

11TH NUNEATON WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

JANUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER NO 39

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. We look forward to another busy and successful year for Weddington Scouts.

Last year ended with an assortment of Christmas activities ranging from parties, a pantomime visit and a Christmas meal to our Christmas Carol Service. Many thanks to Janet Brogan, Nikki Ind, Matthew Archer and their helpers who worked so hard to make this a lovely evening.

This year starts with a continuation of our celebrations. Beavers have a pantomime trip next weekend and we all have our ANNUAL GROUP PARTY to look forward to on Saturday, 25 January. Beavers and Cubs will celebrate between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and Scouts and Explorers 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. More details soon.

Doug and his five Explorer Scouts are nearing the end of their great adventure at the World Jamboree in Thailand. They have reported on a very busy and tremendously varied two weeks of Christmas in Bangkok, and New Year on camp with another 30,000 Scouts from all over the world. They have been involved in an amazing range of activities and experiences including a lot of time on the beach in temperatures which are said to be unusually high for the region at this time of year. We welcome them home next Sunday.

Many thanks to all committee members, leaders, explorers, scouts and cubs who worked so hard to raise very nearly £1,000 for Group funds by PACKING BAGS at Marks and Spencer, Coventry at the end of November. It was a BRILLIANT effort!

It is time for SUBSCRIPTIONS again! We need £18 per Member for January to April and £20 from those who pay an annual subscription. As we explained in December, this is annual census time when we need an accurate and up-to-date record of our membership so prompt payment of subs would be very much appreciated.
Many Thanks

FINALLY, we apologise to SAM BARRATT, one of our victorious swimming team who was omitted from the list of winners in the last newsletter. Sorry Sam!

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS had an enjoyable trip to the pantomime, the first District event of the year. They have returned eager to gain badges and already several have been awarded. So congratulations to the following –

[Joe Peffers](#) – Outdoor Challenge and Experiment Badge

[Nathaniel Hines](#) – Bronze Chief Scout Award and Outdoor Challenge

[Victoria Deakin](#), [Amarvir Dhariwal](#), [Jack Hughes](#), [Sammy McGee](#), [Ben Spencer](#) and [Andrew Bilbie](#) – Outdoor Challenge

[Liam Griffin](#) – Animal Friend Badge and first Joining In Badge

[Timmy Ford](#) and [Sam Hambridge](#) – first Joining In Badge

[Charlie Badham](#) – first Joining In Badge and Experiment Badge

[Joe Lapwoth](#) – Animal Friend Badge

Well done to [Callum Lord-Summerton](#) who has become a tree group leader and gained his Creative Badge.

Fifteen Discovery Badges were also given out last week.

Good luck to [Stephen Ball](#), [Nathaniel Hines](#) and [Jacob Morris](#) who have moved on to Cubs.

Welcome to new Beavers – [Harry King](#), [Jonathan Miller](#) and [Ben Payne](#).

Can we make a plea to parents please? Would you please come right into the hall at the end of the meeting to hear messages and bring with you your child's coat to help ease congestion in the porch. Thank you in anticipation.

CUBS from both Packs entered a team in the recent District Quiz and although they did not win, they scored highly. Well done to all of them.

FOSSE CUBS would like to welcome [Stephen Ball](#), [Edward Taplin](#), [Pierre Taylor](#), [Nathaniel Hines](#), [Ewan McMurrin](#) and [Charlotte Baynes](#) who have joined us since Christmas and are to be invested into the Pack within the next couple of weeks. The Pack has recently been involved in District events. Our Quiz team of [Amy Randle](#), [Lauren Wainwright](#), [George Goodman](#), [Thomas Sharrock](#), [Robert Tambini](#) and [Nathan Whitehead](#) gave a very worthy performance at the District Quiz and were a credit to the Pack. [Sam Kendell](#) and [Alun Howard](#) gained their Air Activities Badge when they attended the District Activity Day. We have re-organised our Sixes and would like to congratulate [Alex Coopey](#), [Jonny Haywood](#), [Alun Howard](#), [Greg McCracken](#) and [Robert Tambini](#) on becoming Sixers and [Ben Baynes](#), [Charlotte Deakon](#), [Edward Eaton](#), [Sam Kendell](#), [Callum McMurrin](#) and [Thomas Sharrock](#) on becoming Seconders.

WATLING CUBS are currently working towards the Global Challenge and have been discussing the conservation of water and energy. Please look at their posters in the hut. They are considering the re-cycling of rubbish and have been asked to do a little work at home as part of the award. Congratulations to our new Sixers, [Craig Gilchrist](#), [Jacob Sutton](#) and [Sam Murray](#) and to Seconders, [Gareth Wainwright](#), [Carl Fitzgerald](#), [Aimee Bratt](#) and [Daniel Warren](#). [Matthew Broom](#) and [Liam Barks](#) represented us at the District Activity Day and earned themselves the Air Activities Badge. This was a very enjoyable day. Good luck to Cubs, [Christopher](#) and [Tim Johnston](#), [Craig Gilchrist](#) and [Jacob Sutton](#) who are representing us in the Gang Show this year. The Pack hopes to be organising a trip to see them on Saturday 15 March for the afternoon Matinee. Tickets will be £4 each. More details soon.

