

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2001 No.22

1. **AROUND THE GROUPS**

BEAVER leaders would like to welcome everyone back after the holiday and wish all a happy New Year. A big thank you to all the parents and Beavers who turned up for the carol services especially at St James. Beavers start the New Year with several new members and would like to welcome Joe Goodyer, Lauren Wainwright, Stephen Ball and Hannah Cowley. Everyone wishes Harry Arnold good luck as he moves on to Cubs and well done to all the Beavers who have gained their first and second badge this month. Thank you to all the people who paid their subs so promptly, especially in this most important month of the year for the payment of subscriptions. Beavers are looking forward to a busy year with the usual weekly programme but also an extra event each month - watch the notice board for details.

FOSSE (MONDAY) CUBS enjoyed their Christmas party and decorating their individual sized Christmas cakes. A busy programme of events is planned for the New Year: cubs are hoping to go bowling amongst other visits to be arranged for them.

WATLING (THURSDAY) CUBS also enjoyed a Christmas party as a finale to a series of Christmas activities that included a visit to the pantomime and an evening of Christmas crafts. Leaders are planning a varied programme of activities for Thursday nights to accompany the working towards the different awards through which the Cubs progress. Welcome to recently invested members JONATHAN ALLRED and BEN ROWBERRY.

TUESDAY SCOUTS have invested DIANA HALL, CHRIS WALL and MATTHEW BUSWELL. Welcome to them. Several members enjoyed a wet walk and camp at Fox Covert and the troop ended their term with a games night.

FRIDAY SCOUTS have invested GAVIN KELLY. Welcome to him. They enjoyed their traditional Christmas dinner which they prepared and cooked for themselves. Leaders were again pleased with the great success of the evening.

VENTURES also celebrated Christmas in style. Their dinner and overnight camp at Fox Covert was thoroughly enjoyed by all. They have been ice-skating and a few members climbed Moel Siabod in Snowdonia - again on a VERY wet day!

A **PRESENTATION EVENING** was held on 27 December when **JENNY GALLAND** and **MATTHEW ARCHER** received their Queen Scout Awards from David Brain, County Commissioner and Nigel Hayley District Commissioner for Ventures. Well done to both who have achieved the highest award in scouting as a result of a great deal of hard work and commitment. Thanks to **BARRY GRANT** who received an award for five years service to the group as a committee member.



2. FUND-RAISING

Many thanks to those who ordered from **WEBB-IVORY**. We hope to make a profit of £1000. **CLUB 200** still needs new subscribers to make it viable as a fund-raiser. Please consider purchasing a number for the monthly draw at one pound per month. Winners for November were 1. W. Canavan, 2. Mr and Mrs Haywood, 3. R. Sykes. Winners for December were 1. E. Woodward, 2. J. Woodward, 3. G. Wakefield.

3. SOCIAL EVENTS

Our **GROUP CAROL SERVICE** was well attended. Many thanks to Janet Brogan for organising this for us again this year.

Plans are being made this week for our **END-OF-YEAR PARTY** on 20 January. We invite all members to come and celebrate with us: Cubs and Beavers between 4pm and 6pm and Scouts and Ventures between 7pm and 9pm. Further details soon.

Notice was given in November of the **WORLD JAMBOREE** to Thailand at the turn of the years 2002 and 2003.

Congratulations to **DOUG SHORTER**, our acting Group Scout Leader, who has been asked to lead the Warwickshire group of about 30 Scouts who will travel to Thailand for this event.

FINALLY, it is **SUBSCRIPTION** time again. We need £16 per member of Beavers, Cubs, Scout and Ventures for the period from January to May 2001. We also need an annual payment of £16 from those over 18 members who do not attend weekly meetings but wish to retain membership of the group. It is important that subs are paid on time at the beginning of the year for the annual registration with the Scout Association. We need our membership records to be accurate and membership is determined by subscription payment. Of the sixteen pounds, six pounds is retained by the section for the running expenses of the meetings including the buying of badges and subsidising of visits and ten pounds goes to the group. Over half of this ten pounds goes directly to the Scout Association as capitation payment, which leaves the remainder for the general running of the group including the maintenance of the buildings and the payment of bills. Please speak to a Leader if there is any problem with this payment.

We had an excellent year 2000, our **BIRTHDAY YEAR** with many events and activities including a family group camp, an open day, a summer camp to Canada and the admission of the first girls to our membership. We look forward, with your help, to building on the success we have achieved and to another good year in 2001. **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our members and their families.

www.weddington-scouts.org.uk

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1. AROUND THE GROUPS

BEAVERS are continuing with their theme of 'Things that Move'. They would like to wish GREG McCRACKEN and JOHN MUMBY good luck as they move into the Cub section. The new Beavers are now beginning to be invested and everyone would like to welcome Joe Goodyear and Oliver Osbourne to the Colonies. Well done to JACK WEST, JONATHAN HAYWOOD, CRAIG GILCHRIST and JOE BOTHAM for completing their Beaver Scout Challenge Badge. Jonathan Haywood has recently been presented with a prize for growing the tallest sunflower last year – well done Jonathan.

