



## Newsletter February 2024

We are aware that there can be some issues with email so we are looking at sending out short newsletters to keep you up to date. The printed newsletter will contain the main points, with a backup document like this with more information should you be interested.

### Outdoor in 24

Outdoor in 24 challenge is an initiative from the Scout Association to get outside in 2024, so watch out for these activities over the next few months. More information here.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/planning-your-programme/outdoor-in-24/>

### Future of Group

We continue to face challenges in running the group with the volunteers we have, and we have had to make some difficult decisions which resulted in some cubs not being able to continue their journey with us. These challenges will continue in 2024 and may result in Beavers and Thursday Scouts closing.

We would like to say a huge thanks to Matt Hardman who has stepped down from Cubs and to Abeena O'Connor who has moved on to help run a nearby Squirrel dray. Thanks also to Charles Sainty who has stepped up to run the second Scout Group with Naomi (in place until end of summer term).

With Abeena moving on Beavers also needs a new team member, Naomi is covering in the short term however, if we don't find a new team members by June, Beavers will cease at the end of the summer term.

### How can you help

Have you considered volunteering or do you know someone who might be interested. We'll train you in the practical stuff and give you #skillsforlife, as well as provide you a uniform.

In return, you'll help young people - either weekly or as your time allows - and maybe go camping, on trips, or on other adventures with us.

All our adults undergo an enhanced DBS check and commit to training, which can be undertaken around your family and work commitments.

For an informal chat, drop us a line [gsl@1stapplebymagnawithmeashamscouts.org](mailto:gsl@1stapplebymagnawithmeashamscouts.org)

## The Hut and Grounds

We are lucky enough to have our own hut and a great outdoor space, this is entirely looked after by our volunteers.

If you have been in the Hut lately you will have seen lots of improvements have been made including a coat of paint and lots of great resources added for all the group to use, this is mainly down to Gregg, thank you. Gregg and Steve also built the firepit last year which has proved to be a great asset. We are hoping to build a sheltered outdoor space this year which Claire is currently looking for grants to help fund.

We'll be running working party weekends this year where Scouts and parents across the group will be invited to help out in the hut and grounds, whether its odd jobs, getting the outside wood treated, or clearing out hedges and undergrowth. We'll even provide refreshments. Look out for dates soon.

## Fundraising and Subs

The day to day running of the group has to be supported by the monthly subscriptions paid, this has to cover all activities, the annual fees we pay to the Scout Association, the upkeep of the hut and running costs. We have kept the monthly subs at £13 for a number of years now, however this is no longer sustainable, therefore with effect from 1st March 2024 the subs will be £14.

All the kit for camping and improvements to the hut are funded from grants, fundraising and gift aid

We are looking for grants to help make further upgrades to the hut and grounds, if completing grant forms is your thing please reach out as we'd love some help.

## You can help with Gift Aid

We are a registered charity so we can claim gift aid on the subs you pay, this doesn't cost you anything but can provide vital funds for the group to buy equipment. Please log on to the Parent Portal in our Online Scout Manager and ensure your gift aid declaration is completed, this is especially important if your child moves section.

If we have 55 young people in the group and everyone signs the gift aid we could receive an additional 2k a year sadly we only get about half of this currently.

For your information

### Scouts

Tuesday 7pm - 8.30pm

Gregg; Claire; Jim; Pete; Jon

Thursday 7pm - 8.30pm

Naomi; Charles

### Cubs

Wednesday 6.45pm - 8.15pm

Ruth; Nikki; Naomi

### Beavers

Wednesday 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Adrian & Naomi

Thank you for your continued support.

Group Leadership Team

Andy Ford, Sue Mitchell, Claire Trewartha, Naomi Jones, Gregg Mayles, Claire Mayles, Adrian Pettitt.