

WELCOME TO



Welcome and thank you for joining Marden Scout Group. It is our aim to provide relevant and exciting Scouting for the young people 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 HQ 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. In 2018 we opened our second Beaver Colony (Saturn with the original then becoming Jupiter) and have followed that with opening a second Cub Pack (Challenger, original now Pioneer) in September 2019 to accommodate the demand and growing village.

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 both Monday (Jupiter Colony, 18:00-19:15) and Tuesday (Saturn Colony, 18:00-19:00) evenings. 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

Cubs meet on both Wednesday (Pioneer Pack, 18:30-20:00) and Thursday (Challenger Pack, 19:00-20:30) evenings. 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.

AFTER THE GROUP

EXPLORERS

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 West and East have several Units that can be joined:

Maidstone West - http://maidstonewestscouts.org.uk/spage-sections-explorer_scouts.html

Maidstone East - <http://maidstone-east-scouts.org.uk/>

network

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

LEADERS

All the leaders put in a lot of effort to run their section. It is not just an hour or 2 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 with the support of the Group Executive Committee. This committee consists of the Group Chairman (currently vacant), Secretary (currently vacant) 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

LEADERS

Group

Group Scout Leader	Kieran Burns
Assistant Group Scout Leader	James Blythin

Scouts

Scout Leader	Jeff Nayler
Assistant Scout Leader	Jonathan Hollamby
Assistant Scout Leader	Ali Hollamby
Assistant Scout Leader	Andy Hollamby
Assistant Scout Leader	Emma Harris
Assistant Scout Leader	Alfie Nayler
Section Assistant	Ally Kerr

Cubs - Pioneer

Cub Scout Leader	Claire Rendell
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Abigail Lawrence
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Duncan MacIver
Section Assistant	Nigel Hadley
Section Assistant	Tracey Macdonald

Cubs - Challenger

Cub Scout Leader	Mark Williams
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Jena Scott
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Kelly Groves
Section Assistant	Neil Wills
Section Assistant	Scott Cooper

Beavers - Jupiter

Beaver Scout Leader	David Elphick
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Alison Brook
Section Assistant	Fiona Verral

Beavers - Saturn

Beaver Scout Leader	Carrie Emberley
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Matthew Hobbs
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Suzie Shore

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Nigel Scott
Treasurer	Steven Mooney
Secretary	Paul Atkinson
Social Events/Fundraising	Jena Scott
HQ Maintenance Co-ordinator	John Weir
Quarter Master	Position Vacant
Parent Representatives:	
Scouts	Position Vacant
Cubs (Pioneer)	James Sawle
Cubs (Challenger)	Position Vacant
Beavers (Jupiter)	Elliot Smither
Beavers (Saturn)	Position Vacant

As voted at AGM in July 2019

We have a number of vacancies we need to fill to ensure the successful running of the Group to support our Sections and Leaders. If you can spare any time at all to assist please contact us on contact@mardenscouts.org.uk

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 <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/> or alternatively the nearest stockists are:

- **Page's Schoolwear** in Maidstone www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk
- **Phillips Man's Shop** in Cranbrook www.phillips-mans-shops.co.uk

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

ONLINE SCOUT MANAGER

We use an online system, Online Scout Manager (OSM), for the management of our section's administration (programme records, badge / award progress, member information). This is primarily used to directly capture and maintain all necessary personal information about our members and their parents/carers and remove the need for any paper forms. However, there are also a lot of other useful functions (such as managing events online, visibility of programmes, badge tracking etc) that we are looking to utilise where possible.

In the first instance we will send a link to new to parents/carers to then set up individual access. We then ask that any personal information we have is checked and updated as necessary, and consent section completed. On an ongoing basis we then ask that this is updated when any change occurs to ensure we have accurate information at all times.

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.

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.

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?
- **Be an active member of our Executive Committee & Supporters Association** - Our uniformed sections need the support of a team of volunteers who ensure that the facilities & funds are available so they are able to deliver the fun & adventure of Scouting to our young people. While all members are expected to support the Group with their help, we need volunteers to assist in the administration & development of the Group, maintenance & management of the buildings & grounds, as well as organising / running fund raising & social events. Volunteers may have specialist knowledge or skills through their work or personal experiences to assist in specific projects or simply the willingness & enthusiasm "to give back & get stuck in".
- **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/July), 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 23rd April) in Maidstone and Remembrance Day (the nearest Sunday to 11th 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 CLOTHING

In partnership with a supplier we now have our own online shop where you may wish to purchase Marden branded T-shirts, Hoodies & fleece Jackets:

www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/mardenscouts

While there is no mandatory rule for members to buy these, the Scout Group receive a percentage of the sale and this too helps Group funds. These are great alternative when Full Uniform is not required to be worn, such as trips out, hikes, camps or outdoor activities where extra layers are needed (Fleece jackets make a great alternative to making school coats smell of campfire!!).

GROUP WEB SHOP

We have a Group web shop:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mardenscouts

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have 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/

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 or speak to your Section Leaders.

More on Maidstone West can be found on <http://maidstonewestscouts.org.uk>

You can also visit www.scouts.org.uk for more details on Scouting in the UK.