John and Ali would like to thank everyone who helped make their district event so successful. The Beavers from around Nuneaton and Bedworth had an enjoyable afternoon and Karen and Lisa made it bearable for the adults by supplying them with frequent cups of tea. Thanks Karen and Lisa.

Beavers welcome MATTHEW ARCHER as Assistant Beaver Leader.

MONDAY (FOSSE) CUBS congratulate their quiz team of JAMES GOODYEAR, TOM GOODYEAR, JAMES CRUICKSHANK, JOSH RUFF, KIERAN TAYLOR and MATTHEW GOLDS who beat over a dozen teams from around the District to win the District Cub Quiz held at Weddington in January. Very well done to them.

Cubs went bowling at half term. They welcome newly invested members SAM MAIDENS and JOSH RUFF. Well done to RICHIE MORGAN, JOE GOODMAN, KATIE PARKINSON, MARIA PHILLIPS and BEN TAPLIN who have completed their Cub Scout Award and to PHILIP KING and CRAIG SUMMERTON who have gained their Adventure Award.

THURSDAY (WATLING) CUBS welcomed a group of Beavers to one of their January meetings and hope to organise another soon. They hosted the District Quiz last month. They enjoyed Scaletrix racing at Half Term, and plan to cook pancakes on 1 March followed by an evening of making bird tables at which they hope to enlist the support, expertise and tools (!) of some of their parents. They are organising a trip to the Gang Show at Bedworth on 15 March.

LUKE CURRIN and REBECCA FORREST attended the District Activity Day a fortnight ago and were able to work towards their Navigator's Badge. MATTHEW MORRIS, WILLIAM HARRISON and DANIEL WINCOTT have received their Cub Scout Award – well done to them.

Thursday Cubs have vacancies for new members following the move to Scouts of several of their older Cubs: if anyone is interested, please feel free to visit between 7.00 and 8.30 any Thursday evening.

Camping dates for the diary are District Cub Camp at Meriden – May Day Bank Holiday weekend: 4 – 7th May and a Fox Covert weekend: 8 – 10th June. We hope many Cubs will be able to take part in Group Camp: 22-24 June at Blackwell Court.

SCOUTS returned from their annual winter camp to Edale in Derbyshire at the beginning of the month with tales of wet walks and muddy campsites. They nevertheless enjoyed the experience if not the cleaning up of A LOT of dirty gear!

Those Scouts who did not have the chance to attend the Edale Camp will have the opportunity for a winter camp at Fox Covert, Hinckley, on 17 March. Scouts will be invited to Group Camp on the weekend of 22-24 June when we hope to repeat the great success of last year's family camp. Details later. Scouts are reserving their places on annual Summer Camp, which is this year to be at Langdale in the Lake District in the first week of the summer holidays.

Tuesday troop extends a warm welcome to HANNAH FOX as Assistant Scout Leader. Well done to Tom Ind who has gained his First Aid Stage one and also to ANNA SCOFFHAM and SAMANTHA IGOE who have been awarded their Silver Outdoor Activity Awards. Samantha has also gained this award at gold level. RICHARD BALL and JAMES HUCKERBY have gained the award at Platinum Stage 2. Well done to them all.

VENTURES also attended the Edale camp and met up with a Venture unit from Cardiff for a joint walk on Saturday. They have visited 'Laser Quest' in Coventry and last week enjoyed a night out at the pantomime.

2. FUND-RAISING

Attached to the newsletter is another chance to join our **CLUB 200**. We need new subscribers to make this a viable fundraiser. Please consider joining until the summer at a cost of £6 (one pound per month). The chances of winning one of the three monthly prizes are high and the value of those prizes will increase with the number of subscribers.

Winners for January were 1. R. Sykes, 2. Mrs Mumby, 3. L. Evans.

Winners for February were 1. S. Parker, 2. C. Ball, 3. G. Wakefield.

The first of our two annual **RUMMAGE SALES** is on the 10 March. Please find toys, books, clothes, bric-a-brac etc which can be spared for us to sell. Contributions can be taken to the Scout Hut at any meeting in the next two weeks (if possible in a bag marked 'rummage') or delivered to Carol Cottrell at 16 Winchester Avenue (76387375). Many thanks in anticipation of your help. If you are able to help on the Saturday or indeed the Friday evening before, please ring Carol or any Committee member.

3. SOCIAL EVENTS

Many thanks to those who attended and those who helped to organise a very **successful END-OF-YEAR PARTY** in JANUARY.

THE BARN DANCE of last Saturday was also a great success. An enjoyable evening which also realised a profit of about £100 so thanks to those who came, to those who provided the food and to those who couldn't come but nevertheless donated a raffle prize. We appreciate everyone's effort.

We also appreciate the prompt payment of **SUBSCRIPTIONS** this term. Thank-you.

Details of the new **SCOUT UNIFORMS** have been published this week. They can be seen on our website at www.weddington-scouts.org.uk/uniform.htm. There is a lengthy changeover period so current uniforms will, on the whole, be able to be worn until the member changes sections.

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP APRIL 2001 NEWSLETTER NO.24

1. AROUND THE GROUPS

BEAVERS concluded their theme of 'Things on the Move' with a visit for each colony to Nuneaton Fire Station. During the last few weeks, Ian Strachan, Matthew Allton, George Riley, Lewis Peacock and Freddie Wilson have joined the Woodland Colony and everyone would like to welcome them.

