



## Information for parents

Your son is joining the 1st Pinhoe Cub Scout Pack. I hope he has a lot of fun during his time in the Pack, and gains some benefit from it.

This booklet is intended to give you, his parent or guardian, an idea of what he'll be doing and who'll be looking after him while he's with the Pack. And to answer a few questions you may have.

If there is anything else you want to discuss, or if you have any concerns about your son's progress or welfare while he's in the Pack, please feel free to speak to me:

- either after any Pack Meeting (although that can get a bit frantic and may not be suitable if you need a quiet word)
- or by phoning me (xxxxxx) at any reasonable time evenings or weekends.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Russell".

John Russell  
Cub Scout Leader



## Pack Meetings

The Pack meets on Xxxxxx evenings starting at xxxpm and finishing at around xxxpm.

Most Pack Meetings are at the Group Headquarters (the "Scout Hut") in Xxxxxx Xxxxx xxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx xx xxxxx xx xxxxxxx xxxxxx. On some occasions, particularly in the Summer Term, Meetings are held at locations away from the Scout Hut. You will always be notified in advance if this is going to be the case, and told of any changes to times and any arrangements for transport.

Boys should be accompanied by an adult on the way to and from Meetings, and should arrive between xxx - xxxpm. If you are earlier than this please do not leave your son alone - wait a little while until a Leader arrives. At the end of Meetings boys will not be permitted to leave until they are collected by a responsible person who is known to us.



## Subscriptions

**Subscriptions to the Cub Pack (from January 2001) are £17 per Term. This is due at the first Pack Meeting of each Term, and should be paid no later than the third Meeting of Term.**

Out of the Subscription, £8.50 per Term is paid to the Group and to Scout National Headquarters and is, in effect, the membership fee of the Scout Movement. The remaining £8.50 per Term is used to pay for the equipment and materials needed for Pack Meetings, and for things like badges.

If you pay Income Tax then there is a way that you can make your Subscription worth more. This is by making the payment under what is called the Gift Aid scheme - don't worry, it's quite painless, and if you are able to do it the Group can claim some money back from the Inland Revenue. This is very worthwhile and allows us to buy extra equipment.

Speak to Phil Wakely, who can give you the form to fill in, and answer any questions you have on the scheme.

## Uniform

**Your son will need a Cub uniform for Pack Meetings. But it is a very simple uniform and the only thing you will need to buy is a Cub Scout Sweatshirt.**

He will need his Cub Scout Sweatshirt before he can be Invested. This can be bought from the Scout Shop (Little Silver) at the end of Ashton Road, Marsh Barton. (Ashton Road is the road opposite McDonalds on Marsh Barton) Cub Scout Sweatshirts can also be obtained in the High Street but the Scout Shop is cheaper, better quality, and all profits are retained in the Scout Movement.

In addition to the Sweatshirt he will wear a Group Scarf as part of his uniform. But this will be presented to him by the Pack, unless he already has one from being a Beaver, so you don't have to get one yourself.

You will also find some optional items of uniform for Cubs in the Scout Shop - you don't have to get any of these if you don't want to! The items available include activity trousers, activity shorts, polo shirt and baseball cap. These will all be useful - the trousers and shorts in particular are good and might be useful outside of Cubs as well - but they are not required and you don't have to get them.

For normal Pack Meetings he should wear his uniform Sweatshirt and Group Scarf, with comfortable (but not scruffy) trousers, jeans or shorts (or the Cub activity trousers or shorts) as appropriate to the weather and time of year, and trainers.

On those occasions when he is asked to be formally dressed, in full uniform, he should wear:

- His Cub Scout Sweatshirt and Group Scarf
- Grey or black school trousers or the Cub activity trousers

- Black shoes (with school trousers) or trainers (with the Cub activity trousers)

If the activity planned for the evening is such that he is likely to get dirty or wet, you will be notified beforehand and advised what he should wear or bring to change into.

