

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

JANUARY 2002

NEWSLETTER NO.30

We look forward to another successful year for Weddington Scouts.

Last year ended with the usual enjoyable round of Christmas parties, pantomime visits, craft and games evenings and our annual Carol service. Thanks again to Janet Brogan for organising this and to the Rev Munden for conducting the service. Well done to those members who read so well.

Our celebrations have not quite ended: we traditionally hold our annual GROUP PARTY in January when diaries are not quite so full. So please make a note of Saturday 26 January when Beavers and Cubs will hold their party between 4pm and 6 pm and Scouts and Ventures between 7pm and 9pm at the Headquarters. Those who came to the parties last year will remember what a good time we had and will encourage all members to come and enjoy themselves for a couple of hours. Uniform need not be worn.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are due once again. We need £17 per member of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures for the period of January to May 2002. We also need an annual payment of £17 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 seventeen pounds, about seven pounds is retained by the section for the running expenses of the meetings including the buying of badges and subsidising of visits and at least 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.

Attached to this letter is an envelope for your cheque or cash. Please indicate for whom you are paying, the amount and how the payment is made.

Please speak to a Leader if there is any problem with this payment and **PLEASE INFORM US NOW OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER** as this is not only vital to the accuracy of our records but has implications for any emergency communication which may be necessary at any time.

Happy New Year to all our members and their families.

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2002 NEWSLETTER NO 32

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS are busy following their 'Going Round the World' programme. Everyone would like to welcome [Matthew Purdy](#), [Joseph Lapworth](#), [Alex Bennett](#), [James Cochran](#), [Timmy Ford](#), [Charlie Badham](#), [Sam Hambridge](#), [Liam Griffin](#), [Luke Worthington](#) and [Charlie Yorath](#) to the group. Congratulations to the new tree group leaders - [Christopher Johnston](#), [Stuart Missen](#), [Rhys Sweeney](#), [George Goodman](#), [Faye Cruickshank](#), [Jamie Badhams](#) and [Edward Ford](#). Well done to the older Beavers who have now gained their Beaver Challenge Badge.

John and Ali would like to give advance notice that there will be NO BEAVER MEETINGS ON MONDAY 11TH and FRIDAY 15TH MARCH due to their involvement in the Gang Show.

CUBS from both packs are to be congratulated for their performance in the recent District Quiz held in our headquarters. Fosse (Monday) team '([Jenny Deakin](#), [James Cruickshank](#), [Tom Goodyear](#), [Ben Taplin](#) and [John Mumby](#)) came first for the second year running and Watling (Thursday) pack came third. Well done to them all.

Both packs are looking forward to a trip to the GANG SHOW on Thursday 14 March.

Teams will be selected for the CUB GHOST HUNT at Attleborough on the evening of Saturday 23 March.

Another date for the diary is the annual CUB CAMP open to the oldest Cubs in each Pack to be held at Fox Covert, Hinckley, the weekend 14-16 June.

Fosse Cubs are to hold a joint meeting with Attleborough Cubs this Monday: they have a 'Harry Potter' theme for the evening.

Congratulations to [David Mills](#), [Josh Cooper](#) and [James Cruickshank](#) who have gained their Adventure Crest Award and [Ben Taplin](#) who received his Adventure Award.

Watling Cubs have invested [SAM WAUGH](#), [CARL FITZGERALD](#) and [DANIEL WARREN](#) into their pack. Welcome to them. Congratulations to [Craig Gilchrist](#), [Joshua Wagg](#), [Sam Murray](#), [Jacob Sutton](#), [Jonathan Allred](#), [Tim Johnston](#) and [Tayo Moore](#) who have gained their Cub Scout Awards and to [Rebecca Forrest](#) who has gained her Adventure Award. [Ben Rowberry](#) received a Year Star and almost every member of the pack received their scientist's badge.

The Thursday Pack are very sorry to be saying goodbye to their Akela, [TONY FREARSON](#), in the next few weeks as he leaves for pastures new within the Cub Scout movement. They thank him for everything he has done for the Pack over the last years, both on Thursday evenings and on the many weekend and evening events, visits and camps in the District and the County in which he has enabled Watling Cubs to participate. They will miss him but hope he will return to visit often. They wish him good luck with the next stage of his scouting 'career'.

Thursday cubs also say goodbye and thank you to [RICHARD HADLEY](#) who has come to the end of his time with them to complete the service section of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. His help has proved invaluable on Thursday evenings: we wish him well with the rest of his Award.

TUESDAY SCOUTS have been busy preparing for various awards. Congratulations to [LUCY BOUCHER](#) who has received her Chief Scout Award, the highest award to be gained by scouts. Lucy has now moved to join the Venture Unit. The troop has invested [Simon Thompson](#), [Andrew Scoffham](#), [Nicola Igoe](#), [Carla Bramham](#), [Andrew Gilchrist](#) and [James Goodyear](#). Welcome to them all.

FRIDAY SCOUTS have also organised a series of challenging sessions this term. Last week they had an enjoyable evening during which they cooked and consumed a variety of very original and colourful pancakes!

Scouts and Ventures have a series of **CAMPS** to look forward to -

Winter Camp to Edale, 1-3 March

Fox Covert. 16-17 March. Scouts will walk to the site on Saturday, enjoy some wood fire cooking in the evening, spend the night in the building there and return Sunday morning.