Thursday Cubs welcome [Richard Howard](#) and [Sebastian Wright](#) who were invested last week. T-Shirts are now available at £4.00 each.

SCOUTS from both troops took part in a winter camp to Bala in North Wales last weekend. Fifteen Scouts and four leaders stayed in a Scout Hut with excellent accommodation and facilities. They enjoyed a weekend of good weather and completed a five-hour walk on Saturday of 7-8 miles during which they found enough snow for a snow-ball fight! On Sunday they visited the Rhayader Falls before travelling home.

TUESDAY TROOP have invested [John Marchi](#), [Tom Gilbert](#), [Abigail Ellis](#), [Rebecca Forrest](#), [Victoria Wale](#), [Sam Wallis](#), [Stephen Sykes](#), [Jonathan Allred](#) and [Thomas Gailey](#). Welcome to them all.

FRIDAY TROOP will be investing new members in the next week or two.

EXPLORERS were also off winter walking last weekend. They ventured further into Snowdonia and stayed at Capel Curig Youth Hostel which they found rather warmer than their usual February camp under canvas although two members of the party of twelve did sleep in their tent! The group split into two and climbed Moel Siabod and Foel Grach over the two days. Saturday was

rather grey, but Sunday gave good weather for a winter walk. They also found some snow – enough for sledging on ‘bivvy’ bags! They attended an interesting lecture on canoeing at the nearby Mountain Centre of Plas-Y-Brenin on Saturday evening. Explorers are planning a snowboarding trip at half term and will be preparing for a ‘lightweight’ camp in March.

Members from all sections enjoyed the annual GROUP PARTY held last month. We took the opportunity to formally thank and say goodbye to leaders [Pete Galland](#), [Phil Aspinall](#) and [Gareth Parker](#) who have left the Group. Good luck to each of them. Thanks to those leaders and committee members who worked hard to make the afternoon and evening a success.

Dates for the MAIN CAMPS organised so far this year. Please make a note of those relevant to you.

22 March - Scout Camp to Fox Covert
22 March - Explorer Light Weight Camp
13-15 June - Cub Camp to Fox Covert
27-29 June - Group Camp to Blackwell Court
19-26 July - Summer Camp for Scouts and Explorers

FUND RAISING

It is nearly time for our next RUMMAGE SALE. This will be held at St Nicolas Church Hall on Saturday 1 March at 9.30. Our members and their families did a wonderful job of finding jumble for us last Autumn. We found it unnecessary to do the street collections which, we have to admit, are not the highlight of our scouting year! So we are appealing for a similar scale of contributions this year – we REALLY do appreciate everything you can spare for us to sell. Please bring contributions to the Scout Hut on any evening before the end of the month and mark the bag or box ‘Rummage’ if you can. Thank you VERY much in anticipation.

We would also appreciate any help on either the Friday evening after 8 p.m. at the hall or on the morning of the sale itself as we still rely heavily on the help of people whose ties with the Group go back many years. We are really grateful to them but it would be nice to see more helpers from current members and their families. Some Scouts or Explorers in Uniform helping in the Hall would also be good to see!

SOCIAL EVENTS

A SKITTLES NIGHT has been arranged for Saturday 8 March. These evenings have proved very popular in the past and we feel, for reasons of safety, that it is necessary to limit numbers to 80. So please inform or ring Carol Cottrell (76387375) if you wish to come, Family ticket - £12, Adults - £4, Children £3.

FINALLY, concerns have been raised about the maintenance of our building and grounds. We are hoping, in the near future, to have the car park re-surfaced which will greatly enhance the approach to the headquarters. The grass needs cutting through the summer, the storage container needs painting, both buildings need some maintenance and essential cleaning and some rubbish needs disposal. These jobs usually fall to Leaders and Committee Members who already give up a lot of their free time to provide activities and run the Group.

It was felt appropriate, therefore, to appeal for the help of parents at perhaps only one session in a year, for a couple of hours ‘work’ at the Headquarters. We are considering asking Beaver parents for the first session followed later in the year, by Cub parents and so on. So please look out this appeal. We appreciate the support many of you give to us in our fund-raising and social events, but would welcome any extra help in improving the scouting environment for our youngsters.

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS must open their report with an apology: Jacob, we should be congratulating you on becoming a tree group leader and not trying to send you to Cubs early – sorry, but well done.

We would like to welcome **Tom Barkses, Shaun Merry, Luke Wagg** and **Jake d'Arcy**. Two Beavers have moved on to Cubs and we would like to wish them well – **Ian Strachan** and **Nicholas Cole**.

