



1st St Albans Scout Group

www.firststalbansscouts.org.uk

Twitter—1st St Albans Scouts@1st_albans

Chairmans— ordosteve@btinternet.com

Winter Newsletter 2019

Page 1

Christmas 2019 / 20

Firstly we wish all our young people, their parents, our leaders / volunteers / exec members plus supporters, Wadley Hut users etc a peaceful Christmas break and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

As is our tradition the group supported a number of local & national charities in the run up to the break, the most prominent being the **St Albans Sleepout**, led by our Asst Scout Leader, Sally Mitchell, raising funds for Centre 33, Emmaus, Herts Young Homeless, Open Door, the Living Room, plus **Children in Need** and **Rennie Grove Hospice**. Well Done everybody.

Access Improvements—Completed

The planned block paving was completed on schedule during the Summer break, and has improved access to the hut, both for ourselves and other users, including its role as a Polling Station. Unfortunately the external car park outside our compound is owned / maintained by St Albans District Council, so we can only request / suggest improvements.

Derek Turner Trophy 2019.

30th November—1st December

Here is a report written by Emily Latto, one of our Scouts, who took part in this District overnight orienteering competition recently :-

“Orla, Henry, Oliver, Zac and I were waiting to start at 6.20pm. We had been given all the information that we needed and had completed the kit check. We were anxious to start but excited too. We waited for the beep and quickly dashed off ... in the wrong direction ! With the help of the compass and the map we soon set off in the correct direction again. It was approximately a 15 minute walk to the base where the explorers instructed us in the challenge. It was all about teamwork and making decisions collectively. Once complete the explorers radioed our scores back to the hut and they wrote them down on their whiteboard covered in all our scores. The next walk to base 2 was much easier as it was a straight line, so to pass the time we told each other stories. We went around the next 5 check points collecting points and having fun, but we had already used half of our time up and the next half being longer, we fastened the pace. Luckily, we were able to get some energy back by having a hotdog and hot chocolate (which was very nice). After a quick ten minute break, where we calculated our next moves and headed off to the next challenge.”

District Updates

The 2020 St Albans Scouts & Guides Gang Show, now in its 40th Year, takes place at the Alban Arena between the 12th—15th February. Our leaders will be circulating ticket details shortly. The group will be subsidising our young peoples tickets as before.

The Annual Cub and Scouts swimming gala takes place at Westminster Lodge on Saturday 25th January—lets see if we can win the trophies !

The District Cub football league kicks off in January, with Daniel Seeby / Steve Brandon managing our team—best of luck this season.

Pre-loved Uniforms

The group have a small selection of second hand uniforms, including a good number of Beaver / Cub / Scout / explorer trousers, which we are happy to pass on and see them back in use. Contact your section leader or Steve on 07775 544344 if you are interested

Use of the Wadley Hut.

A number of organisations / clubs use the Wadley Hut facilities during the week, and it is available for childrens parties (aged 10 and under) All prospective hiring enquires should go to Roy Vivian 01727 863646 / 07812 447467—Roycvivian@hotmail.com

County owned campsites

Did you know that Hertfordshire Scouts owns and runs 4 campsites in Hertfordshire—**Phasels Wood**, near Kings Langley, **Tolmers**, near Cuffley, **Well End**, near Borehamwood, and our “back to basics” site at **HarmerGreen Wood**, plus we own and run a site in Scotland at **Lochearnhead**. They all offer a range of wonderful facilities / experiences. Check out their websites for more information.

Editor—Steve Lindsay , Group Chair & administrator
07775 544344—ordosteve@btinternet.com
Edition No 68

Part 2 on the next page.

1st St Albans Scout Group

WINTER 2019 / 20 NEWSLETTER—PAGE 2

Derek Turner report, contd

After a long hike to challenge 6 we arrived at the activity. We nominated Oli to describe the shape of a rocket to us and we had to make it out of wooden pieces. As it got later into the night. More layers were put on and the pace slowed down. After some encouragement, we smashed it at the next challenge, being the quickest and the best they had seen all night, we were feeling happy. Our next difficulty we came across was arriving at the last checkpoint. We had to go through a farm ! It was so scary and somehow we managed to be lost in a poor man's back garden. After a small phone call of help, we were set back on our tracks. With 20 minutes to go we had to run and complete the challenge in a record time, then sprint back to the hut to get back on the dot of our finishing time, 11 o'clock. A slightly disrupted sleep later (the sonic boom) we were at the presentation. We came 5th, with a joint 3rd in front, so just missed being in the presentation, but I had a great time. I would love to come again, and as team leader, I would recommend it to lots of other people too.

Emily Latto

Other Building improvements

In addition to the block paving, the group have installed 4 new flood lights, 2 at the side and 2 at the rear of the hut, to enable our young people to practise their fire lighting / camp fire cooking and other outside activities safely. You will have noticed to have moved the wood pile at the same time.

St Albans Half Marathon

Once again the group provided marshals for this years Half Marathon, working along Bedmond Lane. We received a donation of £290.00 for our efforts.

St Stephen Parish Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

We had a excellent turn out from all sections this year, with our Scouts being chosen to carry the Union Flag and lead the parade. We laid 3 wreaths , one from each age group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in remembrance of the fallen. Well done to all.

Cubs Awards.

Our GSL Terry Cavender was delighted to award 5 of our Impala Cubs with the highest award they can earn in Cubs, just before Christmas . They achieved their **Chief Scouts Silver Award**, having earned six Activity Badges of their choice, as well as seven of the challenge awards, Brilliant stuff !