Fox Covert. 13-14 April. This will be an 'Ultra Light Weight Camp' for Ventures who will walk over on Saturday evening and sleep in Bivvi Bags or similar before returning on Sunday morning after a warm and cosy night! Scouts will also be at the site on Saturday for some 'backwoods' cooking and shelter building.

Group Camp. 28-30 June. This will be our annual family camp at Blackwell Court.

Summer Camp. 20-27 July. This will be at Llangorse, Brecon this year. Invitations to the camp should already have been received.

VENTURES have been climbing, cooking pancakes and brushing up on their map work. They will be collecting rummage on 6 March and look forward to a skiing trip and a Scavenger Hunt. They hope for a good turn out on Sunday 24 March for a chance to meet other Ventures in Nuneaton and Bedworth. Weddington unit is organising a TUG OF WAR competition at our headquarters so please try to turn up for a couple of hours at 10.30 on Sunday morning.

There is to be a **PRESENTATION EVENING** at the Scout Hut on Wednesday 27 March at 7.30. This is for the presentation of two Queen Scout Awards and other service awards and will be attended by District and County officials. All Ventures (uniforms please), Leaders and Committee members will be invited. There will be some refreshments.

Another important date for the diary is **SUNDAY 21 APRIL** - the annual **ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE**. We need a good turn out as we are the Premier Group in the District. The parade will take place at Bedworth again this year.

FUND RAISING

Many thanks to those who ordered Christmas goods from the **WEBB-IVORY** catalogues. We raised £950 for Group funds from these sales.

The next of our twice-yearly **RUMMAGE SALES** is Saturday 9 March at St Nicolas Church Hall in the town. Please bring contributions to the scout hut on any evening between now and then, or indeed to the hall after 8.30 on the evening of Friday 8 March. The Group Committee would appreciate any offers of help on the Friday evening or Saturday morning from 9.00 am: we still depend, for the success of these jumble sales, on people whose involvement with Weddington Scouts goes back many, many years.

Once again, those attending Jubilee at Christmas would like to express their gratitude for all your support in their fund-raising activities, especially for being customers at tuck shop. The millenium **tea-towels** are currently being sold at a clearance price of 75p which represents very good value for the size and quality of the towels. So make sure you take advantage of this offer before supplies run out!

We are also selling at very reasonable prices, our stock of **CANOES** as the storage space is needed. If you would like more details please get in touch with Gareth Parker, Venture leader, on 76328738.

Looking ahead, we hope to man the **CHARITY STALL** on Nuneaton Market on Saturday 22 June. We sell cakes and plants and run a tombola: so please hang on to any surplus plants and unwanted gifts in the early summer. Thankyou.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Another popular **SKITTLES EVENING** has been planned for the evening of Saturday 16 March. The cost will be £3 per adult, £2 per child or £10 per family. Supper, but not drinks, will be provided.

Many thanks to those who have paid **SUBSCRIPTIONS** so promptly. This means that leaders will receive their 'cut' of the subs, which is needed to run the meetings, more quickly. There are still a few members who have not paid this year.

We were pleased, once again, with our census returns last month which show our group to be the largest in the area with a membership of just over 200. We must thank our members and their parents who continue to support the hard work put in by leaders and committee. Please note in your diary the dates which are appropriate to you and join in with at least some of the events planned for the next few months.

FINALLY we feel we must repeat our request that **PARENTS DO NOT BRING THEIR CARS DOWN THE DRIVE** during meetings. Leaders need their cars at the hut and they do try to time their arrival and departure to minimise competing with children walking to meetings and they are only travelling one way. We do appreciate that it can be a miserable walk on a poor night but following one small incident last year, our main concern is obviously to prevent accidents.

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS welcome back members after their Easter break and look forward to starting their new programme. An important change to the structure of Beaver meetings has now been put in place. Both Monday and Friday meetings will now start at 5.45pm and finish at 7.00pm with the last 15 minutes taking place in the smaller meeting room. It is hoped the new arrangements will go some way to improving safety at changeover times.

CUBS from both packs have more success to be celebrated. They came first and second in the District Ghost Hunt held at Attleborough on Saturday 23 March. They held off competition from over a dozen local teams. So many congratulations to the six members of Watling Pack - Rebecca Forrest, Stephen Sykes, Tayo Moore, Tim Johnston, Jonathan Allred and Craig Gilchrist who came first by just one point and to the members of Fosse Pack; Stephen Sambrook, David Mills, Martin Aston, Joe Goodman, Joe Botham and Alex Coopey who came a very close second. A special thanks to those parents who spent an enjoyable if rather long and quite a bracing evening to help with the teams.

Both packs enjoyed an evening at the Gang Show on 14 March.

FOSSE (Monday) Cubs have invested JESSICA SMEDLEY, JONATHAN HUGHES, THOMAS SHARROCK, MARK WARMINGTON, and NATHAN WHITEHEAD. WATLING (Thursday) Cubs have invested ANDREW SIZER. Welcome to all.

SCOUTS have enjoyed a couple of winter camps in the last few weeks. A group of nine scouts and ventures travelled to Edale at the beginning of March and enjoyed a rather cold and damp weekend with some good walks completed.

Over 20 scouts walked to Kirby Mallory to camp at Fox Covert on Saturday 16 March. They were lucky with the weather and some of them experienced cooking their meals over a wood fire for the first time.

