



## GROUP NEWS

September 2010



### Jumble Sale

We need some kind helpers to assist with the forthcoming Jumble Sale at the Scout Hall. We are looking for drivers to help collecting Jumble on Friday 10th September 6.30pm at the Scout Hall, A car or van would be very useful. We also require help on the morning of Saturday 11th September 10am-12noon selling the Jumble, clearing up afterwards and to take the remainder of the Jumble to the Tip ! If you can help at all, even if it is only for an hour, then please call **Caron Wheeler** 676021

We really need your support.

**JUMBLE SALES: Saturday 11th & 25th September**

### News from the GSL

Hope you all had a good summer holiday.

**SCOUT HALL** – I would like to thank Mums, *Jo Belsten, Sarah Hemsley* and *Debbie Brennan* who have repainted the porch. Sarah Conacher who has re-painted the Tomlin Room features being the Gryphon and Scout badge and some wording, please make sure you have a look, to compliment this I have painted the Tomlin in white so it is now a bright room we can use for training. There are still various jobs that need to be done so volunteers would be most welcome.

*Erica Hunter* **GSL**

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service at Stubbings Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 3.20pm, we hope that all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders will make the effort to attend this special service. If youngster attends it will count towards the “MY Faith” part of your progressive badge. Families of our members are also invited to attend our special service. More details will be sent out via section meetings

\* \* \* \*

### BEAVER NEWS



Welcome back Beavers, hope you had a fabulous summer holiday. Beavers is kicking off this term with an 'international' theme, throughout the term we will be learning about different cultures, trying some international food, organising a couple of trips to local sights as well as our traditional fireworks night, Halloween party and Beaver Christmas Banquet. So I hope you've all enjoyed a restful summer holidays and are rearing to go!

A date for your diary: Harvest Festival is on the 26th September at Stubbings Church, the Beavers decorate the PG Wheelbarrow for this event so it would be lovely to see you all there.

Hathi (Catherine Weeks).

\* \* \* \*

### CUB NEWS

NO REPORT

\* \* \* \*



### SCOUT NEWS

**Summer Holidays** - The Scouts continued to meet during the Summer Holidays, special thanks goes to Bob and the other leaders and helpers for running these troop meetings.

**Friday 10th September** - Special Troop Meeting, check your email, Thursday before, for instructions of where to meet.

**Harvest Festival** – Can we remind all Scouts that we are holding a Harvest Festival Service again at Stubbings Church on Sunday 26th September, 3.20pm. We hope that all Scouts will be able to attend this special service.

**PL Training Course** – Saturday 9th October reminder to those APL's & Older Scouts who have not already attended, a District PL Training course. The Troop will pay the course fee. Places limited. The course is being held at Cookham Scout Hall. Contact Simon ASAP for more info.



**Cycle Orienteering Event** – Sunday 10th October, 12noon. This year's event will be off road, any Scout who has a roadworthy bike, cycle helmet can take part. **HELP** due to a shortage of Troop Leaders. **We URGENTLY are looking for HELP** with this event – Please contact Simon as soon as possible for more details.

**JOTI / JOTA** – [Jamboree On The Air & Jamboree On The Internet] Plans are underway again to hold this event again at the Scout Hall over the weekend 16th-17th October 2010. We are looking for older Scouts and young leaders to help organise this event as well as parents and friends – if you are able to help please contact Simon ASAP. We will be doing the Cub and Scout Communicators badge, again at this event.

## SUMMER CAMP – Hampshire

Forty plus members of the Troop attended this year's camp the first couple of weeks of the summer holidays in Hampshire. We managed to, despite the internet connection problems, to update the PG web site [www.pgscouts.org.uk](http://www.pgscouts.org.uk) nearly every day we were at camp, with photos of the activities and events we did.

Congratulations go to **Panthers** - PL Kieran Patel, on winning the Cooking competition. Plus **Eagles**, PL Jordan Day-Hunt, won the Camp competition with 3408 points. 2nd were Cobras, 3rd Falcons, 4th Swifts, 5th Panthers & 6th Lions.

