

# 74<sup>TH</sup> WATFORD SOUTH ST LUKE'S SCOUT GROUP



## Beaver Colony

### *Introductory note for parents*

Welcome to the 74<sup>th</sup> Watford South Beaver Colony. Here are some informative details which you may need during your child's time with us.

VENUE: St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford

TIME: Monday evenings (term time only) from 5.00pm to 6.00pm

BEAVER LEADER: Mrs Valerie Cohen, 7 Berceau Walk, Cassiobury, Watford, WD17 3BL  
Home tel: 01923 227864 E-mail: [irvandval@aol.com](mailto:irvandval@aol.com)

BEAVER LEADER'S ASSISTANTS: *Jenny Stromberg and youth leaders*

UNIFORM: These can be purchased from John Lewis in the Harlequin or the school shop in Bushey High Street. Group scarves and woggles can be purchased through the group at a cost of £8.50. Optional extra group T shirts are available and can be ordered through us at Colony meetings.

Prior to investiture, smart casual attire is appropriate. Investiture usually takes place a few weeks after the first meeting. Indoor shoes are required for Colony meetings and black shoes are required for outdoor parades and activities.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: These are £30 per term, subject to review, and include the annual capitation fee which covers the cost of training and insurance. Please make your cheque payable to 74th Watford South St. Luke's Scout Group. There may be additional ad hoc costs to pay for specific events. You will be advised of these separately and in advance. Please return the attached gift aid form if appropriate with your first cheque.

ELIGIBILITY: Must be 6 years of age and "swim up" to cubs as soon as possible after the 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, subject to places being available.

HEALTH: We encourage all children to join in all activities. However, we need to know if there are any health problems which may affect a child's performance, eg. hearing difficulties, asthma, allergies, or epilepsy. We want Beavers to enjoy their experience so please advise us of any problems (in confidence).

**74th Watford South St. Luke's Scout Group Registered Charity N° 302606**

**Group Scout Leader:** Toby Stromberg **Cub Scout Leader:** Jenny Stromberg

Woodland Cottage, 89 Sutton Road, Watford, WD17 2QG Tel: 01923 816842

**Beaver Scout Leader:** Val Cohen, 7 Berceau Walk, Watford, WD17 3BL Tel: 01923 227864 [irvandval@aol.com](mailto:irvandval@aol.com)

**Website:** <http://www.scouts.org.uk> **Patron:** HM The Queen **President:** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder:** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout:** Bear Grylls

**OBJECTIVES:** To encourage the physical, mental and friendship development of young people which will encompass a wide range of activities and make for an exciting two years for the child entering at 6 years of age.

**RELIGION:** The 74<sup>th</sup> Watford South St Luke's Scout Group welcomes children of all faiths and cultures. St Luke's Church kindly gives us free use of their facilities, including storage, although we do make a small donation towards heating costs. Our commitment in return is to attend 4 Church parades a year. These fall on a Sunday and it is the duty of each member of the 74<sup>th</sup> to attend.

**AFTER BEAVERS:** It is hoped that your child will enjoy their Beaver experience and wish to progress through the Scouting movement to Cubs and eventually Scouts. There is an automatic place reserved for every child who wishes to remain in the 74<sup>th</sup>.

**BEAVER PROMISE:** I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST, TO BE KIND AND HELPFUL, AND TO LOVE GOD.

**BEAVER MOTTO:** BE PREPARED

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### What is a beaver?

The beaver is a member of the rodent family. It has a thick coat of brown wool and fur. It is the oily fur on the top of its body that keeps the beaver waterproof. The two front paws are similar to human hands and have five toes. The hind feet are webbed to help with swimming. The beaver uses its wide, flat tail as a rudder when swimming. It also uses its tail to slap the water or ground to warn others to return to the safety of the lodge. Its long sharp orange-coloured incisor teeth are capable of gnawing down trees. On land the beaver can walk on its hind legs and carry logs, mud or stones with its front paws. Beaver babies are called kits.

### Where are beavers found?

Today the beaver can be found in parts of North America, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Beavers inhabited the British Isles until the twelfth century. Now beavers can only be found in captivity in the British Isles.

### Where do beavers live?

Beavers live in lodges which are mounds of sticks, moss and stones with domed shaped roofs plastered with mud. The lodge has 2 entrances, both of which are under water. To keep these entrances under water, beavers build dams to raise the water level. Sometimes these can be as much as 100 metres long.

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