Another Fox Covert camp is planned for the Saturday/Sunday 13-14 April. This will chiefly involve Ventures who are 'ultra light weight' camping.

VENTURES hosted a well-attended Tug Of War on Sunday 24 March. This was won by a team from Nuneaton North.

A reminder of later camp dates:

*Cub Camp 14-16 June This is at Fox Covert - details soon.

*Group Camp 28-30 June. Our annual family camp which has been a huge success for the last two years will be held, again, at Blackwell Court, Bromsgrove.

*Summer Camp 20-27 July. Deposits for this camp (Scouts and Ventures) should by now have been paid.

* Some Cubs have been invited to the District Challenge Camp at Willesley 3-6 May.

A **PRESENTATION EVENING** was held on Wednesday 27 March to celebrate the achievements of some of our members. We welcomed guests Dave Mein, District Commissioner; Stephen Neale, District Explorer Scout Commissioner and David Brain, County Commissioner for Scouts. LUCY BOUCHER was presented with her **Chief Scout Award**. GARETH PARKER received an award for **five years service** to scouting and JENNY COTTERILL received her award for **25 years service**. Congratulations to them all.

NIKKI IND and CHRISTOPHER COTTRELL were presented with their **Queen Scout Awards**. These are the highest awards to be gained in scouting and represent the culmination of much hard work, service and commitment and earns them the honour of travelling to Windsor on 21 April to take part in the St George's Day Parade before the Queen. Very well done to them both. The Group is rightly proud of the several young people who have gained this award in the last few years: it reflects the continuing success of 11th Nuneaton.

The evening was also the occasion of a **formal farewell** and thankyou on behalf of the Group to TONY FREARSON who is relinquishing his leadership of Watling Cubs to take up a position as Assistant County Commissioner for Cubs. We wish him well.

FUND RAISING

The **RUMMAGE SALE** raised over £300. Many thanks to those who helped. Last Saturday, 6 April, a group of eight members, two leaders and two Committee members, spent the day **PACKING SHOPPING BAGS** in the food department of Marks and Spencers in Coventry and raised the impressive sum of £700. So a big thankyou to James Boucher, Jon Ellard, Chantelle Sutton, Sarah Sambrook, Anna Scoffham, Jennifer Cottrell, Lucy Boucher and Robert Tye who worked so hard and won such praise for their efforts. If we are offered the chance to repeat this fund-raising activity we shall be looking for more uniformed volunteers! This is a good chance to raise 'new' money: that is money from outside the group. Many thanks to Marks and Spencer who made us so welcome on Saturday.

Another reminder of our **CHARITY STALL** on Nuneaton Market on Saturday 22 June. We will be asking for tombola prizes, and cakes and plants to sell.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The **SKITTLES EVENING** had to be postponed to Saturday 20 April. Please give numbers for the supper provided to Bob Phillip 76326928, or Sandra Parker 76328738, or Carol Cottrell 76387375. The cost of £3 per adult and £2 per child (£10 per family) will be payable on the night. Bring your own drinks. This has always proved an enjoyable night in which the children join with great enthusiasm! So do come and join us.

We need a good turn out for the annual **St GEORGE'S DAY PARADE** to be held once again at Bedworth Christian Centre on Sunday 21 April. Please be prepared to give up a couple of hours on that afternoon and meet in uniform (with a warm layer underneath if the weather looks uncertain) at 1.45 at the latest outside the Civic Hall. It has always been an enjoyable service and a memorable experience and is when all sections: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures and Leaders come together with other groups in the District in the more ceremonial side of scouting. Weddington as a Premier Group in the District this year will probably be leading the parade: more reason for EVERYONE TO COME if they possibly can.

A reminder to all leaders and over 18s in the group of the **MEETING TO REVIEW THE SCOUTING PROGRAMME** to be held at Queen Elizabeth School, Atherstone on 12 May from 10.00am to 4.00pm. As many leaders and those other interested adult members as possible are urged to attend.

FINALLY subscriptions of £17 per member for the period May to September will be due at the beginning of next month. A letter and envelope will be distributed then.



Chris Cottrell and Nikki Ind receive their Queen Scout badges from David Brain



We say farewell to Tony Frearson

www.weddington-scouts.org.uk

weddington_scouts@madasafish.com

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS would like to welcome ADAM STAUVERS and SCOTT CHAPLIN to the Colony. We also wish good luck to older members - Faye Cruickshank, Amy Randle, Alice Burt, James Gilbert, Liam Barkes and Sam Barratt - as they move on to Cubs. The older Beavers took part in the District Activity Day last weekend and the Woodland Colony took second place. The weather was kind to us and we hope that luck will remain with us for the forthcoming events - family camp, District day out and Beaver Challenge. Beavers will not meet during half term.

CUBS have been busy with County and District events over the past few weeks.

Both Packs were finalists in the County Road Safety Quiz and took teams to Leamington on 22 April. They enjoyed an exciting evening and managed very good scores, but were beaten once again by teams of Brownies. We will be back next year!

Teams from both Packs entered the District Scavenger Hunt and very well done to Fosse Pack who won the event and to Watling Pack who came a close second.

The Cubs who attended the District Challenge Camp over the May Bank Holiday had an entertaining weekend and were all highly praised for their excellent behaviour and cooperation during the camp. Well done to them.

