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At our  
Family  
Camp



**H**ello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter in a very long time. I hope everyone has settled back into their sections following the great summer. All sections have been away on very successful camps of one sort or another this spring and summer, many of which have benefited from some great weather! This includes our Beavers who, for the first time, had the opportunity to attend the District sleepover in October. Many thanks to the leaders who have organised these camps. It takes a lot of time and effort from the leaders to get these camps running as successfully as they do.

Family camp this year was the best yet, not least because the weekend in July we went was the best weather I can ever remember for a family camp. Thank you to Steve Boot for organising this.

Most sections are thriving at the moment. My immediate area of concern currently are the Beavers. We currently have two colonies, Pine (at HQ) and Willow (at Solihull Lodge Community Centre – both on Wednesday Evenings). Willow need more members as a large number of have just moved up to Cubs. If you know of anyone looking for Beaver places – we have them! Please point them in our direction.

Our third Beaver colony, Maple beavers, had to close earlier in the year due to the leaders being unable to continue. I really would like to get this going again, so if anyone out there is keen to get involved, please let me know. You will not be on your own as full support from both our own experienced leaders and the District will be provided.

Tony Fitzgerald (GSL)

## ***Group Headquarters***

As you may have noticed we are still in the middle of a building site! In case you are not aware the developers of the Parkgate site are building us a garage plus a new entrance to the front of the building which will have ramp access and also include wheelchair accessible toilet facilities.

We did expect these two pieces of work to be largely complete by now. We are doing our best to *encourage* the developers to get this work completed as soon as possible as it is causing us a number of difficulties. In the meantime thank you for your cooperation during this period.

While the development is still going on please be **extra careful** around the site.

The group executive has just completed a risk assessment of the car parking area which we will be presenting to the developers. We have highlighted the inadequate lighting now that all sections will be arriving and departing in the dark and will ask for extra signage to get all drivers to slow down coming into the car park.

Take extra care when leaving the building via the temporary exit. Vehicles accessing the legion pass very close to this door. **Do not run out of that exit!**

Please take extra care when driving in and out of the car park. In particular take it very slowly. It is currently very crowded with both First Shirley and the Legion using the car park. Once the new Asda car park is open, First Shirley will have exclusive use of the car parking in front of our building during the evenings when meetings take place.

## ***Headquarters Refurbishment***

The group and the developers have just signed the documents which put into place our new 60 year lease and also completed the agreement we have with the developers regarding the building work and refurbishment of the HQ. This has been a very long process (in excess of 10 years !!) for which I would like to thank the Group Executive who have worked tirelessly to get this to a conclusion.

The immediate effect of signing this agreement is that we have received, upon signing the new lease, a large sum of money to carry out much needed refurbishments and updates to the building.

We have a broad plan of what should be done. Now it needs to be finalized and then implemented. We want to do this (and more importantly **should** do this) with involvement from members of the group.

To that end we have created the Building Improvement Group (BIG)

## **Building Improvement Group (B.I.G)**

The aim for this group will be to help implement the plans we have for the refurbishment.

It will report back to the Group Executive committee with recommendations on what, how and when the refurbishments should be. So a plea to all members of First Shirley

Please come and join the Building Improvement Group.

If you have a business which can do any of the refurbishment then please let us know. Let us know what you think is required as part of the refurbishment – the major areas we have so far are:-

Replace flat roof, Kitchen replacement,  
Toilet refurbishment

**First meeting of BIG will be Monday  
November 4<sup>th</sup> at the HQ at 7.00pm**

**Awards.** A number of scouts in the group have received awards. The scouts in the picture have all just been presented with their Chief Scout Gold award by the Mayor of Solihull at a presentation in the Council Chambers last month. Many congratulations to them all on a tremendous achievement.



Several Intrepid Explorers have in the past year all received their Queen's Scout awards (unfortunately I don't have any photos at the time of writing). Recipients of this award get to travel down to Buckingham Palace for its presentation.

Congratulations to everyone and thank you to the leaders for the time they put into getting the scouts and explorers through these awards.

## **Communications**

We have recently created a First Shirley Facebook Group. It can be found at the following address

**<https://www.facebook.com/FirstShirleyScouts>**

This is in addition to the web page we have had for sometime which we will still maintain. This contains mostly static information about the group and its sections. The Facebook page can be seen without being a member of Facebook. It is an excellent way of being able to communicate up to date information without someone having to edit HTML web pages. If you are a member of Facebook you can be notified when updates are made and most importantly you can update the pages making it a valuable two way communication tool.

Phone Number at HQ 0121 744 6090 Voicemail 07092 127606



## Dates for your Diary

4 November 2013 (Mon)	Building Improvement Group Meeting 7.00pm
10 November 2013 (Sun)	Remembrance Sunday Parade
2 December 2013 (Mon)	Group Executive 7.30pm
3 December 2013 (Tues)	Beaver Carol Service
13,14,15 June 2104	Biblins District Activity Weekend (Scouts/Explorers)
27,28,29 June 2104	(the Last) Malvern Challenge – Scouts
4,5,6 July 2014	(the Last) Sun Run – Explorers
11,12,13 July 2014	Family Camp 2014 (Provisional date)

Go Online and see us....



Website – [www.1stShirley.org.uk](http://www.1stShirley.org.uk)

[www.FirstShirley.org.uk](http://www.FirstShirley.org.uk)

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/FirstShirleyScouts](http://www.facebook.com/FirstShirleyScouts)



Subscription payments are the primary source of income to the scout group, and provide the monies for some section activities, insurance, maintaining the building, minibus, camping equipment, & paying utility bills.

Can you please check that for each group member, you are paying the correct subscription amount by standing order., particularly if you are a new member or have changed section recently.

The subscription level for the first family member is:-  
£12.75 beaver/cubs,  
£14 scouts, £15 explorers.  
For additional members it is:-  
£9.25 beaver/cubs,  
£10.50 scouts, £11.50 explorers.

Any questions? - Contact Group Treasurer -  
[subs@1stshirley.org.uk](mailto:subs@1stshirley.org.uk)

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**We have a large overflowing lost property bucket in the kitchen area.**

Please can you all take a look and retrieve anything which your child may have lost. We will be disposing of what's left during half term

If your require any further information regarding this offer, send an email to [webman1@1stshirley.org.uk](mailto:webman1@1stshirley.org.uk)