

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park (St Michaels) Scout Group

Section	Age Range	Weekly Meetings	Meeting Place	
Beavers (Penguins):	6-8	Tuesdays	5:15pm – 6:30	Rowswell Hall
Beavers (Polar Bears):	6-8	Fridays	5:15pm – 6:30	St Michael's Church
Cubs (Tigers):	8 – 10 ½	Tuesdays	6:30pm – 8:00	Main Road
Cubs (Leopards):	8 – 10 ½	Fridays	6:45pm – 8:15	Gidea Park
Scouts:	10 ½ - 14	Thursdays	7:30pm – 9:15	(Not a postal address)



### Welcome

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Scout Group. Our Cubs and Scouts started meeting at St Michael's Church in 1934 with the group officially registered in 1935. In the 1980's we added our first Beaver Colony. All our sections have accepted both boys and girls since 2007.

This guide is intended to provide you with some background information on our Group and to let you know how the section your young person is joining runs.

For more information on what the Group gets up to, please take a look at our website [www.3gp.org.uk](http://www.3gp.org.uk).

We look forward to working with you and your young person during their time in Scouting.

### The Scouting Movement

The Scout Movement was founded by Lord Robert Baden Powell with an experimental camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island in 1907. Since then, it has become co-educational in the UK, has spread to 216 countries and territories, and now has an estimated membership of 28 million worldwide.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Scout Group

There are 3 youth sections at 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Scout Group:



The Beaver section is for boys and girls aged between 6-8



The Cub section is for boys and girls aged between 7½ - 10 ½



The Scout section is for boys and girls between 10½ and 14 years of age.

Most sections have a few months flexibility either side of these ages.

Our Group currently has two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and a Scout Troop. Together these sections make the Scout Group.

Each section is run by a dedicated team of adult volunteers led by the Section Leader. The adult team is also assisted by our Young Leaders and parent helpers. All of this is overseen by our Group Scout Leader - Mark Hutton.

The Group also has an Executive Committee whose role is to support the Group Scout Leader and Uniformed Sections so that they can deliver top quality Scouting to all our members.

Each year, the committee stands for re-election and there are parent representatives from each of the sections on the committee. The Annual General Meeting for the Group Exec is usually held in March and all parents and supporters are invited to attend.


### Equal Opportunities Scouting

3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park welcomes applications from all young people. We have a team of experienced leaders who understand how important Scouting can be in helping children build self confidence and social skills. Our programme is designed to be fully inclusive and we are happy to discuss your child's needs on a confidential basis to ensure they can enjoy what Scouting has to offer.

### Membership Fees & Subscriptions

Each section collects a termly membership fee. It is a membership fee rather than a participation fee and so is the same whether you attend every week or not. Your section leader will let you know how much the subs are for your section.

The fees we collect are used to pay for insurance for all our members, use of our hall, badges and any other resources and equipment



for meetings and activities. Some activities and events – for example camps and sleep overs – will require an additional fee.

Like all charities, we are run on a very tight budget, so we ask all members to please pay the subs promptly at the start of each term.

### **Paying Termly or Monthly Fees Electronically**

Our preference is to receive membership fees by standing order or by electronic transfer. To help spread the load, when paying electronically we accept payment monthly or termly.

If paying electronically, please can you set up your payments with the appropriate reference as follows:

- For our Tuesday “Penguin” Beavers please put BVPG followed by a space and as much of your child’s name as possible.
- For our Friday “Polar Bear” Beavers please put BVPOL followed by a space and as much of your child’s name as possible.
- For our Tuesday “Tiger” Cubs please put CBTIG followed by a space and as much of your child’s name as possible.
- For our Friday “Leopard” Cubs please put CBLEO followed by a space and as much of your child’s name as possible.
- For our Scouts please put SCT followed by a space and as much of your child’s name as possible.

Please provide **separate payments for each child** you have who is a member. This allows us to easily track the payments and pass payment records on to our leaders. Please set these up to be paid on the 10th of each month. Our TSB bank account details are:

Name: 3rd Gidea Park St. Michael’s Scout Group,  
Sort Code: 30-93-44,  
Account Number: 00057388

Don’t forget to amend the details when your children move up the Sections.

### **Paying Termly Fees by Cash or Cheque**

We also accept termly fees paid by Cash or Cheque. Payment should be handed to your section leader at the start of each term. Our leaders don’t run a petty cash account so if paying in cash please bring the right money. To help with our administration, please send cash or a cheque payable to '3rd Gidea Park St Michaels Scout Group' in an envelope with your child's name on it.

### **Gift Aid**

We are also registered for Gift Aid and ask all parents or guardians of our members to complete a gift aid form so that we can claim much needed funds back from the tax man.

### **Additional Fundraising**

Subscriptions received from our members do not cover the entire running costs of the Group, so we have to fundraise throughout the year.


Our Hall is jointly owned with the St Michaels Guides & Brownies and we have to pay land rent to St, Michael's Church.

The Scout Group fundraises throughout the year to raise the money needed to maintain the upkeep of the hall, insure our property, buy all the equipment needed to run the group and provide a wide variety of activities to its youth members. From time to time we hold fundraising events including family quizzes, sponsored events, sleepover fundraisers, raffles, discos and table sales.

### **Our Leaders**

All of our warranted adult leaders are volunteers who give up their free time to run the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections. They are all DBS checked by the Scout Association and trained on Child Protection issues and in First Aid. They also undergo formal training to give them the skills needed to be a successful leader. In addition, some of our leaders are trained in running adventurous activities including hiking in the mountains, rifle shooting,





archery, climbing and abseiling.

Most of our leaders are either ex- youth members of our Group who want to give something back or are parents of current or ex members.

The one thing we all have in common is a passion for Scouting and the desire to provide the best quality Scouting we can to as many young people as possible.

### **Our Code Of Conduct**

All our members, whether they are youth members or adult leaders agree to abide by a code of conduct . These rules are explained to each member when they join.

Treating each other with the utmost respect is one of the fundamental values of Scouting and the safety and happiness of all our members is of paramount importance.

Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated from our youth members and will always be challenged. Where appropriate, this behaviour will be reported to parents & guardians and we value the support that parents give us in relation to setting appropriate standards.

Our volunteers have the right to work without fear of intimidation, verbal abuse or physical assault. Threatening or abusive words or behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances, whether this is from youth members or their parents and guardians. In response to any aggressive behaviour displayed towards our leaders or the young people in our care, we reserve the right to ask our District Commissioner to terminate the membership of the young person concerned. If the actions of a parent or guardian make a relationship with the group untenable, then we reserve the right to ask the District Commissioner to find places for all members of the family in another group.

### **Our Link With St Michaels Church**

3rd Gidea Park Scout Group is affiliated to St Michael's Church, Gidea Park. Our hall is in the grounds of the church and we attend church parade about eight times a year as part of this link.

Church parade takes place during the St Michaels Family service. Church parades are a chance for all our sections to gather together with the parish that supports us. Parents and family members are always welcome to attend church parade.

After the service there is tea and coffee served in the Main Hall and this can be a great opportunity for parents to speak to the leaders and find out what the colony, pack and troop have been doing recently.

### **Feedback**

We are always seeking to improve the Scouting we offer to young people in the area, so if you have any questions, suggestions or complaints, please feel free to approach the leader of your child's scouting section. If you are unable to do this, or would prefer not to, please contact the Group Scout Leader Mark Hutton. Your section leaders will be able to provide contact details for you.

