

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES

Whilst we endeavour to keep our costs as low as possible whilst maintaining a fun and active programme for your children to enjoy, unfortunately we have found our costs rising recently to the point where a raise in the monthly subscription is called for. Those of you that have been with the Group for some time will recall that the last raise was four years ago. This also reflects the excellent efforts of our fundraising committee in generating additional income, particularly when replacing major items like tentage. Arguably fund raising has been keeping us afloat for some time now.

The majority of our expenses are our membership fees to Scouting UK and rent due on our leases, where we have little control for increases. On top of this we have to normal organisational costs like insurance and the uniforms of our volunteer leaders. It's actually a very small part of the revenue raised by the Group that 'runs' the programme, for instance the cost of activities or the badges that are awarded. It would be nice to not have items like rent to worry about but we don't own our own Scout Hut. Then again, we would be paying maintenance for it, so some swings and roundabouts there.

### What are we doing?

From the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 we are increasing the monthly subscriptions to £13.50 a month, an increase of £2.50 over the current rate). This will allow us to better meet our outgoings but we expect in future to review subscriptions annually. You do not need to make any changes as we will update the monthly direct debit from this point using existing information we hold in Online Scout Manager (OSM). However for anyone who is facing financial hardship as a result of this increase, please speak to your child's section leader and we will see what we can do.

### Gift Aid

We recently sent a reminder to complete Gift Aid declarations if you are eligible to do so. The additional 25% this generates brings much needed funds into the Group and helps minimise subscription increases. Please complete it if you can within OSM.

If you would like to discuss the increase, please email us on the following: -

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Group Scout Leader

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**Nick Nelson**

Group Chair

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### **1<sup>st</sup> Bradley Stoke Scout Group**

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Scout Group web site [www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk](http://www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk)

Follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/bradleystokescouts>

The Scout Association web site [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

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