**1st Stramshall Scout Group**

Welcome to 1st Stramshall Scout Group! We are an active, friendly group consisting of 3 sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). We have been helping the young people of Stramshall, Uttoxeter and the surrounding area enjoy scouting for over 65 years and offer a varied, active programme for each section. We hope that your son or daughter enjoy their time in our Scout Group as much as we enjoy having them.

We hope you find the following information useful but please speak to one of your child’s section leaders if you need any further information.

<http://stramshall.scoutsites.org.uk/welcome-pack/>

**Sections**

All meetings take place during term time in Stramshall Village Hall (unless otherwise advised by your Section Leaders):

**Beaver Colony** (for boys and girls aged 6-8 years old)

**Meets:** Wednesdays 5.15-6.15pm

**Acting**

**Leader:** David Taylor

**Assistant** Jane Wright

**Leaders:** NerysLeithead

Sarah Saxon

**Young** Tom Page

**Leaders:** Duncan Craven

 Joe Pye

**Cub Pack** (for boys and girls aged 8-10 ½ years old)

**Meets:** Wednesdays 6.30-8.00pm

**Leader:**  Louisa Craven

**Assistant** Richard Saxon

**Leaders:** Andy Simmonds

**Young** Amy Latchford

**Leaders:** Polly Jones

**Scout Troop** (for boys and girls aged 10 ½-14 years old)

**Meets:** Fridays 7.00-9.00pm

**Leader:** Ian Triccas (Ian is also our Group Scout Leader GSL)

**Assistant** Pam Latchford

**Leaders:** Tim Hill

Vincent Whalley

**Young** Amy Latchford

**Leaders:** Ben Ogden

**Explorer Units** are the fourth Section of the Scouting family after Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and are run at a District Level. Currently our Scouts move to The Uttoxeter District Explorer Unit which meets at the Uttoxeter Scout Hut on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm-9pm. Contact Jonny Brown or Adam Hendry for more details: uttoxeterdistrictexplorers@gmail.com

**Group Executive**

The Group Executive Committee plays a vital role in running the Scout Group and exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. We are here to make decisions, carry out administrative tasks and act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group to ensure that the best quality scouting can be delivered to the young people in the Group. As an Exec we must comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association, protect and maintain property and equipment, manage group finances, provide insurance for people, property and equipment and provide sufficient resources for meetings to take place, as well as organising fundraising events.

A new committee is voted in during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year and all members of the Executive Committee are DBS checked upon commencing their appointment. All section leaders and assistant leaders are automatically part of the Executive Committee.

**Our Current Executive Committee:**

**Group Chair** Emma Pye

**Group Scout Leader** Ian Triccas

**Group Treasurer**  Glyn Price

**Group Secretary** Georgina Fairbrother

**Executive members** Paul Craven

Mark Kent

Paul McCarthy

Susan Williams-Jones

**New Starters and Investiture**

Anyone interested in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts can come along to one of our meetings and see what we get up to! They can try it for a couple of weeks before they are offered the chance to be invested and become a full member of our Scout Group and the Scout Association. Investiture involves the young person reciting the Promise in front of their colony/pack/troop and receiving their Scout membership, District, Region and Group name badges. The section leader will discuss this with you and advise you with regards to uniform and learning the Scout Promise. Parents are welcome to attend this event; the leader will advise you when this will take place.

**Uniform**

Scouting is a uniformed organisation, with the Necker, in the colours of the Group being the distinguishing feature. Wearing the uniform conveys to everyone that you are a member of the Scout Association and identifies which Group you belong to. The uniform consists of a turquoise long sleeved sweatshirt for Beavers, a teal green long sleeved sweatshirt for Cubs and a teal green long sleeved shirt for Scouts, plus our Group Necker which is teal with red binding. For the first few meetings, comfy, casual clothing is all that is required as this a trial period before investiture. Once the Leader has spoken you about investing your son/daughter, this is the time to purchase their uniform. We provide all the badges; however we ask that you purchase a woggle and at a minimum the Beaver/Cub sweatshirt or Scout shirt. The Necker can be purchased directly from your section leader. All other uniform can be purchased from the following:

District Scout Shop, Brook House, Shobnall Road, Burton Upon Trent, DE14 2BA

The Scout Shop is open Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00pm during term time but please email shop@burtonscouts.org.uk to check before you visit.

The official UK Scout Shop <https://shop.scouts.org.uk>

The Stafford Outdoor Company <https://www.staffordoutdoor.com/scout-guides>

John Lewis <https://www.johnlewis.com>

Amazon [https://www.amazon.co.uk/](https://www.amazon.co.uk/David-Luke-Official-Scouts-Uniform)

**Equipment**

It isn’t necessary to rush out and buy lots of kit straight away but this is a list of some equipment that may come in useful during your child’s time with us. Your Section leaders will let you know when your child may require any kit for meetings, and you will always be given a kit list for weekends away or hikes. Our leaders are happy to advise when buying equipment so please don’t hesitate to ask. We also have a small selection of equipment which we can lend (day sacks, sleeping bags, gaiters).