Our new tree group leaders are **Sam Hambridge, Vicki Deakin, Michael Friswell** and **Charlie Badham**. The latest trophy winners for smartest tree group are both the Elm Tree groups: so well done to **Charlie Badham, Adam Stauvers** and **Ben Payne** from the Greenwood Colony and **Joe Peffers, Andrew Bilbie, George Naylor, Ben Spencer** and **Tom Barkses** from the Woodland Colony. The following have gained badges –

Andrew Bilbie and **George Naylor** - experiment

Sam Hambridge and **Ian Strachan** - explorer

Liam Griffin - swimmer, stage one

Sebastian Marziano - swimmer and I.T. stage one

Jacob Morris - creative and experiment

Charles Badham - creative

Joe Lapworth - faith

A huge well done to **Joe Peffers, Nicholas Cole** and **Ian Strachan** who have gained their Bronze Chief Scout Challenge.

This week Beavers received a lovely note from the residents of Reg Haddon Court to thank us for the bowls of daffodils the Beavers had grown for them since last October.

There will be no Beavers on Monday 14th or Monday 21st April, Friday 18th or Friday 25th April
We would like to see all the Beavers at the St George's Day Parade this year on Sunday 27th April in Bedworth.

FOSSE CUBS have been busy making things. They had a very successful evening making bird boxes and would like to thank all the adults who came along to make the evening possible and so enjoyable. Cubs have also made candles as presents for their mums. Six Cubs, **Charlotte Deakin, Robert Tambini, Thomas Sharrock, Sam Kendell, Alex Coopey** and **Stuart Missen**, took part in the Ghost Hunt Challenge and came a very commendable fifth.

The Pack will not meet on Easter Monday and looks forward to a busy summer with a variety of camps to attend.

WATLING CUBS congratulate their Ghost-Hunt team who came 3rd in the competition. So well done to **Craig Gilchrist, Tim Johnston, Jacob Sutton, Liam Barkses, Daniel Warren** and **Carl Fitzgerald**. Everyone has completed work for the Global Challenge Badge with a visit from a Voluntary worker with Oxfam after which they helped to raise over £60 for the Comic relief Appeal. Congratulations to **Richard Howard, Sam Haynes, Christopher Johnston, Sebastian Wright** and **Craig Gilchrist** who received their awards last week. We are having a great time looking at international scouting. We were given an insight into what it was like to attend a Scouting Jamboree and now can't wait to be there ourselves! Cubs are looking forward to making bird boxes this week and as we move into lighter nights we will be investigating more things out of doors and starting to think about camping. Our District Cub Camp is to take place at Willesley on 2nd-5th of May. We will be taking six older cubs from each pack. Watling Cubs will not be meeting for the two weeks of the Easter holiday.

SCOUTS from both Troops enjoyed a Saturday night camp at Fox Covert on 22 March. About thirty members, nearly half of whom were girls, walked to Kirby Mallory, stayed overnight and were collected in the morning. Good weather helped to make this a very enjoyable expedition.

Tuesday Troop will not meet on Tuesday 22 April.

Friday Troop has invested **MATTHEW GREEN, JENNY DEAKIN, HEATHER HILL** and **BEN TAPLIN**. Welcome to them. Scouts will continue to meet on both Friday evenings of the Easter holiday.

EXPLORERS also camped at Fox Covert on 22 March. This was designated a 'light-weight' camp and some did in fact manage the night with the minimum of gear while others ensured that the complete camping essentials were transported for them in advance! Explorers continue to participate in a wide variety of activities. They are rock-climbing in Warwick this week and many of them plan to follow the First Aid Course currently being arranged for the Group.

LEADERS need to renew their First Aid Certificates shortly and are required to find more of their own time in order to do this. Additionally, six Leaders have recently up-dated their mini-bus driving permits so that they can help with transport particularly at camps.

Dates for the MAIN CAMPS (again!)

2-5 May - District Cub Camp

13-15 June - Cub Camp to Fox Covert

27-29 June - Group Camp to Blackwell Court

19-26 July - Summer Camp for Scouts and Explorers to Lancashire.

FUND-RAISING

The RUMMAGE sale was postponed because of difficulties with advertising the event. Many thanks to all who contributed to this. It was held last Saturday and made a profit of about £200. Thanks to Beaver, **Richard Wale**; Cubs **Aimee** and **Alex Bratt**, **Charlotte Wale**; Scouts **Victoria Wale** and **Jon Ellard** and Explorers, Jenny **Cottrell** and **Samantha Igoe** who turned up to help with the Sale.

Our next major fund-raiser will be the Charity Stall in Nuneaton town centre on 5 July. We will need tombola prizes, plants and home-made cakes.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The skittles evening at the beginning of March was once again enjoyed by all and raised an additional £90 for Group funds. So thanks to all who supported the evening.