Everyone wishes Alun Howard and Alex Coopey good luck as they prepare to move to Cubs. The Beaver leaders would like to commend ALEX COOPEY on his 100% attendance during his two years at Beavers.

Group T -Shirts are on sale ready for the summer at £4 each. Please see Ali and John for details.

Beavers will be open as usual on Monday 7 May 2001.

The District Beaver Sports' Day will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 13 May at St Thomas Moore School. We would like to enter as large a team as possible from both Colonies. Parents are welcome to stay to support the children: it's advisable to bring something to sit on!

MONDAY (FOSSE) CUBS welcome JOHN MUMBY and GREG McCracken who were invested last month. They congratulate William Ogden, Luke Barrar, Kieran Taylor, James Cruickshank, Josh Cooper and Alex Gadsby who have gained their Adventure Awards. Each member of the pack has also worked hard to gain their Scientist's Badge. Well done to them all.

THURSDAY (WATLING) CUBS held a very successful craft night after which they took home some very expertly-made bird tables. Many thanks to the Dads who stayed to help with these. Cubs enjoyed an outing to the Gang Show at Bedworth last month. They have been busy with badge work and have enjoyed games' nights over Easter. Congratulations to WILLIAM HARRISON who has gained his Cub Scout Award.

SCOUTS are hoping to re-schedule the proposed additional winter camp at Fox Covert. Watch out for details.

The older members of Tuesday Troop have been working towards their Explorer Awards: this included an outdoor compass course at Higham-on-the-Hill on a very wet evening.

VENTURES collected rummage early last month. Thanks to those who turned up to do this. They have held a quiz night and have enjoyed a "pioneering" night and other games nights. They plan to go swimming, rock-climbing and ice-skating during next term.

All sections have had to cope with the disappointment of the cancellation of various outdoor events during the current agricultural crisis. Annual **SUMMER CAMP** for Scouts and Ventures has, as a consequence of the crisis, been booked in Kent instead of the Lake District. Kingsdown Scout Site near Deal will be our venue and the week will probably include a day trip from Dover to Boulogne.

CUB CAMP scheduled for 8-10 June at Fox Covert will go ahead. The opportunity to camp will be extended to the oldest 12 cubs from each pack. Details soon.

GROUP CAMP to Blackwell Court 22-24 June will also take place. This is a family camp. Ventures and Scouts will be invited to attend the camp and Beavers and Cubs will be able to camp if accompanied by parents for the weekend. We are encouraging as many Mums and Dads as possible to join us - please have a word with your section leader if you are interested to give a preliminary idea of possible numbers. The camp offers a good variety of activities including archery, grass-sledging, abseiling and canoeing. There is a swimming pool, an assault course and aerial runway. We will provide meals and refreshments including a barbecue (bring your own meat) on Saturday.

Thanks to more than 50 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures and over a dozen leaders and helpers who came to the annual **St George's Day Parade** at Bedworth last weekend. It proved to be an enjoyable Sunday afternoon on an occasion important both to the more ceremonial side of scouting and for the opportunity for the many groups in the district to assemble together.

11th Nuneaton were delighted to be named, jointly with 1st Nuneaton, **PREMIER GROUP** of the last year. We were pleased to be the recipient of a spontaneous BRAVO as the parade re-assembled outside the Civic Hall. 1979 was the last occasion we received this award, which is an acknowledgement of the work and achievements of all the members of the group during the last 12 months.

2. FUND-RAISING

Many thanks to all who contributed to our **RUMMAGE SALE** in March. We made a profit of over £300.

Thanks too, to those who responded to our invitation to join the **200 CLUB**. Winners for March were - 1. Mrs Sharrock, 2. M. Grant, 3. A. Shorter.

We will be manning our **CHARITY STALL** on Nuneaton Market at the end of June. We sell home-made cakes, plants and run a tombola. Prizes for this would be very welcome - bottles, jars, tins or any unwanted gifts.

3. HEADQUARTERS

We are completing the 'rescue' of the extension building. A porch has been erected to help prevent the rain from 'coming in' and the problem of painting the floor is now being considered.

It is time to renew **subscriptions** for the second part of the year- May to September. An envelope is attached to this letter for those who need to pay £16 for this session. With very few exceptions, subs were paid promptly in January - this made the job of collection very much easier. Thanks to parents concerned.

Subs represent less than £1 per week: this compares very favourably with other groups in the area and with the increasing demands of capitation payments to the national organisation, leaves very little for the upkeep of our buildings. We are currently discussing a necessary increase in payments for next year.

1. AROUND THE GROUPS

BEAVERS are enjoying their new theme of 'Dinosaurs' and everyone particularly liked the jelly scenes! Well done to everyone who managed to carry his or her plates of jelly home! This theme will continue until the summer holidays.

Everyone would like to welcome Joe Peffers, Matthew Broom, Josh White, James King, Nathaniel Hines, Elliot Powell and Amy Randle.

Congratulations to many who have recently gained badges, especially those who have worked hard to gain their Beaver Scout Challenge.

