



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Reading (Park) Scout Group

## Autumn 2014 Newsletter

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### A word from our Group Scout Leader

A big thank you to all those who helped move the equipment from storage into the new Scout Room on 9<sup>th</sup> November. You may be aware that our scout group is run entirely by volunteers who give up their free time to help your children learn new skills and have fun experiences. We are always looking for volunteers either to give regular help or for occasional or one-off events. If you are interested in helping in any way please speak to your child's Section Leader.

Yours in Scouting *Woody*

### News from the Group

**Subs increase** - you will have received a letter recently informing you that the termly subs will be increasing from January to £30 (Beavers and Cubs) and £35 (Scouts). As explained in the letter these increases have been necessary to ensure the subs cover the increasing costs of materials used at the weekly sessions, hall hire as well as fees to District and National Scouting which cover such things as insurance and leader training. If you have any concerns about payment of subs please contact your child's Section Leader or the Group Scout Leader.

**Quiz night cancelled** - unfortunately the quiz night in October had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales. Thanks to the organisers for the work they put in. **If you have any ideas for or thoughts about fundraising for the Scout Group please contact me at the email address below or contact your child's Section Leader.**

### WINGS2014

In August, 18 Scouts and 9 Explorers from Park went to WINGS2014 in Windsor Great Park. The scouts enjoyed a host of activities including learning DIY skills such as wallpapering, laser tag, a hike to Windsor and learning to use fire poi (see picture below). Seven of our Cubs went for the day on the Wednesday and had a great time doing the Discover WINGS treasure hunt, participating in the Perform It Zone and enjoying the WINGS Got Talent Show in the evening. The Cubs, Scouts and Explorers were supported by leaders from all the sections plus two parents and two leaders on the WINGS staff. Thanks to all of them for their great efforts.



## SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Scout Group has run a Christmas Party at Park Church for its senior citizens for over twenty five years. Scouts look after around forty guests, serve them with refreshments and provide musical and 'theatrical' entertainment. The guests also receive a present and a card as they leave. Every year the senior citizens who attend are full of praise for the young people involved and very much enjoy their afternoon.

This year the party will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December. We would be very grateful for any volunteers who could offer lifts for our guests, either before or after the event, or assist in the kitchen on the afternoon. If you are able to help with any of these please speak to your child's Section Leader or contact the organiser Verity Kemp [verityjkemp@gmail.com](mailto:verityjkemp@gmail.com)

## Church news

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, members and friends of Park United Reformed Church celebrated the official opening of our newly refurbished premises. The redevelopment was on schedule, on budget and has really enhanced the existing facilities. Over the past few weeks it has been great to see and hear everyone's reactions, a lot of 'wows' – I hope all parents have now had a chance to see the new kitchen and David's Hall. The open day was attended by local MP Rob Wilson, Mayor of Reading Tony Jones and Moderator of the Wessex Synod Rev Clare Downing; all of whom spoke of the long tradition that Park United Reformed Church has in serving the local community, meeting the needs of young and old. The improvements made to the Scout room are also significant: completely redecorated, with new flooring, lighting and shelving – the equipment for our group should be safe, secure and much easier to access.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November we had a very full church for the Remembrance Church Parade and many people appreciated the new song written to commemorate the men from Park Church who died in the First World War, it was very poignant to hear of families affected who lived in the streets we know so well. Our next Church Parade is on 14<sup>th</sup> December and we hope you'll join us as part of your Christmas celebrations, we invite everyone who can to bring a toy or gift to help someone who would otherwise not have a gift this Christmas. Many of the gifts are distributed by the Berkshire Women's refuge, which is based in Reading.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December we are launching Messy Church at Park URC and all families are invited to come and join us – there will be a mix of craft activities, DIY manger building, food and fun – from 3-5pm. You might also like to join the carol singers who will be walking round with Mary, Joseph and real animals (donkey, sheep, etc) in the Living Nativity event which starts at 2.30pm at Wesley Methodist Church on 21<sup>st</sup> December. If you have the stamina, we also hold a candle-lit service of carols and readings on 21<sup>st</sup> December from 6.00pm at Park URC!

**If you have any comments regarding this newsletter or items you would like included please send them to Moya Taylor - [moyataylor@talktalk.net](mailto:moyataylor@talktalk.net)**