HEADQUARTERS

We intend to hold two WORKING PARTY DAYS over the Bank Holiday weekend, on Saturday 3 May and Sunday 4 May from 9 a.m. We hope to tackle the grounds, paint the storage container, clean the buildings and remove some rubbish. We are appealing for ANY HELP for a couple of hours on either of these days. If you feel you could spare some time, please sign the list on the headquarters notice board (to give us some idea of the extent of the assistance we can plan for) or simply turn up on the day. We will provide refreshments.

SUBSCRIPTION envelopes for the session May to August are included with this letter. Money will be collected from the week beginning 28 April. We are also asking you to sign a Gift Aid declaration to enable us to re-claim tax paid on your subscriptions. This should prove a valuable additional resource for Group funds. So please remember to sign this and return it with payments due after Easter.

The GROUP WEBSITE (address below) is now full of pictures and video clips from group activities over the past 12 months or so. Please visit and contribute to the polls, leave a guestbook comment or read past newsletters online. If you have any pictures or video clips you would like posting on the site, please email them to scouting@chriscottrell.com

FINALLY the St GEORGE'S DAY PARADE will be held on Sunday 27 April in Bedworth. 11th Nuneaton will once again be leading the parade and we really need A GOOD TURN-OUT of members from all sections from Beavers up to Network Scouts. So please meet IN FULL UNIFORM (with a warm base layer if the weather is not promising) outside the Civic Hall by 1.45 p.m. This is an important date in the scouting year when the many Groups in Nuneaton and Bedworth come together to join in the more ceremonial side of scouting. The service has always been lively and enjoyable: families are welcome to come too.

www.11thnuneaton.org.uk

WEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP. NEWSLETTER NO. 42 MAY 2003

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS must firstly offer a huge well done and congratulations to all the Beaver section for the part they played in gaining the BRONZE BEAVER this year. We won the trophy after competing with every other colony in Nuneaton and Bedworth. To gain it, the A.D.C. takes into account the joining in of District events, the colony programme, the badges gained and the maintenance of colony numbers amongst other things. Well done to everyone. Welcome to LOGAN who has transferred to our Greenwood Colony and to JESSICA BARRATT who has joined us. Goodbye and good luck to JOE PEFFERS who is currently on his link to Cubs. Joe should feel very proud of himself as he has worked hard at Beavers and gained an armful of badges. Well done to the following who have gained badges: Joe Lapworth – Musician Stage 1 and Joining In 1; Joe Craggs – Animal Friend; Scott Chaplin – Experiment; Callum Lord-Summerton - Swimmer 1; Sam Hambridge – Swimmer 1 and Ben Spencer – Experiment; Philip Brown – Outdoor Challenge; Joshua Bland – Outdoor Challenge; William Tambini – Bronze Chief Scout Challenge and Adam Stauvers – Joining In 1.

Well done to LIAM GRIFFIN who is now the Tree Group Leader for Fir with the Woodland Colony.

Both Colonies have started working towards their Friendship Challenge this term and if everyone works hard, we should gain the Badge by summer. As part of this challenge we are saving 1p coins for 'Save the Children Fund'. We are doing well currently, but every penny counts so turn out those pockets/purses. Thanks to all those who have already collected lots. Last time we collected 4,300 so we have some record to beat!

On the idea of collecting, Beavers would be grateful for any chocolate.....we mean chocolate tokens, found on Cadbury's bars to help get sports equipment for our colonies.

Beavers will be closed for the Whitsun holiday on both Monday and Friday.

CUBS have been busy with District Events. They have taken part in the District Camp at Willesley, the Scavenger Hunt and the Six-A-Side Football. So well done to all those who participated, especially the Watling Football team of Jacob Sutton, Sam Haynes, Craig Gilchrist, Daniel Warren, Sam Murray, Joshua Wagg, Chris Johnston and Tim Johnston.who came an undefeated FIRST in the competition. Cub leaders particularly thank those parents whose support in organising these events is so essential. Many thanks to you all.

Fosse (Monday) Cubs have spent time learning to care for their uniforms and wish to inform parents that they are now expert at cleaning their shoes and ironing their neckers! They will not meet on Bank Holiday Monday.

Watling (Thursday) Cubs had a fantastic time at District Camp this year and the following have all earned a new-style Camper's badge: Craig Gilchrist, Sam Haynes, Sam Murray, Gareth Wainwright, Jacob Sutton and Tim Johnston. We say goodbye and good luck to Aimee Bratt and Tim Johnston who move to Scouts this week. Congratulations to both of them for achieving their Chief Scout Silver Award. We welcome three new Cubs into the Pack: Joe Peffers, Ian Strachan and Glenn Clarke. Cubs will meet as usual on the Thursday of Half Term.

The oldest Cubs from each Pack will be invited, this week, to our annual Cub Camp to be held at Fox Covert, Hinckley, on the weekend of 13-15 June.

