

# Buckingham & Winslow District Annual Report

2007 – 2008



**Robin Hood Beavers Fun Day**



**District Scouts Expedition - Peak District**

# **BUCKINGHAM & WINSLOW DISTRICT SCOUTS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008**

### **Chairman's Report**

First I would like to report that since our last AGM, Paul Ketteridge was persuaded to take on the role as DC. His many years in Scouting have proved to be of great value. It's good to see how competent he has mastered the admin, and being what I would call a "peoples" person, he handles individuals and the District Team well.

Another change has been John Robins, who has been the Fellowship Chairman since its inauguration, has stepped aside. Many thanks John for all you have done.

Now the next pleasing news is Peter Frohock has taken on the Fellowship Chairman's role and so I expect the Fellowship to develop further under his guidance.

What is also pleasing is the lively team of leaders in Marsh Gibbon, after "threatening" last year to start a Cub Pack they have now done so.

Cubs were also re-established at Swanbourne House School; also a Scout Troop has been formed at Steeple Claydon. Well done all of you involved in this good news.

Scouting is doing fine in our District. Can I ask you all to now try and train all Sections to achieve their top awards. We will then be rewarded with a new generation of young people who will keep our ideals to the forefront of their lives and to those around them.

I wholeheartedly thank all you leaders and supporters for your great efforts.

**John Russell**  
**District Chairman**

## **District Commissioners Report**

In October last year the County Commissioner asked me to take on the role of DC for Buckingham & Winslow District. I have been encourage by the support I have received from my new District Team, the District Executive, Group Scout Leaders and Leaders.

This is a strong District with ten Scout Groups comprising 7 Beaver Colonies, 9 Cub Packs and 7 Scout Troops not to mention our District Explorer Unit and the Scout Fellowship. Our census figures last January showed growth, with our total numbers increasing.

In November last year we saw the formation of Cubs at Marsh Gibbon; January saw the formal inauguration and return of Cubs to Swanbourne House School and in July a Scout Troop was started in Steeple Claydon for Cubs to move on to.

On the negative side some Scout Groups are missing a section or two due to a lack of Leaders for the Beaver, Cub or Scout Sections. The need for more Leaders and more adult support has always been an issue within this movement and it is something I am trying to address in consultation with the GSLs and the Executive.

We have seen a number of inquiries this year for Beaver places in Buckingham and across the District which has highlighted the need for an additional Beaver Colony in the Buckingham area.

Over the last year we have seen a number of successful District events.

The Scout activity weekend in the Peak District lead by David Bush. The District 24 hour Scout Challenge Weekend at Gt Moor Lake in June, run by the Scout Leaders. Congratulations to Gt Horwood who won the Challenge Trophy.

The Beaver Scout 'Robin Hood' Fun Day at the Quarries Scout Camp Site at the end of June for over 70 Beavers, lead by Tin Flegg with the support of our Fellowship. Well done Steeple Claydon Beavers who won the Funday Shield.

In July the District Orienteering Competition in Winslow saw 75 Cubs & Scouts NOT losing their way round Winslow. Thanks to Roger Williams for organising the event.

In the last 12 months 8 Leaders have completed their Leader Training and have been awarded their Wood Badge. Well Done. It is pleasing to record that nearly all Leaders in this District are taking advantage of the Leader Training available to them.

On the Public Relations side I would like thank Roger Williams and other Leaders who have successfully submitted reports to our local paper.

Finally I would like to express thanks not only to members of the District Team and Executive for their work throughout the year but to every Leader in every Scout Group of this District without whom there would be no Scouting for our young people to experience. To all of you a very special thanks.

**Paul Ketteridge**  
District Commissioner

## District Reports

### Phoenix District Scout Explorer Unit

Explorer Scouts was a lot quieter in 2007-2008, mainly as the Leaders recovered from New Zealand at the end of 2007. (Claire Stewart gave up most of her recovery time giving Birth to Frazier)

The Explorer Scouts activities that have stuck in my mind are Archery, (lots of Explorers thought they were Robin Hood, but the Sheriff of Nottingham would have been 100% safe); Pimp my Chocolate (which involved making chocolate better), Making a 12 by 4 inch Kit Kat and a Plate sized Jaffa cake; Climbing at Green Park; Night Hikes; Camp cooking and lots more. Our Summer Camp was a lot closer to home this year – we went to Longridge in Marlow and tried lots of water activities.

