



Billingshurst Scouts & Guides

Save Our Hut Appeal

31st January 2011

Dear Friend

Further to Richard Pope's latest update on the temporary closure of the Scout & Guide Hut, here are the details of our appeal. For many years we have been able to raise sufficient funds to run the hut, provide the Scout and Guide units with their equipment, and fund capital projects like refurbishing the kitchen, providing a new floor, and the security fence. We have never had to launch an appeal before as we have always 'saved up' and maintained sufficient funds.

However, we have recently discovered that we have asbestos in some paper coating that backs the main hall's ceiling panels. We've been advised that over time the paper will become more fragile, and as a consequence, a risk of fibre contamination. Therefore we are having to carry out extensive work to remove the coated paper and are now faced with:

- The removal of the building's ceiling by an approved specialised contractor.
- A complete replacement ceiling - including the main hall's heating and lighting infrastructure.
- The replacement of some items of stored equipment that cannot be cleaned because, to avoid the possibility of any risk, the authorities consider them condemned.
- The cost of hiring facilities for the weekly meetings and activities to take place

We have had several quotes for the work to be carried out and we anticipate the final costs being in the region of £35,000 for which we have no funds. Until the work is carried out and completed, the hut is out of use. Hence, our urgent appeal.

Everyone wants to see the whole building and all the activities that 200 children and youth enjoy, back in full use as soon as possible. We are making several grant applications and holding fund raising events and activities, however we will still need to raise more money.

We need **help for everything** and February 2011 we will be holding our biennial '**Showtime**' and we really do intend that 'our show will go on'. Please help us in any way that you can. No matter how much you can afford, your donation will be very much appreciated.

To donate:

Please give your donation to a Scout or Guide Leader or send it to Keith Paul, the Group Treasurer at: Penybank, Oaklands, Billingshurst RH14 9RT Please make cheques payable to Billingshurst Scouts & Guides

Read on, to find out how you can increase your donation with no cost to you.....

.....Gift Aid. Please complete the following Gift Aid form which will enable us to claim an extra 25% from HM Revenue and Customs, on top of your donation.

And finally, who do you know who has supported Scouts and Guides in the past? Maybe they would like to make a donation towards our appeal. Please pass a copy of this letter to anybody you know who may wish to help us.

Also, we are going to approach as many companies and organisations as possible to ask for their financial support. If you have an organisation in mind which you can recommend, please let Keith Paul, Group Treasurer know. We do not want to approach an organisation more than once so we do need to ensure we co-ordinate this. You can contact Keith by telephone: 01403 330345 or by email: keith@penybank.co.uk

Thank you in advance for your support. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or comments.

Billingshurst Scouts & Guides Executive Committee

PS In order to have the hut back in use for the summer term, our deadline for raising the funds is 28th February 2011. Please respond, by return.

You can also contact 01403-784010 or 01403-782824.
You can also e-mail billingshurstscoutsandguides@gmail.com.

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Charity Registration Number 305886

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Title Surname

Forename(s)

Address

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Post Code

I wish the Scout Group to treat this as a Gift Aid donation.

Signature Date

NOTES

- You must pay an amount of income tax and/or Capital Gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give)
- You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the charity
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return
- For more information about Gift Aid please visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift-aid.htm