Cubs met their district counterparts again on 11 May for the Six-A-Side Football competition. Congratulations to our players for their fighting spirit: they narrowly missed a place in the semi-finals this year.

Cub leaders wish to sincerely thank those parents whose invaluable help and support have enabled the youngsters to take part in this wide range of activities and competitions. **Fosse (Monday) Pack** congratulate their winning Scavenger Hunt team of Heather Hill, Jenny Deakin, Charlotte Deakin, Edward Eaton, Mark Warmington and Thomas Sharrock. The Pack recently held a very successful joint meeting with Attleborough. They welcome to their Pack newly-invested members JAMIE BADHAMS, GEORGE GOODMAN and BEN BAYNES. There will be no meeting on 3 June.

Watling (Thursday) Pack have been busy tracking and practising map-work skills in preparation for a local walk on 30 May. Thursday Cubs will not meet during the half term holiday.

SCOUTS are looking forward to their summer camping programme. A group of 18 scouts camped at Fox Covert, Kirby Mallory, the weekend of 17 May and working in patrols of six organised their tents and meals themselves which involved cooking over wood fires. Once again it is pleasing to report that leaders remarked on the good behaviour and positive attitude of all those who attended this camp.

The oldest Scouts from **Tuesday Troop** are preparing for their Chief Scout Expedition to Derbyshire in the middle of June. ABIGAIL FITZGERALD has recently been invested into the troop: welcome to her. The troop will not meet on 4 June.

Friday Scouts welcome JOSHUA COOPER and JAMES CRUICKSHANK who have recently been invested into the troop. The Troop will meet as usual on 7 June.

VENTURES have continued with a very varied programme. They were pleased with the success of their 'wild' cooking evening when such dishes as nettle soup, duck, pheasant, rabbit and pigeon were on the menu. The Venture Ball on 3 May was a highlight of their year; they have visited 'Laser Quest' for an entertaining evening out and have had fun with a rope challenge involving the crossing of the River Anker (not by the bridge) and have in the coming weeks to look forward to archery, a bike ride, canoeing and various other interesting challenges, many of which seem to involve water in one way or another!

Ventures hope to spend Jubilee Weekend walking and camping in Snowdonia: we look forward to hearing of their Welsh adventures. Ventures will meet on 5 June. This will be FULL UNIFORM because of investitures.

Our two Queen Scouts and their families spent a memorable day at WINDSOR for the St George's Day Scout Parade before the Queen. You have probably seen the press reports and pictures of CHRIS COTTRELL talking to the Queen while NIKKI IND shared a joke with the Duke of Edinburgh. A former group member, Queen Scout RUTH SHORTER, also met the Queen in her capacity as Section Leader for one of the groups.

Meanwhile 11th Nuneaton were well represented at our local St George's Day Parade at Bedworth. Our Group was, for the second year running, awarded the PREMIER GROUP TROPHY which we once again shared with 1st Nuneaton Attleborough Group. Watling Cub Pack won the York Cup for second best pack in the District. Congratulations to them. Many thanks to all who marched this year.

The Camping Programme:

Sat 2 June - Tues 4 June - Ventures to Snowdonia

Fri 14 June - Sun 16 June - Cubs to Fox Covert

Fri 21 June - Sun 23 June - 'Chief Scouts' to Derbyshire & Cub Challenge Camp

Fri 28 June - Sun 30 June - Family Group Camp to Blackwell Court

Fri 5 July - Sun 7 July - Training Camp for Jamboree scouts

Sat 20 July - Sa 27 July - Summer Camp to Brecon Beacons for Ventures and Scouts

We hope to have a good response in the next couple of weeks to our annual invitation to GROUP CAMP. This is a family occasion for the parents of Beavers and Cubs who would like to spend the weekend with the Scouts, Ventures, Leaders and Committee Members who come together for an activity camp at a scout site near Bromsgrove. The usual wide variety of activities are on offer and MUCH MORE including an open-air (heated) swimming pool. This is our third family group camp: the previous two have been hugely successful. We cater for everyone - unless you prefer to cater for yourselves and we may be able (depending on numbers) to lend tents. A small tent for sleeping in is really all that is necessary - there will be two large 'mess' tents to provide a 'base, and shelter if needed. For those families of Cubs and Beavers who are unable to come for the weekend, please do come and join us between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on the Saturday for what should be a VERY good day.

We need to charge £20 for each camper who is catered for, £15 for each camper who is self-catering and £5 for each day visitor. This is to cover the cost of hiring the many different activities which we will offer during the day. The camp invitation should reach you in the next few days.

FUND-RAISING

Our CHARITY STALL on Nuneaton Market is Saturday 22 June. This is an important fund-raising event for us. Please consider donating to our Tombola for which we particularly need bottles. If you have surplus plants, these sell very well and if you can make some cakes or cookies or buns or tarts for our cake stall, this would really help to take the pressure off our VERY few regular cake bakers! Any donations can be taken to meetings during the previous week or to Carol Cottrell, 16 Winchester Avenue (76387375) or Sandra Parker 67 Shanklin Drive (76328738).

Anyone who could help on the stall during the morning of the 22 June would also be VERY welcome. Please get in touch with Committee Members Carol or Sandra.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thanks to those who supported our very busy skittles night. We had a very entertaining evening and raised over £100 for Group funds.

