

# **WELCOME TO**



Welcome and thank you for showing an interest in Marden Scout Group. It is our aim to provide relevant and exciting Scouting for the youth of Marden and the surrounding area.

We are a strong, active Group providing various camps and activities as well as the regular weekly meetings which are held at the Scout Hut during term time. There are three Scouting sections within the Group which cover all ages from 6 to 14½ and each section has its own programme of activities suitable for its age group.

The Group was founded in April 1982 with the formation of the Cub Pack. Soon after this the Scout Troop was started and in 1990 the Group took the form that it has today with the addition of the Beaver Colony for our younger members.

After 8 years of extremely hard work, dedication and the many, many hours of fundraising (of nearly £25,000) by parents, leaders and committee members the Group were able to move from their temporary home of the Memorial Hall to current Scout Hut in 1990. We are extremely fortunate to be able to have not only the Hut but also the grounds.

Marden is one of 10 Groups that make up the Maidstone West District. All sections regularly participate in District events which provide a great opportunity to mix with many more young people of their age.

# SECTIONS



## BEAVERS

Beavers meet on Monday evenings from 18:00-19.15. Boys & girls join Beavers when they are 6 years old and remain in the section until they are 8.

The Beaver motto is 'Fun and Friends', this is very much the focus throughout the weekly meetings. Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on local visits and helping others.



## CUBS

The Cub Pack meets on Wednesday evenings from 18:30-20:00. Boys & girls join Cubs when they are 8 years old and move up to Scouts when they are 10½.

There are a number of awards and proficiency badges for the Cubs to achieve and they have a handbook which lists these. The Cubs usually take part in at least one camp a year and a number of Section, Group and District activities.



## SCOUTS

The Scout Troop meets on Friday evenings from 19.30-21.30. Boys & girls join Scouts at 10½ and leave at 14½ years old.

The Scouts work for a number of challenges and activity badges with the ultimate achievement being the Chief Scout's Gold Award. There are a number of camps throughout the year and the opportunity to try numerous activities such as canoeing, cycling, archery, shooting, cooking, climbing, abseiling and hiking.

## EXPLORERS/NETWORK EXPLORERS<sup>✿</sup> network<sup>✿</sup>

By the time the boys & girls are 14½ years of age they must leave the Troop and move on to Explorers. This is a District based section and Maidstone South currently have 2 Explorer units:

Paragon ESU

Ragstone ESU - [www.bmsg.org.uk/explorers-general.html](http://www.bmsg.org.uk/explorers-general.html)

When the Explorers are 18 they move on to Network which is a County based section. For more information go to [www.network.kentscouts.org.uk](http://www.network.kentscouts.org.uk)

## LEADERS

All the leaders put in a lot of effort to run their section. It is not just an hour a week. There is preparation for weekly meetings, activities to organise and attend at weekends as well as Group management meetings. The leaders are all **volunteers** and are **NOT PAID** for the time they give. They are using their spare time to provide activities and opportunities for members of the Group and will often need help from parents/carers.

# SCOUT GROUP MANAGEMENT

The Scout Group is led by a Group Scout Leader (currently vacant) with the support of the Group Executive Committee. This committee consists of the Group Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Section Leaders and parent representatives. The Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and is responsible for:

- the maintenance of Group property;
- the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;
- the insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support;
- appointing any sub-Committees that may be required;
- appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

## FINANCING THE GROUP

The Group is financed in two ways:

**Membership Fees:** Please read the enclosed letter from the Group Treasurer regarding annual membership subscriptions, methods of payment & GIFT AID

**Fund Raising:** The role of the Supporters Committee is to organise events that:

- Raise funds to maintain the Scout Hut & purchase new equipment
- Help promote a “Group” spirit within all sections, parents & the local community

At present we do not have a Supporters Committee so if you can spare a little bit of time - perhaps a couple of hours one evening a month or a few extra hours to help at an event – please make yourselves known to the Chairman or a Leader.

This money covers: -

- Annual fees to District, County and National bodies for insurance and leader training.
- Money is also required to cover the main bills of the hut such as rent, electricity, water, cleaning, maintenance of the grounds and insurance. However, for major repairs the group still has to look to fund-raising and donations.
- The purchase and upkeep of camping/games equipment
- Badges and scarves
- Cost of running most meetings, including equipment

# GROUP MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

## LEADERS

Group Scout Leader	Kieran Burns
Assistant Group Scout Leader	James Blythin
Scout Leader	Jeff Nayler
Assistant Scout Leader	Jonathan Hollamby
Assistant Scout Leader	Jemma Finch
Cub Scout Leader	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Jeremy Greenway
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Nigel Hadley
Beaver Scout Leader	David Elphick
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Alison Brook
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Clyde Mackey