SCOUTS continue their busy camping programme. About 30 members practised their cooking and camping skills at a Patrol Camp at Fox Covert, last weekend. Hopefully they enjoyed kinder weather than was promised to them on Friday! Tuesday troop have recently invested Jamie-Lee Briggs. They will not meet during the Half Term holiday. Plans are ongoing for the annual scout SUMMER CAMP for which deposits should now have been paid, so that activities can be booked.

The Scout section of 11th Nuneaton is enjoying an encouraging period of expansion. Over 35 members meet on Tuesday and over 20 on Friday. Both troops urgently need HELP in the form of Assistant Scout Leaders or Instructors. We feel there may be parents or friends out there who may be interested in helping on a regular basis. Scouts are aged 10+yrs to 14+yrs.

Please give some thought to this and contact Doug Shorter 76328166 to discuss how you may be able to help.

EXPLORER and NETWORK SCOUTS have enjoyed a varied programme of activities, including a recent visit to Laser Quest and an interesting and successful attempt to cook cakes in cardboard boxes! They seem to have found the answer to providing the occasional birthday cake which is looked for during camps!

They organised a Pig Roast Camp at Shugborough last weekend, This is to mark the transition of the over 18s (the Network group) to a separate programme for their meetings. It is intended that the younger and older sections will work more as individual units than they have done hitherto. Clearly many of their activities and expeditions will still be combined and indeed all sections will come together for one of the highlights of our scouting year –

GROUP (FAMILY) CAMP 27-29 June.

Invitations to this will be issued shortly. The Camp will take place at Blackwell Court, Bromsgrove and we have booked on site activities which include archery, grass sledges, go-Karts, use of the swimming pool, orienteering and an assault course. We will also provide canoeing, abseiling and other cooking, craft and games events. The Saturday is the Activity Day: we are usually on our way home by lunchtime on Sunday. Scouts, Explorers and Network Scouts are able to camp for the two nights. Cubs and Beavers with their parents are welcome to join us for the day on Saturday. Alternatively Cubs and Beavers with their parents are welcome to camp with us for the weekend. Families can chose to be catered for or to self-cater. The Camp has proved extremely popular for the last three years and we usually welcome about 200 people for what has always proved an action-packed, fun-filled and memorable weekend. So do try to reserve the weekend or at least the Saturday and join us if you can.

Thanks to those who came to help stage a good turn out at the ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE at Bedworth last month. We were pleased to be awarded the BRONZE BEAVER for the best Beaver Colonies in the District last year, and to retain (jointly with the Attleborough Group) the PREMIER FLAG: recognition of the achievements of 11th Nuneaton as a whole. So congratulations to Ali and John Ind, Matthew Archer and their helpers for the success of the Beavers and to all, particularly our leaders, who have worked so hard to earn this position in the District. Congratulations to TIM DEAKIN, Explorer leader, who received his 15-year service award at the ceremony.

FUND_RAISING

Please remember that we need tombola prizes, cakes and plants to sell on our CHARITY STALL in Nuneaton Market on Saturday 5 July.

Apologies to LUCY BOUCHER who helped at our last rummage sale and was inadvertently missed from the list of those members who turned up to help.

HEAD QUARTERS

We are greatly indebted to the handful of parents and members who gave up time on Saturday 3 May to help Committee members to clean up and paint parts of the buildings and container. We managed to tackle some important jobs although there is still much to do. We did not, for instance, get round to the grounds. So please look out for any further requests for assistance and help if you can. Meanwhile many, many thanks to Bob Taylor and son Pierre, to Jon Ellard, to Mr Cole and son William, to Mr and Mrs Richards, to Mr and Mrs Cruickshank and to Mrs Warren and son Daniel. Your help was VERY much appreciated.

A good majority of parents have paid SUBSCRIPTIONS promptly again this term and many of you have filled in the Gift Aid Declaration to enable us to reclaim tax on your payments. Many thanks for that. There are still payments outstanding, however, and we remind everyone again that the amount paid to leaders to enable them to run their meetings depends on how many of their youngsters have paid subscriptions.

FINALLY the Group Committee invites all parents to attend our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday 11 June at 7.30 at the Scout Headquarters. This is an opportunity to acknowledge an interest in the work of the Group and to raise any points of concern you may have. We need new Committee members and if you think this might interest you, please come along and have a word. Our Committee is about more than just fund-raising and meetings! We can be quite closely involved in some of the activities, particularly the camps, which are going on throughout the year. Cheese and wine will be offered after the meeting; so we look forward to seeing many of you there!

www.11thnuneaton.org.uk

AROUND THE SECTIONS:

BEAVERS have been busy over the last few weeks. Sadly, activity day had to be postponed but is now booked for September: indoor facilities have been organised in case of bad weather. Also in September a team of older Beavers will represent us at the District Beaver Challenge.

Recent events have included a fund-raising effort for 'Save the Children'. Beavers collected 4488 pennies over a four-week period. Mr and Mrs Bygrave collected the money and they hope to put it towards 100 vaccinations.

A group of Beavers went to Anker Radio last month to do an interview on behalf of Beaver scouts in Nuneaton. Thank you to Andrew, Harry and Seb.

