



GSL Chat

Stotfold Group Scout Leader's Newsletter

for Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Section Assistants, Young Leaders & Occasional Helpers

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Group Scout Leader's Newsletter

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Welcome to the September GSL newsletter. I hope you have all had a relaxing summer break away from Scouting and that you are getting fired up for the new session!!!

After much thought and reflection, I have decided to stand down as GSL next year. I will have completed five years in the role and feel that it is time for someone with fresh ideas to take up the challenge.

I propose to finish at the end of March 2015. This should allow for a new GSL to be in post for the AGM in June.

The appointment of the GSL is made by District and they will begin an appointment process in due course. However, if anyone is thinking that this may be a role which would interest them, then please contact me and I will go through what is involved.

In brief, the GSL's role is that of manager of the Scout Group. They are the chief executive with the Group Executive Committee as the board.

New Group Web Site

I am delighted to say that Graham Watson (ASL) has agreed to re-design our web site and bring it up to modern day standards. Graham runs a media company called "We Can Create".

The design of the web site has now been completed and I am presently testing it out. This will hopefully be completed by the beginning of the new session in September and then I will be asking each section to test it out before it goes live.

The new web site has had a face lift, but the main change is that each section will be able to put their own information up onto the site without going through me.

There is a diary for your programme and a place where you can report on your recent activities. You can enter a textual description as well as photos and links to Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

We are discussing the testing of the new site at the Leaders meeting on the 9th September and hope to go live with the site around the beginning of October.

Group Executive Committee 2014

Chairman: Ray Kilby (731142)
Secretary: Sharon Goddon
Treasurer: Paula Allen
GSL: Nick Peace
Quartermaster: Andrew Thurlby

Peter Cheney, John Christopher,
Peter Evans, Clare Kilby,
Michael LeSage, John McBurney,
Chris Moir, Sian Dent,
John Talbot (Stotfold Town Council)
Rebecca Thurlby.

Meeting Dates

Group Executive Meeting start at 7:30pm in the Scout Hut (Wednesday)

8 October 2014	10 December 2014
11 February 2015	8 April 2015
3 June 2015	

Group Leaders' Meetings start at 7:45pm in the Scout Hut (Tuesday)

9 September 2014	11 November 2014
13 January 2015	10 March 2015
12 May 2015	14 July 2015

Annual General Meeting (Tuesday)

9 June 2015

Electronic Records Project "Compass"

There has been a lot of activity over the summer break with the new records database.

If you are a "Back Pack" user then you will have noticed that the system has been unavailable. All the information in "Back Pack" is being uploaded into the "Compass" system. When this has been completed then "Compass" will go live.

We will then have to upload all the young peoples information to the "Compass" database. I should get more information about this soon

If you use Online Scout Manager (OSM) then please check the information is correct now as this will be migrated across.

If you have information on a spreadsheet then a template will be provided to allow the uploading of information.

Leader's News

I am delighted to announce that Louise Sanders (ACSL) has completed her training and has gained her Woodbeads. Many congratulations Louise.

Sadly Martin Grundy has had to resign as AESL and has left the Group. However, I am delighted to say that Lewis Harrison wishes to become involved with the Explorer Unit and is starting the process of becoming a Leader. Lewis has been helping out at Scouts for the last couple of years.

Fred Knowles has completed his initial training and has now had his ASL warrant made permanent. I invested him into Scouting in his smart new uniform at the earliest ceremony I can remember 6:30 in the morning, just before the Scouts left for summer camp!!

Leader's Training

All bookings and enquiries to Sharon Betts our Local Training Manager on ltmbiggleswade@gmail.com.

Training Validation evenings for this session are both at Boyd Field

Thursday 2nd October and Wednesday 26th November

The Module 1 & 3 course for this session is either Saturday 20th September or Saturday 4th October at our Scout Hut. At the time of publishing this newsletter, the date has not been confirmed. Drop Sharon an email to confirm the date.

Queen Scout Award

Michael LeSage, our Sausage!!, has almost completed his Queen Scout award. He just has to complete his 4 day expedition to gain the highest award in Scouting and he is planning to carry this out at half term in the Lake district.

He went to the Peak District at the end of August with Sian (CSL) and George, a Scouting friend and they completed a three day hike as a practice for the full expedition in October. I understand that everything went well.

So far Stotfold Scout Group have been associated with five Queen Scout holders. Duncan Saunders gained the award back in 1986 and since then Charles Kilby, Lawrence Peace, Daniel Cheney and Sian Dent (nee Rogers) proudly wear the blue crown on their uniform.

Supporters

The following events are being planned. Please put them in your diary.

Jumble Sale	Saturday 18th October 2014
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 15th November 2014 We will probably have two tables.
Quiz Night	Saturday 6th December
Sponsored Walk	Saturday 20th June 2015

Fire Officer and Fire Practice

I am very grateful to Victoria Evans, who has agreed to become the Scout Group Fire Officer.

She will be organizing fire practices over the next few months and is presently reviewing the Fire Risk Assessment documents.

If you have any concerns about fire safety or safety in the Hut in general then please contact Victoria (vevens2@hotmail.co.uk) or me.

Don't Forget

Group Executive Committee
Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7:30

Group Leader's Meeting
Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 7:45

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7:00