If you read this Newsletter before Wednesday 29 May, please consider coming to our AGM (7.30 at Scout Hut) to which you have all been invited. The meeting will be short and followed by cheese and wine refreshment. This is a chance for all interested parents to acknowledge the hard work and commitment volunteered by leaders and committee for the benefit of our youngsters and also a chance to raise any points for discussion. Additionally it is the time to re-elect our Committee. **THE COMMITTEE FEELS WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE NEW PARENTS TO JOIN US.** Many members have no children in the movement now and while they are happy to continue to work for Weddington Scouts, there is a feeling that more parents of current Members should be represented. Please have a word with any leader or committee member if you are interested in joining the Committee: the time involved is really not excessive and is always very enjoyable!

If you are interested in buying at very reasonable prices any of our stock of CANOES have a word with Gareth Parker (76328738).

Thanks to those who are paying their SUBS so promptly. There are still considerable numbers outstanding. Remember that the income for your section to run their meetings depends on the amount collected.

Our Acting Group Scout Leader, Doug Shorter, along with all Section Leaders **URGES PARENTS NOT TO BRING CARS UP THE DRIVE TO ANY OF THE WEEKLY MEETINGS** without prior arrangement. We are very concerned that the one or two minor incidents of recent months could turn into a serious accident if one or two parents continue to drop off their children at the hut. We try hard to minimise the essential comings and goings of leaders and vehicles loading for camp and to avoid the beginnings and ends of meetings. We need parental co-operation on this and assure those parents who have raised concerns that we take the problems of the drive very seriously indeed.

FINALLY many of our leaders recently attended a day-long training session for the introduction of the new programme for scouting which is currently being introduced nationally. They came away enthusiastic about a much simpler and at the same time more exciting framework for the content and structure of the activities we provide for our youngsters. They look forward to implementing the new programme and are sure that it will help to retain our members and encourage them to seek progress through the movement.

11TH NUNEATON WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP JULY 2002

NEWSLETTER NO.35

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS were pleased to see so many of their families at the recent Group Camp. Those who attended will agree that it proved to be a memorable weekend for them all and hopefully an exciting 'taster' for what the future in scouting may promise for them. Beavers have closed for a summer break. Meetings will resume on Monday 2 September.

CUBS enjoyed a fun-filled camp at Fox Covert last month and have more success to celebrate. Both Packs entered strong teams in District Sports on Saturday 6 July and CRAIG GILCHRIST, TIM JOHNSTON, DAVID MILLS, STEPHEN SYKES and JOSHUA WAGG were individual event winners. Many congratulations to them. The Watling relay team were also winners and the Thursday night team went on to win first place in the competition. WELL DONE TO EVERY ONE OF THEM. Again thanks to those parents who stayed to help and support.

Both Packs intend to join together for a final term-time session this week: on Monday 15 July they are planning a night of water games. There will be no Thursday meeting on 18 July.

Cubs have been given details of summer meetings: these tend to be informal games' nights where uniform, except the necker, is not required. Monday pack will meet throughout the summer with the exception of the first week, 22 July and the last, 26 August, Bank Holiday Monday.

Thursday pack will not meet for the first three weeks of the holiday after which they will hold informal meetings for 3 weeks (15, 22 & 29 August) and resume a full uniformed meeting on Thursday 5 September.

SCOUTS will also be drawing their busy programme to a close as they prepare for summer camp at the end of this week. The annual camp will be a particularly large one this year so they are hoping for fine weather for the great variety of activities planned. We look forward to seeing the photos when they return. Tuesday Troop are still welcoming new members: they invested EMILY HAGGIE recently, congratulations to her. The Troop are also saying goodbye to several of their older members who are now ready to move to Explorer Scouts as they complete their Chief Scout Award.

Scouts will receive details of the summer meetings planned for them. Again, usual uniformed meetings will resume in the first week in September.

VENTURES (from now on to be called **EXPLORER** and **NETWORK SCOUTS**) have enjoyed a bike ride, and archery as part of their very active programme in the last few weeks. Many of them are joining the Scouts for summer camp in the Brecon Beacons.

Our annual **FAMILY CAMP** to Blackwell Court proved to be another tremendous success this year. Over 140 Members and families enjoyed a very active Saturday which ended with a swim in the heated pool, a barbecue and a very enjoyable camp fire. The weather remained kind to us and everyone involved is to be congratulated on the excellent teamwork which enabled the camp to run so smoothly. The photographs on our web site give some idea of the highlights of the weekend.

FUND-RAISING

Thanks to those who contributed to our **CHARITY STALL** on 22 June. We raised £340 for Group funds.

If you are having a summer 'sort-out' at home, please remember our next **RUMMAGE SALE** at the beginning of October. We have already gathered some jumble and our aim is to gather enough so that we don't have to distribute leaflets and then spend an evening doing door-to-door collections which is always a chore for a very few volunteers. If storing any contributions is a problem, please ring Carol Cottrell (76387375) to arrange for their collection. Please remember this appeal and respond if you can. Thankyou.

The Group **AGM** was held recently and the decision was taken, in the light of the financial statements presented by the Treasurer, to increase the **SUBSCRIPTIONS** to £18 per member from September of this year. The Treasurer is currently looking into the possibility of using the Group's status as a charity to reclaim tax in a GIFT AID scheme.

The Group has had to finance the provision of materials for the implementation of the new programme. An initial order amounting to over £840 has been made. In addition, two of the aged patrol tents have been replaced at a cost of nearly £1000. So thanks to all who paid subscriptions on time this term - there are only one or two outstanding.