Greenwood Colony has linked with 4th Bedworth Beavers and we hosted a very successful evening last week. We have now been invited to share one of their colony meetings in the autumn.

The Beavers have been given the wall display to do in Nuneaton library for the summer. If you have a moment, pop in and see our artwork and collect a reading trial pack for your child. The Beavers enjoyed a busy evening at the library when we delivered our work.

On the badge front – well done everyone. A huge well done to Ellie who is the first Beaver to gain all three Challenge badges this year. Sam Hambridge, Liam Moore and Michael Friswell have been awarded their Bronze Chief Scout Awards this week – well done.

The following badges have also been gained:

I.T. Stage 1 – Bradley Gill, Ian Ensor, George Naylor, Liam Griffin.

Experiment - Bradley Gill, Harry King, Ian Ensor, Joe Lapworth.

Animal Friend – Ben Payne.

Swimming Stage 1 – Charlie Badham, Jacob Morris, Adam Stauvers, Andrew Bilbie.

Creative – Joe Lapworth.

Explorer – Charlie Badham.

Outdoor Challenge – Ben Payne, Ezra-Joshua Dulang, George Naylor.

Nights Away 1 – Ellie Deakin, Logan Ryan, Adam Raines, William Tambini, Liam Griffin, Ben Spencer, Lilli Osborn, Tom Barks, Jessica Barratt, Joshua Bland.

Nights Away 10 - Vicki Deakin.

We would like to welcome David, Connor, Jack, Dylan and Dylan who have recently joined us. Good luck and farewell to Callum Lord-Summerton who has moved on to Cubs this week.

Holiday arrangements are available on a 'green' sheet from Ali or a copy has been posted on the notice board. Beavers from both Colonies will meet on three Mondays during the holiday.

CUBS have more success to report in their participation in District and indeed, County, competitions. The Watling football team who played so well and became District champions as was reported last time, then went on to win the Warwickshire County Cub Football competition in very fine style indeed. So again very well done to them all and to those parents who gave their invaluable support. A team from Watling pack also came first in the District Sports Competition on 5 July and the Fosse Pack team came second. Congratulations to all who raced so well.

Cubs from both Packs enjoyed another successful camp at Fox Covert in June. They spent two nights under canvas and were very busy tracking, working with compasses, constructing shelters, cooking, and fire making during the day. Saturday finished with a grand CAMP FIRE in traditional scout manner.

Fosse Cubs will not meet on the Mondays of 21 July or 25 August but will get together for the Mondays in between: 28 July, 4 August, 11 August, & 18 August. Watling Cubs will meet on Thursday 24 July for a Barbeque and on each Thursday after that excepting the last week of the holidays. So no meeting on Thursday 28 August. Uniform need not be worn for holiday meetings.

SCOUTS joined with Cubs, Beavers and their families and with Leaders, Explorers, Network Scouts and Committee Members for our annual FAMILY CAMP held at Blackwell Court at the end of June. We had another highly successful and very enjoyable weekend. Leaders had a lot of very positive comments and feedback from those who attended and were pleased to hear such praise for the whole experience. It makes all the hard preparation by a small number of organisers worthwhile. We must thank all those parents who pitched in to help with everything from putting up the canvas to doing the washing up to joining in the 'stunts' at the campfire!

Scouts are now preparing for their 'biggest ever' annual Summer Camp, when they set off to Waddacar, near Preston, next Saturday.

Tuesday troop will not meet on 22 July (Summer Camp) but will meet for games evenings on Tuesdays until the last week of the holidays; NO meeting Tuesday 26 August.

Friday troop will ONLY meet in the last week of the holidays, on Friday 29 August.

EXPLORER AND NETWORK SCOUTS will also be joining the Summer Camp next week. A dozen of them returned from a national event last weekend, full of enthusiasm for a mid summer 'Sun Run' camp held near Gloucester. The camp was described as 'brilliant' and 'amazing' even by those seasoned campers who have enjoyed a wide variety of different camp experiences in their scouting careers. They are looking forward to taking part again next year.

A programme has been planned for Wednesday evenings during the summer to include a barbeque, canoeing and a joint camp with another Group. Details will be e-mailed to members who, if they need information, should e-mail Tim Deakin at timgem@btopenworld.com

ALL SECTIONS WILL RESUME FULL UNIFORMED MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING 1 SEPTEMBER.