We would like to wish Joseph Botham and Ian Simpson good luck as they get ready to move to Cubs.

Next weekend should prove to be exciting for the Beavers as some have chosen to go to camp with their families and others will be setting off for a day at Wickstead Park with other colonies from around Nuneaton and Bedworth.

We now have group T-shirts in stock at £4.00 each - see Ali or John.

Finally, just to let parents know that Beavers will be closed for 3 weeks over the summer holidays while the leaders attend a variety of scout camps. The last Beaver meeting will be on Friday 20th July and we will re-open on Monday 13 August.

CUBS have had a very busy and highly successful start to the summer. Both packs entered teams for the six-a-side District Football Competition and their teams found themselves playing each other in the final, which was eventually won by Watling (Thursday) Pack. Very well done to all who took part. Fosse (Monday) Pack wishes to particularly thank Bob Sambrook for his organisation of their team.

Cubs have recently participated in and won another District event: the Scavenger Hunt. Fosse Pack were very pleased that no less than 28 of their Cubs turned up for this event and they were able to enter six teams, one of which went on to win the competition. Congratulations to them and once again, thanks to those parents who stayed to help.

Parents who helped with the setting up of our annual Cub Camp to Fox Covert must also be thanked for their invaluable assistance in loading vehicles, pitching tents and putting together of camp furniture. Cubs had a very enjoyable two days in the woods: lighting fires, cooking pancakes, making plaster casts, laying trails and using a compass. They completed a naturalist badge and enjoyed a good sing-song round an excellent camp fire on Saturday evening. Leaders at the Camp were very pleased with the behaviour and co-operation of the Cubs who attended the camp - they worked well together and entered into the 'camp spirit' very well indeed. Fosse (Monday) Pack have invested Alec Wilson and Alun Howard. Welcome to them. Four members of the pack who have moved to Cubs from Beavers will also be invested shortly. Congratulations to Tom Goodyear, Stephen Sambrook and Sam Powell who have recently been presented with their Cub Scout Awards.

SCOUTS also staged a successful camp to Fox Covert last month when members cooked their evening meal on the open fires, which they built themselves. Scouts continue to work towards their various awards during troop evenings and have taken advantage of fine nights to organise games on the field.

VENTURES have continued with their varied programme of visits and activities and plan a barbeque this week to celebrate the end of exams with which most have been preoccupied over the past few weeks.

GROUP CAMP takes place at Blackwell Court this weekend. Those attending the camp should receive final details and maps this week. We are hoping to follow on the great success of last year and have organised many different activities for the youngsters and are planning a barbecue and barn dance for Saturday evening.

Five of our members have been accepted to join the Warwickshire Contingent to the **20th WORLD JAMBOREE IN THAILAND**, which takes place over the Christmas and New Year of 2002/2003. The Contingent of 25 Scouts and Venture Scouts from the County will be joined by members from Coventry and Solihull to form a group of 36 which will be led by our acting Group Scout Leader, Doug Shorter. The Group is committed to helping these youngsters in their fund-raising efforts towards what promises to be a very exciting 'trip of a life-time' for them. Indeed our commitment extends to helping members to travel to future jamborees: so that some of our younger Beavers and Cubs may also benefit from the opportunity for this international event four years on from Thailand. There will, therefore, be some additional fund-raising for this in the near future.

2. FUND-RAISING

Our annual **CHARITY STALL** at Nuneaton Market is very close -Saturday 30 June. We sell plants, home-made cakes and run a tombola. We urgently need donations of these. Please bring any contributions to meetings next week or directly to committee members Sandra Parker 67 Shanklin Drive (76328738) or Carol Cottrell 16 Winchester Avenue (76387375) or indeed to the stall early on the Saturday morning. We would also appreciate any help to man the stall during the morning itself. Please help if you can - this is an important opportunity to raise money from outside the group and as one of our other fund-raising events (the refreshment tent) had to be cancelled we really do need to do well next Saturday.

Winners of the May draw of the **200CLUB** were - 1.Miss Woodward; 2. Mrs Smedly; 3. Mrs Sykes. It has been decided not to ask our 200 Club members to renew their numbers after August as the response to this fund-raising venture has been consistently disappointing and the prizes rather low in value as a result. We wish to thank all those who have remained loyal in their support of the 200 Club, and to assure them that there remain many other ways to continue to help!

You received an invitation to the Group's **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** last week. This is to be held on Wednesday 27 June at the Scout Hut starting at 7.30. The meeting will be followed by cheese and wine refreshment. We welcome all interested parents to this meeting which is one chance to acknowledge the hard work and many hours volunteered by leaders and committee members throughout the year to provide scouting opportunities for our youngsters.

CENSUS RETURNS for the end of last year show Weddington Scouts to be the largest Group in Nuneaton and Bedworth District with 179 Members. This is very pleasing in the context of a County and National trend to reduction of numbers involved in all levels of Scouting.

The new **UNIFORMS** should be available from the end of next month. You will be advised on the detail of the options chosen by the group. It is expected that new uniforms will only be purchased when a member changes sections or needs new items because of growth or wear. The old and new will co-exist for a year or so.

