

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

**Welcome** to the winter edition of 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group's Newsletter. As we look forward to Christmas and the many activities planned, it is a good time to reflect upon the ongoing help needed to ensure the safe and compliant running of 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group. Many of you may not be aware that behind the scenes at 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group there is a busy group of people writing policies, checking facilities and managing the finances; to ensure each Beaver, Cub and Scout has the best experience they can whilst a member of Scouting. These people make up the Executive Committee, are all volunteers giving up their time, bringing their experience and sharing their knowledge as a group.

1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group is a registered charity. A big thank you to everyone that has completed Gift Aid forms; this costs you nothing but enables the group to claim back the tax paid on subs as additional income for the group. If you have not yet completed a Gift Aid form please get in touch with your Section Leader to obtain a form.

Please take note of the **dates for your diary** and **current vacancies**; these are all important ways to get involved. Without volunteers, 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group would not be able to offer the range of activities they currently do.



Our volunteers get involved on their terms and not all roles involve working with young people. If you can give a little time (or a lot) to help improve young lives in your community, we'd love to hear from you.

### Dates for your diary!

Christingle Service:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Bag Packing at Morrisons, L.B.:

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Maintenance Days at Nyamba:

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Group AGM:

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Current Vacancies!

- Quartermaster
- Cub Section Leader/s
- Grant Application Officer
- Working group members – cover anything from admin. to maintenance

Please get in touch to discuss if you are able to give some of your time to support the group. We welcome everyone! If you have time to spare, we will happily suggest a role that may be of interest to you.

Thank you!



## Queens Scout Award (QSA)

Nic Brown and James Ward

We both joined 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group when we were young Beavers and for the next twelve years, moved on to Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and currently Scout Network. In Explorers we signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) which is a minimum four year programme involving volunteering, new skills, physical activities and expeditions. Both of us volunteered as Young Leaders and our new skills included sailing, archery, maths, chess and learning to drive. The final Gold level of the DofE was the most challenging. We spent ten days survival camping and hiking in The Peak District and Snowdonia in wet, cold and windy weather; coping with tonsillitis and food poisoning (Nic). For our residential element, we crewed a tall ship in the Irish Sea for a week. We set off from Liverpool, sailed to Anglesey, Ireland, the Kintyre peninsular and docked at Greenock in Scotland. On the last leg we sailed through force 10 winds when even the ferries had stopped running and the conditions were so bad that one of the permanent crew was thrown across the galley and taken to hospital. It was certainly character building and something to remember!

Having gained the DofE gold award and with 100+ nights away already under our belts, in order to meet the QSA criteria we only had to complete 18 nights away (12 camping) as an Explorer, two extra QSA activities and a presentation to the District Commissioner (if you don't have DofE gold, you have to do QSA challenges instead). The QSA is the highest award in Scouting and there were only five QSA holders in our district before us, so we were very proud. We went to Buckingham Palace in May for the DoE Gold award and we are expecting an invitation from the Queen to attend a QSA celebration at Windsor Castle on St George's Day next year.



*"Scouting has been a great experience for me and I have moved on from being a Young Leader to being a Section Assistant with Scouts. I am an apprentice engineer and at my interview, I spoke about my experiences in Scouting and I know that this definitely helped me to get the job. The DofE Gold and QSA are great things to put on your CV because it means you have shown commitment and leadership skills. I have a lot to thank all my leaders for"*

**Nic**

At Buckingham Palace receiving our Gold DoE Awards



*"Over the past 12 years scouting has undoubtedly changed my life, giving me opportunities I would have never been presented with had I not been a scout. I've made many friends during my time and strengthened my relationships with people that I am friends with outside of scouts. The activities we completed doing the DofE and QSA have helped to develop my leadership and team work skills. I really enjoyed being a Young Leader, supporting younger cubs and scouts and I have been able to talk about the skills I developed to support my personal statement for university and in my application for an internship."*

**James**

Receiving our QSA Awards with our Explorer, Scout and Cub leaders

## Message from the Group Scout Leader (GSL)

All sections are busy planning camps, excursions and a fun packed programme for 2018. The Scout section is planning an international expedition to Kandersteg in Switzerland in the summer of 2019; this will be our fourth summer trip. Look out for more details soon!

I am pleased that 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group continues to maintain maximum numbers of children across the sections. Nyamba continues to host Parkers Pioneers Explorer Scout Unit, catering for 14 to 18 year olds. Our Beaver colonies, Cub packs, and Scout troops continue to provide excellent, really high quality Scouting, with full, fun packed, exciting programmes for all children. All sections have provided nights away experiences through sleepovers and camps. Our young people are taking part in Scouting activities that they will remember for the rest of their lives!

Our leaders are some of the most experienced and qualified in the District. Many of our leaders have service awards for 5, 10 and 20+ years in Scouting. I know that our leadership team are dedicated, motivated and committed people without whom this Scout Group would not be the success it is.

The success of 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group is wholly due to our volunteer leadership team, helpers, young leaders and supporters. I would like to thank them all for their hard work over the last year. Also thanks for the support of our Executive Committee.

*Andy Skinner*

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## What is a 'maintenance day'?

Nyamba is 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group's own facility; hosting section meetings and many other activities. To ensure the facility is safe, maintained and fit for purpose, we hold 'maintenance days'. On these days we ask volunteers to come along and undertake tasks such as grass cutting, painting, cleaning, tidying, etc. In exchange for your time and effort, hot drinks and refreshments are provided. Without the help of volunteers, the limited funds the group have would need to be spent on employing people to look after the facility; limiting the money available to spend on new equipment and activities for the children.

The 'maintenance day' dates for 2018 are:

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Please make a note of these dates. Nearer the time we will publish the anticipated tasks and look forward to your help and support – even if it's to make the tea or bake a cake for our volunteers.