**All items of uniform, Sweatshirt, scarf, polo-shirt, cap, should be clearly labelled with your son's name. The same goes for anything else he's liable to take off or bring, like coat, shoes, socks!**

## Medical and other conditions

If your son has any medical conditions that could affect him during Meetings or Activities then please let us know. This could include things like asthma, allergies, dyslexia and so on, as well as more serious conditions. We will treat this information in complete confidence, and he will not be excluded from Meetings or Activities because of medical conditions (except, obviously, for actively infectious conditions!). But it will help us in planning activities, and in understanding any difficulty he might be having.

It would also help us to do our best for him if you could let us know of any problems at home that might be worrying him - the illness of a close relative or friend for instance. Scouting can often be supportive in these circumstances and, again, any information would be treated in complete confidence.

## The Pack

**The Cub Scout Pack caters for boys between the ages of 8 and 10½. It is one section of the 1st Pinhoe Scout Group.**

Your son may be coming to us from the youngest section - the Beaver Scouts - or he may be joining us directly. When he reaches 10½ years old he'll be invited to move up to the Scout Troop.

The Pack is divided into small groups of boys called "Sixes", led by an older boy called a "Sixer". Some activities are done in Sixes, and some are done with the whole Pack together. Your son will become a member of one of the Sixes. We will try to put him in a Six that he can make friends with, but if he can't get on after a couple of weeks we will move him into a Six that he prefers.

The overall theme of the Pack is based on the wolf pack in "The Jungle Book" - your son can look on himself as Mowgli, being taught about how to live in the jungle by the jungle animals. The adult Leaders have "Pack names" taken from the Jungle Book, so you may hear your son talking about some very odd people - it's probably us!



## Investiture

**If your son is joining us directly** (not from the Beavers) then for the first few weeks that he is with us, he will not formally be a Cub Scout. He will be learning a few essential things that he needs to know, and having a “taster” of what he can expect from being in the Pack. If he then still wants to make the commitment of being a Cub he will have a short “Investiture” ceremony, where he will be welcomed as a full member of the Pack. He will probably want to invite you to be there at his Investiture.

**If your son was a Beaver Scout** then he is, of course, already a full member of the family of Scouts. For his first few weeks with us he will be getting used to the differences between Beavers and Cubs, and accepting the commitment of being a Cub. Then he, too, will have a short Investiture ceremony where we welcome him into the Pack.

And being a Cub Scout does involve a commitment. At his Investiture he will be expected to make a Promise, and then he will be expected to live up to his Promise.

### **The Cub Scout Promise is:**

*I promise that I will do my best,  
to do my duty to God and to the Queen,  
to help other people  
and to keep the Cub Scout Law.*

### **The Cub Scout Law (which he is promising to keep) is:**

*Cub Scouts always do their best,  
think of others before themselves  
and do a good turn every day.*

At his Investiture he will be presented with Scout, Group and District badges, to be sewn on to his uniform Sweatshirt.

## The Balanced Programme

Most of the work that we do at Pack Meetings is part of a balanced programme designed to encourage the physical, mental, spiritual and social development of the Cub Scouts. They shouldn't realise that, of course - they think they're coming because it's fun!

The balanced programme provides activities across seven programme zones - these zones are Outdoor Scouting, Fitness, Discovering the World Around You, Creative Zone, Beliefs and Attitudes, Caring and Community and the Global Zone. Progress through the balanced programme is recognised by the award of badges, which should be sewn on to the uniform Sweatshirt.

There is a huge range of activities that can be done as part of the programme, and the Leaders will try to think of interesting and unusual ways of doing them! Most will be done during Pack Meetings but some things will require some involvement at home. If your son has something to carry out at home then please encourage him and help him to do it - but don't do it for him! He will never be judged on how well he's done something, only on how hard he's tried.



## Activities

In addition to the normal weekly Pack Meetings we also arrange special activities from time to time. Some of these are open to all the Pack, and some are "by invitation only" to only part of the Pack - the older boys, or the younger boys, or the Sixers, or whatever. They are all optional, and some of them, unfortunately, involve additional cost.