The orders for **GROUP SWEATSHIRTS** have arrived- hopefully they will reach you during this week.

FINALLY thanks to all who paid their subscriptions so promptly: it really does help the management of our finances.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CHARITY STALL – Thank-you in anticipation.

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP JULY 2001 NEWSLETTER NO. 26

1. AROUND THE GROUPS

BEAVERS would like to welcome their two new members, Callum Lord-Summerton and James King.

The Beavers had a super day out at Wickstead Park recently and the photos from the day can be seen on the website. The Beavers were commended for their behaviour and their smart turn-out - well done Beavers! Ali and John would like to thank the parents and young leaders who helped make the day so successful.

Finally, to remind you that Beavers will be closed after the Friday 20 July meeting and re-open on Monday 13 August.

CUBS are looking forward to their District Sports Competition this Saturday (7July). Several Cubs enjoyed an action-packed District Challenge Camp 2 weeks ago while others joined Scouts, Ventures and some Beavers at Group Camp in Bromsgrove, on the same weekend. MONDAY CUBS will not be meeting the first week of the holiday which is Scout Summer Camp week, but hope to meet throughout the rest of the holiday with a varied programme of outdoor activities and games.

THURSDAY CUBS end the term with a sailing night at Hinckley on 19 July and intend to meet every week of the holiday for evenings of games.

Cubs need not wear uniform for these holiday meetings. They will resume more formal meetings in the first week of the school term: the week beginning 3 September.

TUESDAY SCOUTS hope to meet in the weeks following summer camp. A programme of activities should be issued soon.

FRIDAY SCOUTS hope to meet for the two weeks following summer camp - 3 and 10 August and then after a fortnight's break, again from 31 August. Scouts need not wear uniform during holiday meetings.

VENTURES will be informed of any holiday arrangements.

So if you are at home on a meeting night at any time during the summer, do come along and meet fellow-members for an enjoyable evening of activities.

GROUP CAMP was, with the help of lovely weather, another great success this year. Well over 100 members and their families enjoyed an active and varied weekend of activities, barbeque, swimming and barn dance. Thanks to all who worked so hard to achieve this success and to those parents who came along to support us - we think they all had fun!

We wish our older sections well for their annual SUMMER CAMP, which takes place in Kent from Saturday 21 July. We hope they have a good week and look forward to reading about their activities in September's newsletter and seeing the photos of the 'highlights' on the web site. The meeting for parents to finalise arrangements and finances for this camp will be held this Friday 13 July at the headquarters at 8 p.m.

2. FUND-RAISING

Our CHARITY STALL raised £350. Many thanks to those one or two parents who contributed items for this: the Committee really does appreciate your efforts. Thanks too, to Pat Boucher who helped on the stall on the Saturday morning.

June winners for the 200 CLUB were - 1. Mrs V. Waugh, 2. Mr M. Parker, 3. Mrs C. Ball. A reminder that from August, the numbers will not be renewed and this fund-raising project will

be discontinued.

Those members who are working to raise money for Thailand, have established a **TUCK SHOP** of drinks and sweets and crisps which should be available at most meetings soon. We will not encourage the spending of large amounts of money but purchases of 20p to 50p from younger members will help to make some profit for them.

3. UNIFORM

ALL THE 50th ANNIVERSARY BADGES WHICH WERE SEWN ON TO UNIFORMS LAST YEAR SHOULD NOW BE REMOVED.

Parents are asking for clarification of the new uniform.

Firstly - the old uniform will remain in use until a member changes section or the uniform is outworn or outgrown.

Secondly the agreed items for each section are as follows:

BEAVERS will require a turquoise sweatshirt and navy activity trousers

CUBS will require a dark green sweatshirt and navy activity trousers

SCOUTS will require a teal green long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and navy activity trousers with belt.

EXPLORER SCOUTS will require a beige long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and navy activity trousers with belt.

LEADERS and **18+** will require a stone long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and either navy activity trousers or smart trousers with leather belt

* All uniforms to be worn with the group scarf and woggle.

* The above list is the minimum requirement. Other items (shorts, fleece, polo shirt etc) are available but are optional. Weddington Scouts encourages the wearing of the red group T shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts (for older members) as less formal scout wear.

*An explanatory leaflet including prices is pinned to the noticeboard at headquarters.

FINALLY we wish all members and their families a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during holiday meetings and welcoming everyone back to regular meetings in September. Remember most sections have vacancies: as a result of recent movement because of age, Thursday Cubs and Friday Scouts are looking to rebuild their numbers. So any friends who would like to come and visit would be most welcome.

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP SEPTEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER NO. 27

1. AROUND THE GROUPS

Most sections continued to meet during the holiday for evenings of games, special activities and outings. Fosse Cubs enjoyed tent pitching, fire lighting and a compass trail. Watling Cubs held a very successful sailing night at Hinckley during which three members were invested.. They enjoyed games evenings throughout the holidays. Scouts also met for games nights, barbeques and bowling trips. Ventures had similar activities and intend to round off their summer with a weekend camp in Snowdonia.

Thanks to those leaders who organised these and to those who came along to participate in the events. Leaders are currently meeting to plan the programmes for the coming term: we look forward to reporting on the wide variety of activities in store.