It is good to report that so many of our young people, across the age range, are enjoying such adventurous, exciting and challenging experiences which involve a lot of team work with both their peers and with people of very different ages to themselves. One of the most satisfying observations to make at any camp, for instance, is how well all members work and play and socialise together. The Group remains committed to the continued provision of such a variety of good quality activities for our scouts. However, the organisation of our many events falls on the shoulders of an ever-diminishing number of leaders and committee members, most of whom no longer have any young children in the movement. We do have a few excellent young leaders whom we hope one day will inherit some of the leadership of the Group. Meanwhile we need to repeat our plea for any assistance you may be able to offer or for any suggestions of anyone who we could approach in our search for more leaders and committee members. THE CURRENT NEED IS MOST URGENT IN THE SCOUT SECTION. FRIDAY TROOP, AND PARTICULARLY, TUESDAY TROOP ARE INCREASING IN NUMBERS AND REALLY NEED HELPERS PREPARED TO REGULARLY COMMIT TO ATTENDING MEETINGS AND WORKING WITH SMALL GROUPS OF YOUNGSTERS DURING THE EVENING. We are sure that you would find any such involvement very rewarding and worthwhile. Please contact Doug Shorter if you think you could help or feel free to turn up on one of the evenings (starting at 7.30) to see what goes on and talk to the leaders. Both troops will be meeting for some of the holiday for informal games' evenings.

Congratulations to the following leaders, network and explorer scouts who gave up two weekends to gain or renew their FIRST AID CERTIFICATES: Jenny Cotterill, Carol Ball, Tim Deakin, Louise Cotterill, Doug Shorter, Gordon Macintosh, Helen Moyes, Gary Cotterill, Myra Shorter, Dave Jones, Matt Price, Richard Scoffham, Bob Tye, Jenny Cottrell, Anna Scoffham, Sam Igoe, David Moyes, Helen Shorter, Hannah Fox and Gareth Parker.

FUND RAISING: We were pleased to raise £444 from our CHARITY STALL on Nuneaton market on Saturday 5 July. Many thanks to the one or two families who responded to the committee's appeal for contributions for this. Particular thanks go to Pat Boucher who helped on the stall and to Scout, Jon Ellard who also turned up on the day.

AGM: This was held on 11 June. The meeting was the occasion for the retirement of our Group Chairman of 25 years, Bob Phillip. Tributes were paid to Bob in recognition of the tremendous contribution he has made to the organisation of Weddington Scout Group Committee for so many years. He was presented with a farewell gift and card. So many thanks Bob, and enjoy the extra time you have now to pursue your other interests!

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We had a very good response to the request for gift-aid declarations. Thanks for that – we hope to reclaim a considerable sum at the end of the tax year. If you have not returned a form and would qualify to help us, another form will be offered to you when the September subscription requests are distributed at the beginning of term.

THAILAND JAMBOREE: It is now six months since some of our members returned from Thailand. For a reminder of the event, or to leave messages to other Jamboree members, log onto www.warwickshirescouts.org/thailand/

FINALLY we wish all members and their families a safe and enjoyable holiday. Have a good summer and do come along to some of our summer evenings if you can.

See our activity photos and video clips online at
www.11thnuneaton.org.uk

AROUND THE SECTIONS

BEAVERS say goodbye and wish good luck to the following as they move to cubs – Jacob, Vicki, Michael, Jack, Ellie, Sam, William, Liam and Joseph. Welcome also to our new Beavers and their families – Saul, Jack, Joshua, Alex, Lewis, Dominic, Sam, Cameron, Megan and Sam B. Well done to BRADLEY GILL who has gained his Musician Badge; to WILLIAM TAMBINI and BEN SPENCER who gained the Animal Friend Badge; to SEB MARZIANO for Experiment Badge; to GEORGE NAYLOR for Explore Badge and ADAM RAINES has gained his Outdoor Challenge.

First Year participation badges go to Joe Craggs, Bradley Gill, Liam Moore, George Naylor, Sammy McGee, Ian Ensor, Andrew Bilbie, Philip Brown, Ben Spencer and Joshua Bland.

The Beavers have returned from the summer eager and ready for the new programme. They have enjoyed a variety of activities and Woodland Colony had an informative evening when P.C. Jones visited. Well done to our Beaver Challenge team – Joe Craggs, Joe Lapworth, , Timmy Ford, Sammy McGee, Liam Griffin and Ian Ensor who all worked hard and gained third place.

Christmas is just around the corner and we would like to ask everyone's help to launch 'Operation Christmas'. You should receive a leaflet with this letter explaining all about the appeal. We are not asking you to fill a shoebox yourselves but to help by supplying one or a few contributions. The Beavers would like to send at least one girl and one boy box for a Beaver-age child. If you can help in any way, or would like to donate a small amount of money for us to purchase a gift on your behalf, we would be very grateful. If you want further details, Ali will be pleased to help, Thank you in anticipation.

Lastly, Beavers will be closed on both the Monday and Friday of half-term this October.

CUBS have had a busy start to their autumn programmes. Good luck to both Conker teams at this week's District tournament.

Fosse Pack had a very interesting visit to the museum at the George Eliot Hospital. Cubs were shown how many germs were left on their hands, even after they had washed them. They had the opportunity to put together a skeleton as well as a model of the organs of the body. They also enjoyed looking at the old apparatus and instruments – the iron lung and amputation instruments were particularly popular! They are shortly to be visited by the 'Zoolab' when they will be able to learn about and see various insects and animals.