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	David Brockis
Vice Chairman	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Steven Mooney
Secretary	Amanda Causer
Social Events/Fundraising	<i>Position Vacant</i>
HQ Maintenance Co-ordinator	John Weir
Quarter Master	Neil Emberley
Parent Representatives	
Scouts	Lindsey MacAdam
Cubs	Matt Mitchell
Beavers	Nick Hayes

*As voted at AGM in June 2015*

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## UNIFORM

Each Section has its own uniform. For the Beavers this is a turquoise sweatshirt, for Cubs a green sweat shirt and Scouts a teal green shirt. All sections wear the Group scarf, which is Lemon, together with Navy trousers and dark smart shoes. There are also T-shirts/ shorts/fleeces etc but they are entirely optional.

The uniform may be purchased online from [www.scoutshops.com](http://www.scoutshops.com) or alternatively the nearest stockists are:

- **Page's Schoolwear** in Maidstone [www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk)
- **Phillips Man's Shop** in Cranbrook [www.phillipsmansshops.com](http://www.phillipsmansshops.com)

When a child joins a section we advise that the uniform is only purchased when they are ready to make their promise (usually after 3/4 weeks). When a child moves from one section to another they may wear their old uniform until they acquire the new uniform. The scarf should not be worn until the child has made their promise in each section.

One Group Scarf will be provided when a child first joins the Group free of charge

## DBS (DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE) CHECKS

All leaders and regular helpers with the Group, who are in direct contact with the children, are required by Law to complete a DBS check. Once a person has DBS clearance it means that they can help us in all sorts of ways that will benefit the Group but not tie them to a weekly commitment. For example, we might need help with transport to an activity venue. If you have a DBS clearance we can put 2 or more children in your car.

These forms are available from Section Leaders.

## YOUNG PERSON INFORMATION FORM

As well as the previously mentioned forms relating to subscriptions and Gift Aid, please find enclosed a Personal Information form which provides us with important health and contact information that we may need in case of an emergency.

Please complete this form and return to your Section Leader and notify us of any changes thereafter.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

We often take photographs at camp and other events to publicise our group. Please let your section leader know if you have any objections to photographs being taken and used.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- **Become a leader, assistant, instructor or help at meetings** - You don't need special skills just enthusiasm and commitment. Training is provided. Why not visit a meeting to find out what is involved?
- **Become a parent representative** - Put your views forward about how the Group should develop. Executive Committee Meetings are roughly every six weeks.
- **Help with fund raising** - To keep the Group running effectively requires a great deal of money. We have a HQ to run and maintain and camping equipment to purchase and renew. Please support us by joining the fund raising team or help by taking part in the numerous fund raising events we run each year.
- **Help with section activities** - There is always a need for help at activities such as providing transport, putting up tents, catering or making a few buns. Most sections run a parent rota for help at meetings. Please make sure you help when it's your turn.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Group AGM is held each year (usually June), to which any one can attend - executive members, leaders, helpers, cubs, beavers, scouts, parents, members of the public etc. This meeting ratifies the accounts and presents the achievements of the last year as well as electing a new Executive. We strongly encourage parents to attend so that they can have their say in the running of the Group and they also get to see who has won the Sectional awards!

## ANNUAL REPORT

As well as being available at the AGM, further copies are available on request from the Chairman or the Treasurer.

## PARADES

As a Group we ask all members to support just 2 annual parades, St. George's Day (the nearest Sunday to 23<sup>rd</sup> April) in Maidstone and Remembrance Day (the nearest Sunday to 11<sup>th</sup> November) in Marden.

## GROUP WEBSITE

We have a Group website - <http://mardenscouts.org.uk> - where you can find up-to-date information on upcoming Section Nights or Group Events. You can also find any Personal Information forms, Gift Aid & Standing Order forms on the site along with any letters that may have been put through the wash!

## GROUP WEBSHOP

We have a Group webshop:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marden-scout-group](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marden-scout-group)

Here you can then visit many of your favourite sites (such as Amazon, Marks & Spencer, Tesco Direct and many more) and shop as normal for the same prices but we also get paid commission!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We have recently setup accounts on both Facebook and Twitter, with the aim to keep you up-to-date with what we are all getting up to as much as we can!



On Twitter follow:  
**@mardenscouts**



Join our Facebook group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/MardenScoutGroup/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MardenScoutGroup/)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

We hope that you find this information useful. If you do have any further queries or have any suggestions please contact us on [contact@mardenscouts.org.uk](mailto:contact@mardenscouts.org.uk) or speak to your Section Leaders.

You can also visit [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) for more details on Scouting in the UK.