Preparations for **JAMBOREE** are accelerating now. The six Members travelling to Thailand at Christmas have attended a second training camp recently and have another at the end of the holiday. They will be visiting the Philippines for their 'home hospitality' destination: when they will be guests in the homes of the host scouts and their families. Another fund-raising event - a Race Night - was held last Friday. Thanks to those in our Group who travelled to Coventry to help make this a very successful and enjoyable evening.

We have information about a **FACTORY SHOP** from which the new uniform is available. This is Swifts, Parsons Lane, Hinckley. Telephone no. Hinckley 238398.

The group **WEBSITE** has been moved and updated. From now on, you will be able to find it at <http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk>. Our email address is now info@11thnuneaton.org.uk. All the latest photos are available for viewing, including well over 150 from this years Group Camp.

FINALLY we hope all members and their families have a lovely summer and we look forward to returning in September to the challenges of an exciting and greatly improved new programme for all our sections. There are details of the new programme on our new website.

<http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk>

11TH NUNEATON WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP SEPTEMBER 2002

NEWSLETTER NO.36

AROUND THE SECTIONS

Cubs, Scouts and Ventures have continued to meet during the holiday, for informal nights of games and activities. Thanks to those who have come to support these evenings.

Summer Camp was another great success: members and leaders enjoyed good weather for their wide programme of events and outings. Pictures from the camp can be viewed on our web site (address below).

FUND-RAISING

Many thanks to those who have responded to our appeal for RUMMAGE during the holiday. We have a considerable amount already. If we can gather more in the next few weeks, we hope to omit the usual door-to-door collection which proves such a chore for the few volunteers involved. So PLEASE find some jumble for us and deliver it, if possible, to any meeting in a bag marked 'rummage'. Thank you.

The sale is Saturday 12 October at St Nicolas Church Hall at 9 a.m. Any help on the morning would be very welcome. Please ring Bob Phillip (76326928) if you could help.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Following the success of our skittles' evenings in the last twelve months, we intend to hold a BARN DANCE on Saturday 28 September. Tickets will be £2 per child, £3 per adult or £10 per family; money payable on the night. Supper will be provided; bring your own drinks and glasses. An invitation will be sent home soon. In the event that it doesn't arrive(!) please ring Sandra Parker (76328738) or Carol Cottrell (76387375) with numbers.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER 1 SEPTEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2002

The third instalment of this year's subscription is now due. An envelope is attached to this letter. Please enclose your payment of £18 per member (NOTE THE NEW AMOUNT - AN INCREASE PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED) and return the envelope indicating name or names (if there are brothers or sisters), the section (eg Mon Cubs), the total amount and whether the payment is made by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to

11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group

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

Leaders and committee are grateful to all parents who support us so well during the year and together look forward to another successful year for Weddington Scouts as they adopt the new programme which has been introduced nationally.

<http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk>

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS have returned raring to go following their summer break. The colonies welcomed many new recruits and would like to wish BRADLEY GILL, JOE CRAGGS, PHILIP BROWN, ANDREW BILBIE, SAMMY McGEE and BEN SPENCER, good luck as they start their scouting life having been recently invested.

The 11th Nuneaton Colonies hosted the District Beaver Challenge at Hartshill Hayes : the day went well and the teams completed a variety of bases, finally gaining equal points and taking joint 4th position - well done Beavers! The wardens were most grateful for the bird table, nuts and seeds presented to them on the day from all the Beavers who took part. Thanks must also go to the team of Explorer Scouts who helped us out on the day. They did a great job and were commended by District staff, leaders and parents for their hard work and support.

This week has seen the Beavers preparing items for a time capsule due to be sealed on Friday 11 October. Chris Coxall and Janet Brogan are coming along with some young men who were their Beavers 10 years ago, to open their time capsule and share the contents with us. A new capsule will then be sealed for the next 10 years.

In the next few weeks the Beavers will be visiting George Eliot Hospital. The staff from Catrina Ward are going to show the Greenwood Beavers around and show them how they admit children to the Ward.

A final WELL DONE to OLIVER OSBORN for gaining his Bronze Chief Scout Award before he moves on to Cubs and good luck to both Oliver and Charlie Yorath as they move on to the next stage of scouting.

FOSSE CUBS are introducing the new programme and so far have had a mini-pioneering night and a craft evening.

We welcome FAYE CRUICKSHANK, AMY RANDLE, LUKE WORTHINGTON, EDWARD FORD, LAUREN WAINWRIGHT, STUART MISSEN and RHYS SWEENEY who have recently been invested into the Pack.

Due to the increase in numbers, we are pleased to say we have had to introduce a sixth Six and would like to congratulate JENNY DEAKIN on becoming a Sixer and HEATHER HILL and ALUN HOWARD on becoming Seconders.

WATLING CUBS have been busy learning about maps and using a compass. They have also been thinking about others and have been challenged to do a week of good turns at home and school. The Pack welcome ALEX and AIMEE BRATT, VICTORIA and CHARLOTTE WALE, CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON, LIAM BARKES and SAM BARRATT who have recently been invested. Those who were Beavers received their new 'Moving On' Award from John and Ali Ind. Congratulations to them all. Several Cubs have now received their first 'Joining In' Badge and well done to SAM WALLIS, STEPHEN SYKES, BEN ROWBERRY and TAYO MOORE who have achieved their Adventure Crest Award.