Scouts and Ventures spent the first week of the school holiday on a very successful annual SUMMER CAMP in Kent. Lovely weather and a trip to Belgium in addition to a variety of outdoor scouting activities and a trip to the seaside at Broadstairs, were the highlights of the week. Alex McDonald and Jonathan Cottrell were invested as Venture Scouts during the crossing to Belgium - a ceremony providing interest and entertainment to fellow travellers!

There are photographs of the week in Kent on our website - please take a look: www.weddington-scouts.org.uk/activity/2001/summercamp01.htm

Six members of the group attended international jamboree at Northampton during the summer: five young leaders joined them for a very stimulating day of scouting activities.

We welcome the return of Tim and Gemma Deakin and family. Gemma is a Fosse (Monday) Cub leader and Tim has joined the leadership of the Venture Scout Unit.

2. FUND-RAISING

First prize in the July draw for 200 Club was won by Mrs R. Sykes, 2nd by Martin Aston and 3rd Mrs V. Waugh. The last draw in August was won by Mr G Wakefield; 2nd by Mrs R Sykes and 3rd by Mrs P. Boucher. The 'Snowball' Draw which marks the end of this fund-raising venture was won by Mrs V. Waugh. Thanks to those who have supported the 200 Club over the years and to those who have organised the scheme. There will be plenty of alternative fund-raising schemes with which you will be able to be involved! Your support is invaluable to us.

Our next RUMMAGE SALE is early in October. Please bear this in mind when having a 'sort out'. Contributions can be taken to any meeting between now and 6th October. Please mark the bag 'rummage' so it is not overlooked.

WEBB IVORY CATALOGUES will be issued in the coming weeks. Please consider ordering some of your Christmas goods from this, in support of one of our major fundraising events of the year.

Those members off to world jamboree in Thailand at the end of next year will be opening a TUCK SHOP of penny sweets, crisps and drinks at the end of most meetings in their efforts to raise funds to support their trip.

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UNIFORM

The new uniform is now available at 'Outdoors', Smithfield Way, Coventry. Hopefully it will also be available more locally in the near future. Again, it is stressed that new uniform is only required when a member changes sections. However the blue activity trousers are common to all sections and leaders are keen to see the correct trousers replacing the variety of school trousers, jeans etc. currently being worn to meetings. They feel it is time to 'smarten up' the turn out but by all means continue to wear the tops with their badges until a new one is required.

The agreed uniform for each section is as follows:

BEAVERS will require a turquoise sweatshirt and navy activity trousers.

CUBS will require a dark green sweatshirt and navy activity trousers.

SCOTS will require a teal green long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and navy activity trousers with belt.

EXPLORER SCOUTS (VENTURES) will wear a beige long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and navy activity trousers with belt.

LEADERS and 18+ will wear a stone long-sleeved smart shirt or blouse and either navy activity trousers or smart trousers with leather belt.

*All uniforms to be worn with the group scarf and woggle

*The above list is the minimum requirement. Other items (shorts, fleece, polo shirt etc) are available but are optional. Weddington Scouts encourages the wearing of the red group T Shirt. polo shirts and sweatshirts (for the older members) as less formal scout wear.

*An explanatory leaflet including prices is pinned to the noticeboard at headquarters.

There are also more details and photographs on our website, at www.weddington-scouts.org.uk/genscout/uniform.htm

SAFETY

Following a recent incident when a member was slightly hurt while walking down the drive, leaders are asking once more that **PARENTS DO NOT BRING CARS DOWN THE DRIVE**. If it is necessary to drive to the headquarters, please avoid the beginning and end of meetings and take great care. We understand that it usually rains on meeting nights but feel a little discomfort is preferable to the potential of an accident with a number of vehicles moving up and down.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

The third instalment of this year's subscription is now due. An envelope is attached to this letter. Please enclose your payment of £16 per member and return the sealed envelope indicating name or names (if there are brothers or sisters), the section(s) (eg Mon Cubs), the amount, and whether the payment is made by cheque or cash. Cheques should be made payable to 11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group. Please return the envelope to your leader: a receipt should be given.

Do not hesitate to discuss with a leader any problems which this payment may cause.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE INCREASED BY £1 TO £17 A TERM IN JANUARY 2002.

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www.weddington-scouts.org.uk

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS would like to welcome all the new children who have joined the Woodland and Greenwood Colonies. Welcome to VICTORIA DEAKIN, AMY RANDLE and JAMES KING who have recently been invested. We have to say goodbye to GARETH WAINWRIGHT, ROBERT TAMBINI and EDWARD EATON and wish them well as they move into Cubs.

The new Autumn programme is now underway and is currently based on the Beaver animal and the Beaver motto, 'Fun and Friends'. Everyone would like to thank Matthew Archer and Yvonne Galland for doing an excellent job with the display boards: they are most impressive and we encourage parents to have a look at them and see the work that the Beavers have produced.

The older Beavers enjoyed a visit to Walsall lights last Friday evening.

