



1ST ALTON MANOR SCOUT GROUP

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 1st Alton Manor Scout Group. I believe that this will be a good way to communicate information and news about the Group, that hopefully will keep you well informed and up-to-date on current matters.

Websites

Firstly, I am pleased to announce that we now have our very own website and Facebook page where you can find lots of information about our Group, downloads, photographs, contact details and much more. The website has been very kindly created by one of our Scout Leaders, Richard Mackney, who runs his own website design company, Fish:Media.

Please make use of the website www.1staltonmanorscouts.org.uk which also contains links to our Facebook page.

Richard has also developed a website for the Alton Manor Community Centre which is available for use by the community. There is a misconception in the area that the community centre is for Scouting purposes only. This is incorrect and can be hired out for many activities including parties, clubs and events. For further information and hire costs please visit the website www.amcc.org.uk

Photographs

As a Group, we are incredibly proud of what we achieve within Scouting and at times like to share our adventures on our website, press and Scouting publications. In order to ensure that names and images are used in accordance with your wishes we are simplifying how we collect and record parental permissions for this purpose.

In future, we will record your agreement to the use of your Sons/daughters image or name on Scouting publication, press or on the Group website, unless you opt out.

You can opt out by emailing or writing to your section leader informing them of opting out of having photographs published with four weeks of receiving this newsletter.

We understand that circumstances change from time to time, if you wish to make a change in permission, please email or write to your Section Leader.



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Leaders

We have a fantastic and dedicated Leadership team at 1st Alton Manor who provide an exceptional and varied programme for the 150 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts that make up the Sections. We are however short of Leaders in a number of our Sections, particularly Bear Beavers and the two Cub Packs.

During 2016 we have, or soon will be losing the services of a number of our Leaders including Julie Thornley, Michelle Henshaw, Gary McNamee and Dave Cressey. We have been fortunate enough to gain new ones – Lisa Israel, Emily Field, Emma Harcup, Laura Hayes, Bryony Chalklin, Claire Greaves, Michael Hilton, Richard Mackney and Julie Wood who have come in and with their own special skill sets and helped the Group continue its successes.

On our website, there is information and videos showing what we do in Scouting, not only for the children but for the adult leaders as well. Please take the opportunity to look at the website and particularly the “Join the Adventure” section and if you feel that you can offer some time to help the Group then please let me know.

There are several leadership roles within Scouting for adult volunteers. The below is a summary of each: -

Occasional Helper – This is a role that really speaks for itself. You would be DBS checked (what was the old CRB check) and would help out with running the session on an occasional basis. No formal training is required for this role.

Section Assistant – This is a role that would allow you to wear the Scout Uniform, again you would be DBS checked and you would have to complete two modules of training. These are usually done locally, at no cost and offer a basic introduction into Scouting. Each module would normally take about two hours. There is an expectation that a Section Assistant would attend fairly frequently and take an active part in running the sessions with the Section Leader and Assistant Leader.

Section Leader/Assistant Section Leader – These two roles are closely linked and involve undertaking a full training program over a three-year period. You are appointed a training advisor to work alongside and would enable you to produce exciting and balanced programmes, the administration and management of running a Section and other “tools of the trade”.

Subscriptions

In January 2017, the termly subscriptions will rise by £1. This is the first rise for around 7 years and still equates to only £3 per session based on a 12- week term. The rise reflects the rising



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costs of all aspects of Scouting including membership fees, insurance, equipment and general running costs.

Just a word on subscriptions, they should be paid at the start of each term, so January, April and September. You can pay by cash, cheque (payable to 1st Alton Manor Scout Group" or via the online payment of subs. Instructions for the online method can be found in your welcome pack or in the "downloads" section of the website.

Upcoming Events

Alton Manor Community Centre is holding its first ever Christmas Market on Saturday 26th November 2016 between 3pm and 8pm. There will be various stall holders showing off their jewellery, homeware, giftware, food items, bath and body, skincare and much more. There will also be the opportunity to have professional photographs taken and a performance by the Emily Grace School of Dance.

Hot food and drinks will also be available.

Please come and support this event and do your Christmas shopping at the same time.

It is also that time of year when we are looking for volunteers to help out with the annual stamp & deliver fundraiser. This is one of the few fundraising events conducted by the Group but one that can generate in excess of £1,000. Further information can be found on the website or by contacting the Group Secretary, Christine Hallsworth, email chrish44@hotmail.co.uk

And finally,.....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports our Scout Group, from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who represent the Group in an outstanding manner to the Leaders and committee members who without, 1st Alton Manor would not be such a wonderful place in which to conduct our Scouting activities. And last, but not least – you the parents for the support and help you give to the running of the activities and events

From everybody at 1st Alton Manor Scout Group, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Many thanks
Darren Barnes
Group Scout Leader