SCOUTS are now implementing the new Award schemes which promise an exciting range of activities in this year's programme.

TUESDAY TROOP have been training for the annual District Camping Competition to be held at Fox Covert this weekend, 12 October. Good luck to our teams: we look forward to reporting on their success next time!

FRIDAY TROOP welcome several new members and have recently invested STEPHANIE HOPKINS. Congratulations to her. They have been working this term in preparation for a weekend camp in Leicestershire on 19 October. They have been practising cooking, navigation and putting up tents. Again, we shall look forward to hearing of their adventures next time!

EXPLORER SCOUTS continue to flourish. They are over 20 in number and have enjoyed their usual wide range of activities including participation in a District Activity Camp in North Wales last month. Along with members of other Units from Nuneaton and Bedworth they went mountain walking, rock-climbing and canoeing and attended a white-water rafting lecture at a Mountain Centre on Saturday evening.

Explorers are sorry to say goodbye to their leader, GARETH PARKER, who is leaving Nuneaton to take up a job in Scunthorpe. They plan to give him a good send-off and know that they will be seeing him often, especially at weekend events and annual camps. So on behalf of the Explorers and indeed the whole Group - Good Luck, Gareth..

The annual DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA will be held at the Pingles on the evening of Saturday 23 November. We have a title to defend! So swimmers put this date in your diary and as many of the rest of us as possible are needed to be there to cheer them on! The Group have hired the pool at John Cleveland College on Saturday 19 October to select the team and give all members a chance to gain swimming awards. You should have received details of this: Cubs have the pool between 2.00 and 4.00 and Scouts between 4.00 and 6.00.

FUND-RAISING

We have had our BEST EVER response to the appeal for RUMMAGE. Many thanks to all who have contributed, particularly those who have left bags at the Hut and have not been thanked personally. We REALLY do appreciate your help. The sale raised over £200 for Group funds. Special thanks to our newly-recruited helpers and a plea for more of our younger members to come and help out at these events!

Webb-Ivory catalogues are NOT being distributed this year and we plan to substitute this important end-of-year fund-raiser with a BAG-PACKING SESSION AT MARKS AND SPENCERS IN COVENTRY. The Store has generously reserved Saturday 30 November for our Group to assist at the tills from 10.00 to 4.00. There is potential here to raise considerable funds but only if we have enough members prepared to give up 2 hours of their time on that day. So PLEASE put the date in your diary and we hope as many Cubs, Scouts and Explorers as possible will help us to maximise profits on that day: perhaps parents could combine a Christmas Shopping trip with 'lending' their son or daughter for a two-hour 'shift'. A rota for helpers to sign will be on our noticeboard soon. Many thanks in anticipation.

SOCIAL EVENTS

There was a rather disappointing response to the BARN DANCE invitation last month, but those who attended enjoyed the evening and it was good to welcome some new parents to one of our events.

Most SUBSCRIPTIONS have now been banked. Thanks to those who have paid promptly. There are still some outstanding, however, which will affect payments made to leaders for the running of their evenings. Reminders are currently being sent out.

FINALLY we are very pleased to pass on some congratulations received by our District Commissioner from a visitor to the Llangorse climbing centre in July when he found himself sharing the facilities with a group of our young people on Summer Camp. He was impressed with their turn-out and described them as "polite and considerate in their use of the climbing walls and in their approach to each other". He concluded that "clearly enjoying their climbing, this well-organised and disciplined group of lads were a credit to the Scout Association in general and to your district in particular." So well done to all involved.

11TH NUNEATON WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

DECEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER NO. 38

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS. The GREENWOOD COLONY had a very successful visit to the hospital and were all found to be fit as fiddles!

WOODLAND COLONY opened the time capsule set ten years ago by the then Beavers. Some of the young men who contributed to the capsule joined the Beavers for the opening and found letters and photos of themselves taken ten years ago. A tape had been enclosed along with a newspaper of the time. It proved to be an interesting evening and everyone would like to thank Chris Coxall and Janet Brogan for coming to open the capsule and seal the new one which enclosed letters, photos, badges, a handbook and Joe Lapworth's treasured teddy!

The Beavers would like to welcome Jack Hughes, Adam Raines, Bradley Cheshire, Bradley Stevens, Ezra Dulang, Seb Marziano, Jack Taylor, Richard Wale and Lilli Osborn.

On the badge front – well done to Stephen Ball who has gained his swimming badge, William Tambini for his IT badge, Joe Peffers for his creative and his Explorer badge and Ian Strachan for his animal friend. Scott Chaplin and Timmy Ford are the first two Beavers to be awarded their Outdoor Challenge. Scott also gained his animal friend badge.

A group of Beavers attended the District Craft day and had the chance to try their hand at a variety of Christmas crafts. All those who attended were awarded their Creative Badge, so well done to Bradley Gill, Vicki Deakin, Nicholas Cole, Sammy McGee, Ian Ensor, Andrew Bilbie, Philip Brown, Ben Spencer and Joshua Bland.

The District Beaver Carol Service will be held this year at Bedworth Baptist Church, Coventry Rd, Bedworth on Thursday 5 December at 6.30 pm. The service will be suitable for all the family and anyone who wishes may join us. Beavers will need to wear FULL uniform with black shoes. The service will finish at approximately 7.30 pm. The nearest car park is either Bedworth Civic Hall or the Leisure Centre.

