



Welcome to the new look 'News 23' – the newsletter for the 23rd Didcot Sea Scout group.

We are heading back to our nautical routes, and we have a new website www.23rddidcotscouts.org.uk and logo to reflect this. We will be using the above designs on all our paperwork, newsletters and t shirts (more about that later!) It also means we will be aiming to try more water sports and learn associated skills – although we won't be stopping any of the other stuff we do as members of the Scout Association.

Uniform reminder:

To get the term off to a good start we would like to remind everyone of the uniform; dark trousers, group t-shirt, sweatshirt (Beavers and Cubs) and Jumper (Scouts), yellow necker and clean shoes.

Uniform can be bought from www.Kit4scouts.co.uk or Clothes for Children on the Lower Broadway.

Should circumstances be a bit tight this year we do have a small amount of good used uniform or funding may be available via your school if you mention the partnership fund.

The group will supply the first necker, woggle and all badges but replacements for lost / damaged items will have to be paid for.

We are designing a new group polo shirt and looking for a 'good deal' to make this an affordable item – but we will not be able to supply free of charge. We anticipate the cost will be around £5.

We believe that wearing uniform helps our sense of belonging, raises self esteem and contributes to good discipline within each section. Thank you for helping us to keep our group 'smart'.

Subs: We are always looking for ways to be more cost effective and to make the most of our budget so this year we propose moving to a standardised subscription across all sections of £7.50 per month instead of the termly collections.

We would very much appreciate it if parents could initiate a Standing Order or Direct Debit for this amount and furthermore could sign a gift aid form – this means we have a more regular, controlled amount of money to pay our expenses and we'll get money back from the Government! Some people have already done this – but we will have forms available during the first weeks of term. We will be able to back date these forms and collect some tax back for the previous few years. It could amount to hundreds of pounds for the group !

Some people have asked what we spend the subs on - Well the answer is

An amount per child has to be paid to the Scout Association to support the HQ.

Neckers, badges and woggles for new members. Record books and certificates. Rent for the hall.

Training for leaders. Subsidising camps. Materials for the meetings eg. Craft material / refreshments.

Insurance. Outside speakers sometimes charge (but we try to get this for free when possible).

New flags and ensigns. Website costs. First Aid equipment. And other incidentals.

And just to clarify -----Leaders do not receive any payments but can claim out of pocket expenses for items such as printing!



Adults –a message especially for you!

The current adult leadership team and the Executive Group **LOVE** looking after your children **BUT** we could do with some more help

We encourage you to think about joining us on a regular basis as a Leader, Assistant Leader or a regular parent helper.

You don't need to be a qualified youth worker – there is lots of training available from the Scout Association – but you do need to be enthusiastic, have a sense of fun, an interest in young people and time on a Friday (and occasional other days).

Volunteers will need to complete a CRB check.

There are vacancies in all sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts or on the Executive Committee.

Go on – Think about it. It's fun, it's friendly and your kids will benefit !!

AK 09

You will remember that we collected Active Kids Vouchers from Sainsbury before the summer break – we got enough to buy a nice amount of cooking equipment including mixing bowls, chopping boards, vegetable knives, sieves and various utensils.

We should take delivery of these early this term and then we can do some more cookery both in the hut and outdoors.

Thank you for collecting the vouchers – we'll be doing it all again next year !



Advance warning!

The Christmas Post is coming.

Every year the 23rd Sea Scout Group collects and delivers Christmas Post from the residents of

Didcot and distributes it around town. People pay per card and we make a lot of money ... but only if each Beaver, Cub and Scout (and their parents) get involved. It's a great way to get to know your way around Didcot and really helps to spread some seasonal cheer. So watch out for the task in December!

Our New Website ...

For those of you with computer access either at home, in the library or at work or school we have great news about our new website. We are now live on www.23rddidcotscouts.org.uk

Each section has their own page where you will be able to find the programme of meetings and events



There is also a news page and events for the whole group / district so you will always have information about what is going on.

In the gallery you will be able to see general photos of our group and really share the whole experience of scouting.

Everyone will be issued with a password which will allow access to a private area, away from the public gaze and here you will be able to see individual photos, read the minutes of Executive Meetings and eventually we hope there will be an interactive section with direct online payment, purchasing, games, questionnaires etc... In fact a whole new Scouting World is opening up to the 23rd Group and whilst we are embracing technology you'll see from the programmes that 'back to basic' skills are still very much at the fore of what we do – our new Chief Scout – Bear Grylls - is encouraging us all to have that good old fashioned sense of adventure.. So do log on and take a peek and tell us what you think!

Awards:

At the end of last term we had a rush of awards and you may not have caught the news on these so we would like to recognise and praise the Scout Cooking Competition team who won the cup for their excellent menu: Jack Fox, Marc Hackett, Joseph Haines and Reuben Chesterman really looked the part as they concocted their meal and presented it to the judges. This is the second win in a row and we have great hopes of next year's team as well.

Well done to Adam Capstick on his Gold Award – Adam has now moved to Explorers but we hope he will visit and perhaps become a young leader, with the 23rd, in the future.

Congratulations to Owain Worgan, Mael Couldret and Lawrence Edwards on attaining the Silver Award – this is a demanding level and they all put in a lot of work to achieve the award.



Speaking of Awards – are you aware of the Didcot First Ltd Business and Community awards ? Nominations are sought (before 13th sept) for any Businesses or Community Groups who excel in one or more of the following categories: Ethical Stance, Positive Promotion, Customer Service and Community Involvement. Nomination forms can be found at www.didcotfirst.org.uk along with all the rules and conditions of entry. Could you nominate a business or group that deserves recognition and reward ?

District Camp 2010



If you went to Zodiac Camp this year you will be pleased to hear that there is going to be a District Camp in 2010.

This is likely to be held during one of the May Bank Holiday weekends, in a field close to Didcot.

There will be a cost attached to this but the District is going to raise some funds by having a huge balloon release on October 17th in the Orchard. We would like people to help us sell the tickets and forms will be given out with this newsletter. If every member in the District could sell 10 tickets and raise £10 – we would have nearly £4000 towards the camp.

Dates for the Diary:

Each section will be issuing their own key dates but our first Group Date is Friday 9th October – when we will be having a celebration event to recognise Marion Fountain's 40 years of Scouting Award. Further details will be released soon but do put the date down in your diaries because we would like to see as many people as possible on that night.

Don't forget, if you have questions or comments, or offers of help you can always contact the Group Scout Leader, Marion Fountain marion@mickfountain.co.uk or 01235 813571 or

Assistant Group Scout Leader, Wendy Capstick m-wcapstick@tiscali.co.uk or 01235 511526

Or contact your child's section leader:

Willow Beaver: Heather Coombs heather.coombs@gmail.com **Group meets:** Friday 5 – 6pm

Akela (Cubs): Di Chesterman di.chesterman@ntlworld.com 01235 210204 Friday 6.15 – 7.45pm

Skip (Scouts): Lee Hackett lee@4hacketts.co.uk 01235 817821 Friday 8pm – 9.30pm

Finally – we trust you all had a great summer break. We had planned to clear out the Den area - but didn't get around to it - so that is a task we will be looking for help with over the autumn.