**Beavers:**

Waterproof coat and trousers

Wellingtons

**Cubs:**

Waterproof coat and trousers

Day sack (small rucksack)

Wellingtons

Walking boots – with good ankle support\*

Torch

**Scouts:**

Waterproof coat and trousers

Day sack (small rucksack)

Walking boots – with good ankle support\*

Headtorch

\*Walking boots - you will be advised when your child needs these, so it may be best to buy near the time of the first event if your child doesn’t have them already. It is recommended that you buy boots to fit initially wearing two pairs of walking socks. As feet grow they can reduce to one pair.

A number of retailers offer discounts to members of the Scout Association:

Go Outdoors – 10% discount – show your necker or any form of proof that you are a Scout at the till. Use the code 10GOSCT if purchasing online.

Mountain Warehouse – 10% discount your necker in store, or ask for the website discount over the phone.

Blacks/Millets-15% discount – show proof that you are a Scout at the till.  Call 0161 393 7059 with relevant membership details or identification to gain access to discount code.

**Camps and activities away from home**

At 1st Stramshall Scout Group we endeavour to allow the children to experience several activities away from the Village Hall, and these often take place independently of the weekly meeting. For example, Scouts enjoy camps, day hikes, night hikes, water sports and climbing club to name but a few! Cubs enjoy camps, short hikes, night hikes, climbing and bell boating. We are able to offer many of these additional activities because we have our own Group minibus! Please note, all parents/helpers who attend overnight activities are DBS checked.

**Online Scout Manager (OSM)**

Online Scout Manager is an online system that allows parents to sign their child up for events, pay for activities and subscriptions, see and edit their child’s personal details and view their child’s badge progress. They can also see the programme for their child’s group and details of activities and camps. Once parents are subscribed, invites to events and camps are delivered through this system, along with payment requests. OSM allows our Treasurer to keep track of payments and saves leaders the hassle of dealing with monies at meetings. This enables them to concentrate on the important task of delivering exciting, adventurous and safe activities to our children!

We would like to encourage all parents who have access to the internet to use this valuable resource. It can be set up as follows:

* You will receive an email containing a link to OSM when your child/children join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. This link opens your child’s profile within OSM.
* You will be prompted to create an account via a drop down box in the top right of the screen.
* You select the account.
* Next enter your email address and a password to create an account
* If you have two or more children within our Group you should be able to switch between each child via a drop down menu on the right of the screen. Please be aware that the email and the password for each child **must** match for this to work.

**Subscriptions**

Each Scout Group, District and County/Area/Region set their own subscription fee to reflect the needs and facilities of their Group to help with the day-to-day running of Scouting. Our Subscription fees, which cost £25 per head per term, cover Capitation (the fees that we pay to UK Scouting Headquarters for every member), insurance, badges and village hall rent. They are paid termly (Autumn, Spring and Summer) and a request for payment will come from our Treasurer, Glyn Price.

**Gift Aid**

Gift Aid is a Government initiative which allows the Group to increase the value of your donations at no extra cost to you. For every £1, we receive an extra 25p from HMRC helping the Group’s finances and your donations go further. If you are a UK tax payer, **please tick the Gift Aid Box on your OSM account.**

**Payments**

Scouting is one of the most affordable extra-curricular activities for young people and we will ensure that it continues to be so in the future. Payment for the majority of our meetings is covered within the Subscription fees, therefore there is no payment on a weekly basis, however some activities will incur an additional cost. We endeavour to keep any costs to a minimum and you will be informed of any events that require further payment. You will be asked if your child/children will be attending an event before our Treasurer, Glyn Price, contacts you for payment. We don’t want any child to miss out, so if you are likely to experience any difficulty with paying for an activity, ***please*** discuss with your Section leader in complete confidence, as we may be able to help.

There are four methods of payment:

Online Scout Manager (OSM)

Direct Bank Transfer

Cheque (made payable to 1st Stramshall Scout Group in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name, section, and reason for payment)
Cash (in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name, section, amount of money enclosed and reason for payment)

**Parent cooperation**

**All our leaders are volunteers** and freely give up their time to plan, organise and run meetings, whilst juggling their own busy lives! Occasionally, leaders are unable to attend due to work or family commitments in which case we may ask parents to help out. There are also times when a higher adult : child ratio is required to ensure that a meeting or activity can run safely. When necessary, Section leaders request parental help either as a ‘one-off’ or on a rota. If you are added to a rota, please support our leaders by attending when it is your turn. If you find you are unable to do so, please try and swap with another parent and inform the leader. Without the required number of adults, it may be necessary to cancel a meeting.

There is a separate information sheet with this Welcome Pack about volunteering; please consider how you can help the Group.

Please ensure that your child arrives on time for the meeting and that they are wearing their uniform correctly! When children arrive late, it can be disruptive to the rest of the section. Equally, please collect your child promptly at the end of each session and let a leader know in advance if somebody else is collecting them.

Please by mindful of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting your children and ensure you do not block access to driveways etc on Vicarage Drive.