For all special Activities you will be notified well in advance, and asked to sign a form giving your consent to taking your son on the Activity.

Examples of Activities that may be offered include:

- Cub Camp for a week or weekend.
- an evening swimming.
- taking part in events or activities with other Cub Packs, the District Football Competition for example.
- visits and excursions.
- an occasional Saturday or Sunday day out, hiking, making bivouacs, etc.



## Leaders

**The Scout Movement is a voluntary organisation, and all adult Leaders are volunteers. But they are trained volunteers - the Scout Association has a thorough training programme that all Leaders have to undertake.**

The leadership team at 1st Pinhoe Cub Scouts comprises:

Cub Scout Leader (known as Akela)      John Russell

Assistant Leader                              Aaron Dunster (Bagheera)

Pack Helper                                      David Jenkins (Shere Khan)

Pack Helper                                      Maureen Wakely (Raksha)

And you will often also see Phil Wakely at Pack Meetings. He is the Group Scout Leader with overall responsibility for the whole Pinhoe Scout Group.

### **John Russell**

I first became a Leader in 1988, when my own son was a Cub Scout, in Kent. When my job took me overseas I carried on Scouting in Ghana, where I lived for 6 years and where I was a Cub Scout Leader and Scout Leader. After leaving Ghana I lived for a time in Albania, where I became a Leader in the newly-formed Scout Movement there. When I moved back to the UK, to Exeter, I joined Pinhoe Cub Scouts in September 1996.



My approach to Scouting is based on my belief in the empowerment of young people - I'll talk to you about it sometime, if you're interested! And on the poster which my daughter made for me and which hangs on my office wall and says "Beaten paths are for beaten men". Try explaining that in Albanian!

### **Aaron Dunster**

I started helping with Cubs as part of my own training requirements when I was a Venture Scout in the Pinhoe Venture Unit. But I found that I enjoyed it so much that when I was old enough, when I turned 18, I applied for a Warrant as an Assistant Leader and stayed on.



### **David Jenkins**

I'm married with three children, and have been involved with Scouts on and off since I was a Wolf Cub! I was an Assistant Cub Scout Leader in South London. Since moving to Exeter I've not taken a Warranted position but have been a Pack Helper since 1993.



### **Maureen Wakely**

I joined the Group Supporters Committee about 11 years ago when my son joined Beavers. I've been helping at Cubs since 1993 when I used to take my daughter along. I now hold a Helper's Certificate - and I'm still on the Group Supporters Committee, only two of us left from our original gang!



### **Phil Wakely**

My first involvement with 1st Pinhoe Cubs was way back in 1963 when I joined the Wolf Cub Pack. Years later, when my son joined the Beavers, I was asked if I could help the Group by becoming a leader. I didn't wish to spoil my son's fun in the Beavers, so I became a Leader in the Cubs. But I stayed when my son moved up, and took over as Cub Leader in 1992. When John joined the Pack in 1996, I moved aside to take on the Group Scout Leader role.



## **The Group**

As well as the youth sections (the Beavers, the Cub Scouts and Scouts) and the adult Leaders, there is another very important part of the 1st Pinhoe Scout Group - and that's you, the parents and carers. The Group cannot function without you!

The main areas where your support is needed are:

- assistance at an occasional Pack Meeting. All of our Leaders have their own work commitments that sometimes prevents them coming to every Pack Meeting. To allow us to continue to offer an exciting programme with an adequate level of supervision we ask for parent volunteers to help out on those occasions.
- assistance during visits and excursions. The Scout Association is very safety conscious and we like to be sure that we have enough adults to properly supervise the boys when we are away from the Hut. So we usually need at least a couple of volunteers on visits and excursions.
- fund-raising. It costs about £4,000 a year to maintain the Scout Hut, pay electricity and water bills, insurance, maintain equipment, and so on. If it was not for the enthusiastic team of supporters who raise this money it would have to be added to the Subscriptions. Help is always needed and appreciated at Jumble Sales, the annual Fireworks Party and other events.
- maintenance and "housekeeping" of the Scout Hut.



