve warm.

The whole meal serves four, had to cost less than £16 in total, and had to be prepared from scratch with no assistance in just 2 hours. ...*Itadakimasu!*

# Family camp: what, when and why?

## *A beginners guide to what to expect at Family Camp, and why it's definitely worth coming along.*

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead there is a tradition that every two years the whole group is invited to join in on a family camp, but for those new to the group, or perhaps who haven't attended one before, it may be a bit of a daunting prospect. However, don't be worried, this handy guide is designed to give you an insight on what to expect, so you can start looking forward to the 2020 event.

### **Is it open to all sections?**

Yes – all families with a child in any of the sections (beavers, cubs or scouts) are welcome to attend. Any siblings not currently in scouting are also very welcome.

### **What typically happens on Family camp?**

Usually we run a camp from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon, so it's only one night under canvas (which may be appreciated by some of the less experienced campers). Families pitch their individual tents when they arrive (plenty of help is on hand for anyone who needs it). Activities are organised at the camp site, which everyone can join in (not just the kids) so bring a sense of adventure! We also hold our Group AGM at some point on the Sunday, usually during a break over a cup of coffee and a cake.

All adults attending the camp must hold a current Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check by the Scout Association (DBS from other organisations cannot be accepted). There is no cost for this and it will take around 30 minutes meeting with Charles or Alex to process the application. Applications can take several weeks to be processed so it is advisable to get this done sooner rather than later.

### **Activities you say...?**

Of course! Scouting wouldn't be scouting without some activities – you can expect to have a chance to try at least three or four over the weekend, which may include archery, abseiling, climbing walls, crate stacking and rifle shooting (obviously if you prefer a slightly more sedate weekend then that's fine too).

### **Are there any age restrictions?**

Some of the activities may only be suitable for children over a certain age (according to the criteria set by the

venue), but don't worry, there'll still be plenty to do for the younger ones.

### **Do we need to bring our own tent?**

If you have a tent then yes, it's advisable to bring your own, but if you don't have one then don't be put off: the group has a number of tents that we could lend you if you'd like to try out camping as a family and haven't had a chance yet. Other equipment, like sleeping bags etc, should also be brought with you, but you won't need to bring any cooking equipment etc.

### **Will there be proper toilets?**

Yes, the site has great facilities, including toilet and shower blocks.

### **What about food?**

Tea, Coffee and Squash are provided all weekend, as are lunch and dinner on the Saturday and breakfast and lunch on the Sunday, as well as plenty of cakes, biscuits and fresh fruit. Families will be put into four groups (patrols) who will help with the cooking for each of the four meals, but don't worry if you're not at master chef level...

If you want to bring other snacks or drinks that's fine too, and you'll have a chance to let us know on the booking form if there are any food allergies, or other dietary requirements that we need to be aware of when planning the catering.

### **Can adults bring alcohol?**

It's OK to bring some alcohol; generally a glass of wine or a beer around the campfire after the kids have gone to sleep is a great way to round off the Saturday (assuming you're not exhausted too!)

### **Is there a cost?**

There is a modest cost per person to cover the costs of the activities, food and so on (the cost is lower for the younger kids), but we think you'll be hard pushed to find another all-inclusive family activity holiday at anywhere near the price!

### **Great, sign me up!**

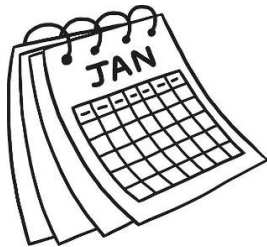
No problem... the next Family Camp is due to take place at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre ([www.scoutadventures.org.uk/centre/youlbury](http://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/centre/youlbury)), just south west of Oxford, on the 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Full details will be sent out in the New Year along with the booking form and payment details. We really look forward to seeing you there.

If you do happen to have any further questions please feel free to get in touch with Charles Berger (Group Scout Leader), Alex Hughes (Assistant Group Scout Leader) or Ian Davies (Group Chairman).

# Diary Dates

## *Some important dates for events coming up in the New Year...*

- 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 – Term begins
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 – District Swimming Gala
- 17-21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2020 – Half Term
- 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020 – District Flag Competition (Cubs)
- 6-17<sup>th</sup> Apr 2020 – Easter Holiday
- 26<sup>th</sup> Apr 2020 – District St George's Day Parade
- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – JOTT Incident Hike (Cubs/Scouts)
- 22-25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Whit Camp (Scouts)
- 25-29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Half Term
- 20-21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020 – Family Camp (AGM on 21<sup>st</sup>)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul 2020 – Term Ends
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jul – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2020 – WINGS Camp



### **STOP PRESS - Congratulations!**

Our Congratulations go to Dan Spiers, our Cubs leader, for receiving his Wood Badge on 27<sup>th</sup> November, and to Peter for being invested as Assistant Cub Leader.

## *Maidenhead Scout Shop*

### *For uniforms, and more...*

Did you know that Maidenhead Scouts District has its own shop?

You can get all items of uniform, and also order more specialist items like camping equipment; and the best thing is all profits from the shop go back to our district to support district events and activities.

The shop is located at:

**19th Maidenhead Scout Hut,**  
Holmanleaze, Maidenhead, SL6 8AW  
(behind the Magnet leisure centre, next door to the Mosque)

[www.maidenheadscouts.org.uk/scout-shop/](http://www.maidenheadscouts.org.uk/scout-shop/)

It's open from **7.00-8.45pm on Thursday evenings during term time**, and now also accepts credit and debit cards.

## Interested in joining us?

### *Why not get involved!*

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining the 13<sup>th</sup> we currently have spaces in both our Beavers and Cubs sections for boys and girls aged between 6 and 8 (Beavers) or 8 and 10 (Cubs).

If any adults are interested in supporting the group we have vacancies in our Beavers section for a Section Assistant or Assistant Leader; on the Group Exec. Committee for a Beavers Parent Representative and a Group Membership Administrator; and for any support that parents can give at Coffee Mornings.

If you'd like further information please contact Charles Berger (GSL), Alex Hughes (AGSL) or Ian Davies (Group Chairman), or tear off the slip at the bottom of this page and hand it to one of the group leaders, or send an email to [info@13thmaidenheadscouts.org.uk](mailto:info@13thmaidenheadscouts.org.uk)

✂ I'm interested to know more about joining the 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead. Please get in touch with me about:

Beavers (Age 6-8)       Cubs (Age 8-10)       Scouts (Age 10-14)       Adult volunteering

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Your data will only be used to make contact about joining the group)*