**I would like to thank Alan. Hoskins, Rob Ayre** for driving the lorries; Andy Rankin for driving his box van; Dave Chesterman for coming down to camp, to judge the Scouts Cooking Competition. *All the parents and friends for helping with photocopying & binding the camp booklet and supplying various items for Camp, and unloading the lorries after a long camp.* I would also like to thank all the other parents and friends who helped us this year with donations and time.



**A Special thank you** goes to the following leaders and helpers, who camped for the whole Camp; **Mark Courtier and Alex Robins** plus the leaders and helpers, **Bob Weingarth, John Bannerman, Chris Parker, Matt Weingarth, Toby Ayre, Robert Stroud, Nicolette Smith, Rob Ayre** plus dad **Edmund Otun** who were able to help for part of the camp.

*Simon Wheeler, Scout Leader, August 2010*

*The following report was written by a Scout Dad who came and helped at the second week of camp:*

As a parent of a young scout and not being actively in scouting for over 40 years, I was filled with trepidation and uncertainty as to what I had let myself in for. As it turned out, I can happily say that I was pleasantly surprised and impressed. The camp was well organised and the scouts exhibited impressive discipline and good behaviour.

My week at camp started with a flurry of activity as my job for the week was as driver. Apparently driving licences nowadays do not cover trailers or minibuses without additional testing. I therefore volunteered. I remember when driving licences were little booklets and fuel was rationed. Enough said. My first job was to load the trailer and go on the scrounge for fire wood which was apparently in short supply. I was amazed at the generosity shown by the other parents and some local businesses (St. David stores and Travis Perkins).

The short journey to camp was uneventful until I had to negotiate the narrow country lanes which led to the campsite. It was only due to my blind faith in my GPS that I ventured on to them towing 2 tons of wood, gas cylinders and batteries (for Simon's laptop). As we climbed a hill the track got narrower and there was no chance of turning round. As I drove over the brow of the hill the landscape opened up into the valley with the campsite nestling against a large wood.

A couple of cups of tea later the trailer was unloaded and I set about erecting my tent. It was then that I realised that I really wasn't prepared for a week under canvas. I was surrounded by the veritable cathedrals of canvas which was the camp which made my tent pail into insignificance particularly in comparison to what is affectionately called "The Village Hall" (Simon's tent). It seemed alright when I put it up in the garden. Anyway, in the best scouting tradition I soldiered on and put up with it.



The camp came alive at about 7 o'clock in the morning and the scouts in their respective patrols cooked breakfast on open wood fires and I was delegated to accompany a leader to have breakfast which I must say was quite delicious. The evening meal was arranged in a similar manner and I was always impressed by the level of culinary skills in camp fire cooking. Suffice to say I ate well.

During the day a number of activities were arranged such as camp sports, various challenges and an overnight hike. The Scouts never got a chance to get bored. I was very impressed with the general scouting skills exhibited during the hike, particularly those of navigation and teamwork, skills that will serve them well in later life. A visit to the naval dockyards at Portsmouth was organised which included a visit to the museum, The Victory and a boat trip round the harbour.

Each patrol was inspected by the leaders on numerous times a day with military precision and marks allotted accordingly. The results were posted on a notice board outside the main pavilion tent. The patrols were all very competitive and I couldn't fail to notice the interest shown by all the scouts in the successes of their respective patrols.

It was inevitable that accidents would happen, and they did. Thankfully they were all minor and could quite adequately have been dealt with using the comprehensive first aid kit on site. Nevertheless a few visits to the local A&E department were made.

All in all I had a thoroughly enjoyable and relaxing time and I am looking forward to the next camp if they will have me. Simon and the other leaders who organise this year after year deserve a very special thank you, after all without their efforts we would lose the scouting skills and traditions and deprive future generations of young people of what I believe are character building outdoor activities which I enjoyed as a child and I believe helped me become the person I am today.

*Edmund Otun Scout Dad & Driver*