Everything from cutting the grass to occasional electrical and plumbing work!

- assistance with instructing boys for an Activity Badge, if you have a skill that you can pass on. And everybody has a skill that they can pass on, whether it is handicraft, cooking, knitting (why not?) or bicycle maintenance.

If you think you can help in any of these areas please speak to any Leader after the Pack Meeting.

## Pinhoe Cub Scouts Web Site

If you have access to the Internet, have a look at our Web Site at <http://www.pinhoescouts.org.uk/cubs>

As well as information about us, the Web Site has photographs from a variety of recent activities we've done, and some of the Cubs' own homepages showing their interests and some of their stuff.

The Web Site is maintained in accordance with the Scout Association's child protection guidelines. For this reason full names of children do not appear on the Site and pictures of children are not linked with a name, even a first name.

The Cubs' own pages are an important part of the Site. As a Cub your son is welcome to produce some material to add his own homepage. He can write or draw anything about whatever interests him or is important to him. For child protection reasons his page cannot carry his own photograph or name his school.

## Questions (and some Answers)

*Q. Can girls be Cub Scouts?*

A. Some Cub Packs accept girls. The 1st Pinhoe doesn't, mainly because if the Cubs took girls then the Scouts would have to as well. We would then have to have sufficient female Leaders in both Cubs and Scouts - and we don't have enough ladies.

*Q. Are there Pack Meetings all the year round?*

A. We normally only have the Monday Pack Meetings during school term times. Although we do arrange informal activities during the school holidays, particularly in the summer.

*Q. Is it necessary for my son to go to every Pack Meeting?*

A. The Meetings are designed so that skills learnt one week are built on in subsequent weeks. So if he misses too many Meetings he will start to feel out of things.

*Q. What if he decides he doesn't want to be a Cub anymore?*

A. It's a voluntary organisation for him, as well as for the Leaders, so he's entitled to make that decision. And children's interests do change as they grow up. But we would appreciate being told if he's not going to come anymore. So that his Six don't have to live with a gap in their ranks, for one thing! And we would like to know the reason, in case there's a problem in the Pack that we need to tackle.

*Q. You say I will be notified of activities, changes for future Meetings, and so on. How?*

A. Usually by means of a note given to Cub Scouts at the end of a Meeting. It's a good idea to check his pockets for notes, when he gets home!

*Q. This is the 1st Pinhoe Cub Scouts. Is there a 2nd?*

A. No. The 1st Pinhoe Group is part of the Exeter Scout District, which covers Exeter and Topsham, and has 19 Groups in it altogether. Most of the Groups are called something like "9th Exeter". Some activities we do are done jointly with other

Groups or with the District as a whole. If you ever feel that your son would be better off in a different Group, perhaps because he finds out that his friends go to a different Group, we can probably arrange a transfer.

Q. *Is Scouts a Christian organisation?*

A. No. We do try to encourage spiritual development, together with physical, mental and social development, but this is not tied to any one faith. If your son is a Christian we will encourage him in the practice of his Christian faith. If he is a Muslim we will encourage him in his practice of Islam. And so on.

Q. *What happens if my son loses his Group Scarf or woggle or anything else he's been given?*

A. He needs a Scarf and woggle and if he loses them, or they get eaten by the dog, we will replace them. But we will ask you to pay the cost, so that the Pack funds don't suffer.



## Concerns

Your son has an absolute right to be comfortable at Pack Meetings and Activities. If anything happens that makes him, or you, concerned or worried or if the behaviour of a Leader is in any way inappropriate then you must let us know.

You should speak about your concern in the first place to the Cub Scout Leader, John Russell.

If you prefer, or if he is the cause of your concern, you can speak to the Group Scout Leader, Phil Wakely.

Or the District Commissioner for Exeter, Fred Vernalls.

## Addresses

John Russell, Cub Scout Leader

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Fred Vernalls, District Commissioner

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