

MEDIA RELEASE

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Scouts to have warm roof over heads, thanks to Unicom

WINTER will be a whole lot warmer for Scouts in Ipswich thanks to a donation from telecoms firm Unicom.

The 1st Ipswich Scout Group, which was established in 1927, contacted the business telecoms provider to ask for help with roof insulation after hearing about its community support scheme.

The group, which has 35 cubs, scouts and beavers, meets weekly at The Beacon on Beaconsfield Road.

Stephen Cawston, who has led the 1st Group for 33 years, said Unicom's donation is a much-needed lifeline. He added: "It was very cold last winter as we have no form of roof insulation. We tried to get by with electric heaters but it was hard to warm the hall. "

"We will be using this support to pay for insulation and will install it during the summer months. Finances are always difficult for us as we are self-funded so this support from Unicom is vital for us."

Unicom's community support scheme invites applications from community groups which help disadvantaged people, promote sport and the arts, support education and help the environment.

Unicom operations director Chris Earle added: "We are committed to giving back to the communities in which we work. When Stephen contacted us, we had no hesitation in fulfilling his funding request.

"Knowing we are making a difference to young people in the community and investing in the future of Ipswich gives us a real sense of satisfaction."

Visit [www.switchingon.com /communitysupport](http://www.switchingon.com/communitysupport) to find out more about Unicom's community support scheme.

Ends

About Unicom

www.switchingon.com

Unicom, a trading name of Universal Utilities PLC, is a telecommunications service provider specialising in the small business market. It currently provides telecom, broadband, mobile and website services to 85,000 small businesses throughout the UK. Unicom has an annual turnover of over £50m, and employs 500 people at its 10 regional offices situated around the UK.

Unicom has attracted its business customers by offering discounts of up to 60% off BT's prices, at the same time as keeping customers on the BT network. Unicom currently supplies in excess of 450 million minutes of call time to its customers each year. Unicom differentiates itself by offering a high standard of personal customer service, with no premium rate 0845 or 0870 numbers, no recorded messages or menus, and no overseas call centres. Unicom boasts one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.

Unicom's mobile customers only pay for the calls and services they actually use, the package also offers one complete bill and one contact number for all telecoms services.

Unicom has a directory enquiry service, 118 777. Based on calls from a BT or Unicom telephone line, 118 777 is 35% cheaper than 118 118, and 53% cheaper than 118 500. Calls from other networks may vary.

Unicom was ranked 26th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2006, 89th in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 index in December 2006 and 96th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2007. In September 2007 it achieved a ranking of 95th, and in September 2008 a ranking of 88th, in the Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 index.

In October 2009 Unicom became ISO 9001:2008 certified and in 2009 was also awarded the Customer Service Excellence, the Customer First and the Investors in People certification by independent assessors.

For the year ending April 2010, Unicom reported pre-tax profits of £12.7m on a turnover of £50.5m (with profits up 11.8% and turnover up 13.5% from April 2009). Unicom expects profits to be in excess of £15m on a turnover of more than £55m for the current year.

Unicom is a patron company of The Outward Bound Trust.

For further information and photographs contact Emma at RMS PR, email emma@rmspr.co.uk or call 0161 927 3131.