CUBS have had a busy start to their autumn programme. FOSSE (Monday) PACK have seen several changes since the summer with 12 Cubs moving up to Scouts. The sixes have been re-arranged and we would like to congratulate JOE GOODMAN, JOSH COOPER, DAVID MILLS, BEN TAPLIN and JAMES CRUICKSHANK on becoming sixers and TOM GOODYEAR, MARTIN ASTON, SAM POWELL, STEPHEN SAMBROOK and ALEC WILSON on becoming seconders. We welcome Jenny Deakin, Edward Eaton, Robert Tambini, Joe Botham and Jacob Linton recently invested into the Pack.

The last two weeks have been spent working towards the Home Help Badge and we would like to inform parents that the Cubs are very efficient at washing and wiping up, laying the table and can even iron their neckers!!

The pack had good representation at the recent district camp fire where a good evening was had by all. We are now looking forward to the District Swimming Gala.

WATLING (Thursday) PACK congratulate their new Sixers: NATHAN ADAMSON, ANDREW GILCHRIST and DANIEL WINCOTT and their new Seconders; GRAHAM ALLSOPP, REBECCA FORREST and SAM WALLIS. They have been working on international scouting and have spent time researching the Cub movement in Italy. This work was rounded off with an Italian night last Thursday when the Pack prepared, cooked and served an Italian meal for themselves and invited guests. Thanks to Assistant District Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Mick Judd, for joining us for the evening. The Pack is looking forward to a Halloween Night after half term.

Thursday Pack were sorry to say farewell to Mark Currin who has been an invaluable assistant leader with them and his son Luke one of their fellow cubs as the family left to live in Canada for two years. We wish them well and know they will be keeping in touch.

SCOUTS have started the term with busy programmes and a pleasing increase in numbers. Friday Troop, in particular, welcome a number of new members and look forward to a good variety of activities in the weeks to come. Tuesday Troop welcomed Scouts from 1st Nuneaton last week when the Premier Group Memorial Trophy was officially handed over to Weddington Scouts. We are the joint holders of this award for the current year.

Scouts entered the recent district Camping Competition and well done to the team of ANNA SCOFFHAM, DIANA HALL, TOM LEE, JON ELLARD and JONATHAN RICHARDS who won the cooking section of the competition.

VENTURES have also welcomed new members who have moved from Scouts. They have held various thematic evenings including car maintenance, a rope challenge and a 'gambling' night! Thanks to those who helped to collect and sell rummage two weeks ago.

The DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA will take place at the Pingles on Saturday 10 November from 6.30 to 9.00 pm. In order to pick the team, and also to give Cubs and Scouts the opportunity to gain their swimming badges, we have hired John Cleveland College swimming pool, Hinckley, on Saturday 3 November. Cubs are scheduled for 4-5 pm and Scouts for 5-6 pm. So please note these dates and even if you are not swimming in the Gala, you are welcome to come to the Pingles and support our teams on the night.

2. FUND-RAISING

Thanks to those who contributed to our RUMMAGE SALE: we raised just over £330.

WEBB-IVORY CATALOGUES have now been distributed. Please order from these if you can and ask friends and family if they could support us in this way. If possible, please return your orders and unwanted catalogues to your named helper rather than to leaders at meetings, who often have too many other demands on their time to deal promptly with these.

TUCK SHOP is becoming available at most meetings now. A reminder that this is in support of the members attending World Jamboree at the end of next year. They thank you for your help. Alongside Tuck Shop, a competition - 'Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin' - has been organised where for a 20p guess, a prize of £5 could be won.

3. SOCIAL EVENTS

A SKITTLES evening has been arranged for the evening of Saturday 17 November. This has always proved a popular family night. It will be held in the Headquarters where there will be two alleys to ensure the teams have plenty of opportunities to demonstrate their high-scoring skills! Another date for the diary. An invitation, with details, will be distributed soon.

4. UNIFORM

Members are slowly acquiring the new uniform. As so many new members are awaiting investiture we are aware of a considerable demand for the new items and are currently exploring the possibility of a uniform night (probably a Friday) where the retailers will 'show' the uniform which will be available to buy on the night. Please watch for details.

5. WORLD JAMBOREE

The Warwickshire contingent of 32 Scouts and Ventures who are planning to travel to Thailand next Christmas met together at Weddington two Sundays ago. They enjoyed a 'getting to know you' day, the highlight of which was an oriental meal to be eaten with chop sticks - no forks allowed! They now look forward to a training weekend at the end of next month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS have been paid promptly on the whole. Thanks to those who have remembered these on time. There are several payments outstanding, however, and we

would like to appeal for these to be settled soon: the allowances made to your leaders to run the meetings is affected by the amount collected. Please don't jeopardise their funds. We need to remind parents that notice has been given of the need to increase subscriptions by £1 to £17 in January.

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS are continuing with their Autumn programme and are pleased to report that several of the older Beavers have completed their Beaver Scout Challenge. All new Beavers are now invested and are settling into the colony well. We were very pleased recently, when we attended a district craft day, to be commended on our Beavers' behaviour and code of dress: keep it up Beavers. The District Carol Service is on Thursday 6 December at Bedworth Christian Centre at 6 p.m. All Beavers are asked to attend in full uniform. Families are welcome and a collection will be made for the Mayor's Appeal. Christmas holiday opening times are as follows - Last Friday Beavers 14 December.