Cubs continue to work towards their challenge badges, having concentrated on home safety for their caring challenge.

Watling Pack members are also working towards their caring challenge. They appreciated a visit from one of their grandmothers who gave an interesting insight into the realities of shopping fifty years ago. Cubs were given the challenge of making one small chocolate bar last for more than a week which would have been their 'ration' in the middle of the last century – well done to those who managed to save their bar! They have considered home safety and the care of a pet over a period of time and the hard work of Andrew Sizer, Sam Waugh, Sam Murray, Daniel Warren, Charlee Brindley and Matthew Broom has been rewarded with all gaining pet care awards as they complete their caring challenge. Well done to them. Cubs enjoyed an evening of circus tricks when they discovered that juggling, spinning plates and riding trick cycles were not as easy as they looked! Thanks to Michael Bucknell for coming along to share these activities with us. Cubs are looking forward to a police station visit in the near future.

Watling Cubs say farewell to CRAIG GILCHRIST and SAM HAYNES and hope they enjoy their time with Scouts and welcome CHARLEE BRINDLEY and SAM HAMBRIDGE into the Pack.

SCOUTS are flourishing at the moment; both Troops enjoying a considerable increase in their numbers. Leaders continue to appeal for additional help on Tuesday and Friday evenings especially now that several of our network Scouts, who are always willing to come along and assist at meetings, have started their University careers. Tuesday troop is really pleased to welcome Andrew Haggie who has offered to help on that evening.

Friday Troop has invested JAMES ENSOR and TOM HARRIS. Welcome to them.

Scouts have just returned from a very successful weekend camp in Leicestershire. They had lovely weather for an enjoyable day's hike in Bradgate Park on Saturday.

EXPLORERS have participated in two camps recently. A number travelled to North Wales to join a District camp at Shell Island in September and at the beginning of this month, six members joined a unit of Explorers from Cardiff to hold a joint camp at Blackwell Court. They have been rafting (on their self-built rafts!), visited Laser Quest, staged a scavenger hunt and are preparing to take part in the District Quiz next month.

NETWORK SCOUTS hope to commence a regular programme of meetings and trust that those who have left for University will retain their membership and join us for the usual activities in the holidays. They hope, for instance, to hold their Christmas party at Fox Covert on Saturday 20 December. Meanwhile we send with them, and with those who have taken a gap year and are off on their travels, the Group's best wishes for a successful and enjoyable time away. Good luck to you all.....

LEADERS APPEAL TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BORROWED CAMPING AND WALKING EQUIPMENT OVER THE SUMMER, TO RETURN ALL ITEMS WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED! We are looking particularly for the return of stoves, compasses and even tents. PLEASE find, clean up and return anything you borrowed – we really cannot afford to replace equipment unnecessarily.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – Sunday, 9 November

As the Premier Group in the District, we will be **LEADING THE PARADE**. We therefore need a very big turn out from ALL sections on the day. Please put the date in your diary now and be prepared to meet at the Co-op car park, Abbey Street, at 10.15 in full uniform (with a warm layer underneath) ready to march to the Memorial in the park.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Another of our popular **SKITTLES EVENINGS** has been organised for Saturday 22 November at 7.00 p.m. There will be two alleys. Supper will be provided. Bring your own drinks and glasses. The cost will be £4 per adult, £3 per child and £12 per family. For catering purposes and as we need to limit the numbers to about 80, please contact Carol Cottrell (76387375) or Sandra Parker (76328738) before the date, if you would like to join us.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to all those who have paid September subs promptly. There are only a few outstanding. Due to significant increases in the capitation payment we will be asked to pay to Scout Headquarters in January, the Group feels it necessary to increase the subscription next year. A quarterly payment of £20 for all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and an annual payment of £25 for Network Scouts, will bring Weddington Scouts more into line with the amounts charged by other Groups in the District and enable us to face our outgoings more realistically. Meanwhile the completion of **GIFT AID FORMS** by so many of our tax-payer parents will also help to supplement our funds at a time when income has been lost to us as we no longer rent the building on a regular basis. So many thanks for your co-operation with this and those who have not yet responded, will be asked again! Once you have completed the form, there is nothing else for you to do.

We are currently finalising dates for a **CAROL CONCERT** in December, a Group Christmas Party (24 January 2004), Scout winter Camp (February 2004) Group Camp (early July 2004) and Summer Camp (17-24 July 2004). So watch for details of these.

FINALLY, the Group congratulates our acting Group Scout Leader, **DOUG SHORTER**, on celebrating 50 continuous years of association with Weddington Scouts. Doug joined the Group as a cub in 1953, when 11th Nuneaton was just 3 years old. An evening of reminiscences was organised last month to mark the occasion, and to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work and dedication given to the Group over these years by Doug and indeed fellow Scout leader **GAZ COTTERILL**, who has worked with him for most of this time. Thanks to you both.