

Dear members, parents and guardians of the 8th,

while it is only just over a month since I have written to you last, a few (positive!) developments have come to light that are worth sharing with you.

The 8th West Wickham will be opening a **Squirrel Drey** for children aged four to six in April – which means that the 8th West Wickham will now cater for young people aged 4 to 18 (and beyond). Please meet our Squirrels team: Claire¹, Julie, Katie and Suzanne (top left to bottom right).



The Squirrels will meet from 18th April onwards on Thursdays from 17:30 to 18:15. The waiting list – which we expect to fill up quickly – is now open at waitinglist@8thwestwickham.org.uk.

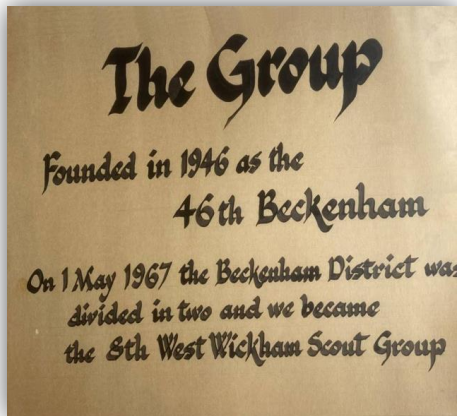
Fortunately, our new headquarters has enough room for a new section – but as you may recall, we do not have **storage for all our equipment** at the Emmanuel. But we have now found a long-term storage solution: Two 20-foot shipping containers in a small compound at Frylands Woods. Once the containers are in-situ, we will need help from you all (children and adults!) to move all our stuff, so please stand by. (By the way: some of our young people can have parts of their challenge awards ticked off for helping, e.g. the Scouts' World Challenge award requires them to spend a day volunteering...). And we will need **help of a carpenter** to fit our existing shelving into the containers; if you are able to help, please get in touch!

Speaking of help: running a (growing) Scout Group of over 100 young people takes quite some time. In fact, our leaders are getting stretched. With this in mind we seek enthusiastic volunteers to join our scouting team – in all five sections – and be part of our exciting evening programmes. If you want to help us (and your children) – from as little as a few hours a month – we would love to welcome you to our team; there is no experience required and training will be provided. Specifically, **we need help** to look after

- Our waiting list;
- Our equipment (tents, games, etc.) soon to be stored in Frylands;
- Our website, social media and communication; and
- Our “previously owned” uniforms.

So, whether you can spare a little time or a little more, we'd love to hear from you.

¹ Yes, Claire also leads our Scouts team. Volunteering at the 8th must be fun, if she opts for more 😊...



We are in the process of setting up a small team to document the **history of the 8th West Wickham** from the forming in 1946 (as the “46th Beckenham”) to today. We are lucky that our former Group Scout Leader, John Clouston, will join the team. If you are interested to join this activity, please let me know. We’d love to have you on board.

A number of parents have asked where they

could buy a **group t-shirt**. We have been able to find a local company where you can order them for a reasonable price. Those t-shirts are ideal for camps and activities. Please have a look at

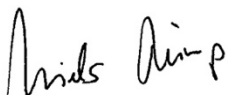
<https://8thwestwickham.org.uk/members> for a link.



Before I sign off I would like to raise some concerns regarding the drop-off and collection of your children. Parking space at and around our headquarters is at a premium and – especially just before and after drop-off and collection – there are many young (and excited) children around. So: if you have to come by car, please be careful – and also consider the people living in and around The Grove by not blocking their driveways; we simply do not want to annoy our neighbours. After all, the Scout Law states, amongst other things, that “a Scout is friendly and considerate”. Thank you!

PS: I find that the easiest way to go back out towards West Wickham is to go via Southcroft Avenue (see the diagram). It’s much quicker than a three-point-turn with children around...

That’s it for today.



Niels Rump

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