Last Monday Beavers 17 December.

The annual trophies will be presented on these dates.

Friday Beavers re-opens 4 January.

Monday Beavers re-opens 7 January.

Have a happy Christmas!

FOSSE CUBS have had more investitures: they welcome DANIEL GAUTREY, SAM KENDELL and HEATHER HILL into the pack. Cubs have spent the last few weeks working hard on the award scheme and many will very soon be gaining Cub Scout, Adventure and Adventure Crest Awards. They are now building up to Christmas and the culmination of Christmas activities will be their party on 17 December. They will not meet on Monday 24 December or Monday 31 December.

Leaders wish to thank all parents for their support over the last 12 months and to wish a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all.

WATLING CUBS have invested THOMAS GAILEY, SAM HEALEY and JAKE HEALEY. Welcome to them. Cubs have spent the last three weeks experimenting for their scientist's badge. They are visiting the pantomime on Thursday 6 December, will be making Christmas crafts on the 13th and will be holding their Christmas Party on 20 December. There will be no meeting on 27 December. The first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday 3 January. Leaders and helpers wish all their Cubs a happy Christmas..

All CUBS are reminded that the **DISTRICT CUB CAROL SERVICE** will be held at St Nicolas Church Nuneaton at 6.30 p.m.

TUESDAY SCOUTS welcome EDWARD VERNON who has recently been invested into the troop. Members working towards their Chief Scout Award have visited the physiotherapy department of the George Eliot Hospital and been involved with orienteering and navigation tasks. This week they are inviting a friend to the meeting and will be cooking for them.

The last meeting this year will be Tuesday 18 December and Scouts will meet again on Tuesday 8 January, 2002.

FRIDAY TROOP have invested their first girl member: welcome to SARAH SAMBROOK. Welcome also to CRAIG SUMMERTON, RICHIE MORGAN, WILLIAM OGDEN, JAMIE BOURNE, DANIEL HOLMES and CHANTELE SUTTON. This group are looking forward to their traditional Christmas Dinner, prepared, cooked and eaten (!) by themselves; to be held on 14 December. Scouts will meet on Friday 21 December for a Christmas games night but will not meet on Friday 28 December. First meeting of the new year will be Friday 4 January.

VENTURES have been preparing a meal for less than a pound (!) swinging from the rafters in the scout hut (rope work) and building bridges (rope challenge). This last challenge was decisively won by David and Stephen Moyes who along with Richard Hadley constructed a bridge with an impressive 15 foot span! They have a busy end to their year.

A small group are camping in Snowdonia this weekend; they are cooking outdoors on 12 December; they will be holding their Christmas Party at Fox Covert on Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 December and are organising other activities within small groups. Ventures will hold their last meeting after the Carol Service on 16 December and will meet in the new year on 9 January. They are planning a climbing trip to Warwick on Friday 11th.

Very well done to all who participated in and came to support our swimming teams at the **ANNUAL DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA** last month. Cubs gained a very creditable second position and Scouts, Ventures and leaders gained 1st position to enable Weddington to secure the swimming trophy once again. This district event was the occasion for the presentation of long-service awards to two of our leaders. Congratulations to MYRA SHORTER who received her 25 years award and to PHIL ASPINALL who received his 10 year award. These represent the minimum years the two have been involved in scouting and are an acknowledgement of their tremendous commitment and dedication to the young scouts of Weddington. We thank them both and applaud their recognition.

And very well done to all members who turned out to march in the **REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE** on 11 November. It really was an impressive showing from Weddington youngsters who led the scout section of the parade this year. At the end of the march TIM TAPLIN was presented with his warrant : Tim is a Cub leader with Fosse Pack. Congratulations to him.

FUND RAISING

TUCK SHOP is beginning to realise some real profit now. Thanks for supporting this and thanks, too, to those leaders and helpers who find themselves organising the sale at the end of meetings. Those travelling to Thailand next year really appreciate your support. Money has been raised recently from a car boot sale and from the sale of refreshments at an orchestral concert in Nuneaton.

Thanks to those who have ordered from **WEBB-IVORY**: the orders are being distributed now. Remember that goods need to be paid for on delivery.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The **SKITTLES EVENING** was a great success. In addition to a very entertaining evening, over £140 was raised from ticket sales and the raffle and a further £70 towards the Thailand fund from the competitions organised on the night. Thanks to all involved.

All members and their families are invited to our GROUP CAROL SERVICE to be held at St James Church, Weddington on Wednesday 19 December at 6.30 p.m. This has always been an enjoyable evening, an occasion when the different members of the sections and the group committee, come together as a group. The service should only last about an hour.

Our **END OF YEAR PARTY** will be held on Saturday 26 January in the Scout Headquarters. Those who came last year will remember what great fun we had!

Beavers and Cubs will hold their party between 4 and 6 p.m.

Scouts and Venture Scouts will party between 7 and 9 p.m.

More details will be given after Christmas, but meanwhile please make a date in next year's diary.

January's newsletter will arrive with a request for next term's subscriptions and we remind parents that this will be £17. The annual payment for the over-18s who do not attend regular meetings but wish to remain members of the group will also be due.

We wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and look forward to another busy scouting year in 2002.