Beavers will close for the holiday on Friday 6 / Monday 9 December and a presentation will be made on these evenings for best attendance throughout the last year. Beavers re-opens on Monday 6 / Friday 10 January 2003.

Beavers are invited to the Panto on the afternoon of Saturday 11 January at Bedworth Civic Hall - see separate booking form.

John, Ali, Cara and Matt would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

FOSSE CUBS enjoyed a video night when they cleverly simulated a cinema experience including the ice-creams! They have also had a bonfire and a fitness evening. The Pack will not meet on the 23 or 30 December and will start the new year on 6 January.

WATLING CUBS have been out and about in these last few weeks. They enjoyed a good night hike across Weddington Fields ending at the chip shop on a Thursday evening which was perfect for walking: clear and warm with a full moon, although unfortunately VERY WET underfoot. However they were able to follow up their work on stars from the previous week and gazed into the heavens trying to identify the constellations! Cubs looked at the role of the Mayor of Nuneaton as preparation for a very successful visit to the Mayor's Parlour at the Council House last week.

Thursday Pack has invested MATTHEW BROOM, CHARLIE YORATH and OLIVER OSBORN. Welcome to them.

The Pack's last meeting this year will be a visit to the Hospital Pantomime on 5 December. They will meet again on Thursday 9 January.

TUESDAY SCOUTS have been welcoming Cubs who are working on the Moving On Award in preparation for joining the troop after Christmas. They will also be taking a two-week break at Christmas and will not meet on 24 or 31 December before coming together again for the new year on 7 January.

Tuesday Troop say goodbye to assistant Scout Leader PHIL ASPINALL who has left the Movement. They thank him for many years of dedicated service to Weddington Scouts and will miss his great contribution in many activities, particularly the camps. So thank you, Phil, and best wishes for the future.

FRIDAY SCOUTS held a very successful Troop camp in Leicestershire in October and have enjoyed a lively programme since. They visited Laser Quest for an evening out, two weeks ago and are now busy planning for their, by now very famous, Christmas meal to which they invite some highly-honoured guests, to be held

on Friday 13 December! They will hold a Games Night on 20th December and close for two weeks. Friday Troop will meet in the new year on 10 January.

EXPLORER SCOUTS continue to combine games and activities: they have worked on bikes and hot-air balloons, been canoeing, tried cooking, had a fireworks barbecue and are planning their overnight Christmas Party at Fox Covert on 14 December. They will be cooking a Christmas meal on 18 December and will obviously be closed for Christmas and New Year Day. They will meet again on Wednesday 8 January.

Well done to those who turned up on REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY to march through the town to the War Memorial: your attendance at the event was really appreciated.

Very well done to all members who swam to victory at the annual DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA on 23 November. Cubs' 'A' Team of CRAIG GILCHRIST, JENNY DEAKIN, FAYE CRUICKSHANK, JONNY HAYWOOD, BEN ROWBERRY, GREG McCRACKEN, JACOB SUTTON, JACOB LINTON, TOM SHARROCK, JONATHAN HUGHES and SAM MURRAY gained first place for the first time in five years and the 'B' team of Becky Forrest, Sam Wallis, Stephen Sambrook, Stuart Missen, Sam Kendell and Rhys Sweeney gained a very creditable third place.

The Scout team of Daniel Smedley, Andrew Gilchrist, Ryan Forrest, Laura Helm and Anna Evans also took first place as did the Explorers: Daniel Rohde, Matthew Price, Richard Scoffham, Richard Ball and James Randell. The over-18 team of Carol Ball, Gareth Parker, Tim Deakin, Tom Cotterill, Louise Cotterill and Helen Shorter were also victorious. Needless to say Weddington won the event this year! Congratulations to all.

We have some dates for next year's diary –

Our ANNUAL GROUP PARTY will be held on Saturday 25 January. Cubs and Beavers will celebrate between 4 pm and 6 pm and Scouts and Explorers 6.30pm to 8.30pm. More details will be circulated in the New Year but please make a note of the date and try to be there, the party has been a tremendous success in the past.

Scouts will be invited to a WINTER CAMP in Wales 7-9 February.

Annual GROUP CAMP is booked at Blackwell Court for the weekend of 27-29 June 2003.

SUMMER CAMP, as always, will be the first week of the school holiday – 19-26 July. This is the highlight of the year for our Scouts and Explorers so parents need to be aware of these dates when planning holidays in the summer.

FUND-RAISING

SOCIAL EVENTS

PLEASE TRY TO SUPPORT OUR GROUP CAROL SERVICE AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, WEDDINGTON, ON FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER AT 7.00 PM. This is a very enjoyable service when all sections of the Group come together at the end of the year and should only last about an hour. Members should come in uniform and all members of their family are welcome.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDERS will come your way again in January! This is the month of the annual census so it is very important to have payments made on time and for all details to be accurate so we hope to count on your co-operation then. Please advise your leaders of any change in address or telephone number. Those who pay an annual subscription, particularly those at University who do not attend regular meetings but wish to retain membership to enable them to join in some of our events including camps, will be asked to pay £20 in January.

FINALLY the Group sends its good wishes with Doug Shorter and the five young people who are off to THAILAND on 21 December. We hope they have a wonderful three weeks and look forward to hearing of their adventures on their return in January.