As well as the "Normal" Explorer Scout meetings this year we ran a few "Young Leader Training Modules". We ran Module A with the all the Explorer Scouts so they all learnt about POR and yellow card and the rules of Scouting. The other modules are a lot more interesting, the 1 evening that sticks in my mind are Module B Taking the Lead (Styles of Leadership) were we tried doing an activity (Breaking the Flag) using different leadership styles. Note: Breaking the Flag with passive or democratic leadership does not work to well.

2007-2008 was a good year for Explorer Scouts

**Martyn Smith**

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

### Scout Section

We started the year with the District climbing, walking and cycling weekend in the Peak District. We had thirty Scouts from the Scout and Explorer sections taking part in this annual event, which was greatly enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the Leaders and the team of instructors, who gave up there time to run this weekend.

In October we held the District Swimming Gala. There were a disappointing number of teams entered, but the ones attending enjoyed it. The District quiz was held in November and the contestants enjoyed a fish and chip supper. Congratulations to all those who took part, we hope to see more of you this year.

The main event for the year 2008 was the District Challenge in June, which was organised by a group of leaders and I would like to thank them all, for the hard work that they put in. A special thank you to Roger from Tingewick, who spearheaded the team.

The weekend was a great success, apart from the weather which curtailed the water activities with very high winds and the large waves, but in the true scouting sprit the young people made the best of it and enjoyed all the activities and challenges. Thanks go to Great Moor Sailing Club for allowing us to use their facilities and to David Childs for arranging it.

My thanks to all the Leaders, who work so hard for the young people they look after. Without them Scouting, which I think is more relevant today than it has ever been, would not happen.

**David Bush**  
ADC Scouts

## **Beaver Scouts**

I have had a warm welcome from all the Colonies in our District on my visits. The Colonies have lots of fun activities and long waiting lists.

The Leaders are all doing or have completed their training, which gives the Beavers the best introduction into Scouting. We have held District Leaders Meetings to discuss the Leaders needs in the District, they have included everything from the support for recruitment, training, district activities, the new programmes due to start in Jan 2009, to County and District fun days.

I am pleased to say that we held a Beaver Robin Hood fun day this year that was well attended by 82 Beavers from across the District. The activities included making Robin Hood hats, medallions, puppets, swords and shields, and water balloon bursting. All were enthusiastically run by our District Scout Fellowship. The Quarries Archery instructors ran archery, in the castle archery range. All activities were very well helped on and supported by Milton Keynes, Great Ouse Explorer Scouts. Thanks to everyone who put in so much work to make this event such a success. There was a Beaver Fun Day Trophy on the day won by Steeple Claydon so well done to them. We also had a letter from the Chief Scout wishing us a good day, a copy was made for all the Colonies and a badge was commissioned for the event that all Beavers and Leaders can wear on their uniforms. (Some Robin Hood badges still available to buy at reduced rate of £1)

Some of our Beavers have done really well in getting their Chief Scouts Bronze Award, the highest award a Beaver Scout can get, so congratulations to all of them for all their hard work and I hope see you all at the County presentations.

We have some new leaders joining the Colonies around the District, a Colony restarting and the possibility of another new Colony opening. We will be pleased to talk to and/or welcome adults interested in becoming leaders or helpers because the demand for Beaver Scouting is always on the increase. So if you would like to know more about what it all involves then please feel free to have a chat.

**Tina Flegg**

**ADC Beavers, Silver Birch**

## **Leader Training**

During the last year 8 Leaders have completed their Leader Training and have been awarded their Wood Badge. A further number of Leaders have completed various Training Modules and many Leaders are now ready for validation of their Training.

All GSLs are being encouraged to support Leader Training and become involved in the validating modules undertaken by their Leaders.

Currently, in the District 40 Leaders hold a Wood Badge. However Leaders must remember that when they change their appointment they need to consider what additional training they may require for their new responsibilities. This is a polite reminder to all Leaders to please bring your training in line with the current responsibility.

The training dates for 2009 have now been published and Leaders are encourage to book onto courses. Modules can be completed by 'one to one' training and in a small group if this is more suitable to a Leader's personal circumstances. If this approach is desired then this should be discussed with your GSL and the DC.

**Pat Pullinger**

**Local Training Manager.**

## **Winbuk Scout Fellowship**

The Fellowship has had a fairly quite year this year. We have changed our normal meeting the 1st Thursday of the month.

November was a quiz evening, December found us planning the events for the next year (2008) and January was the annual Xmas Dinner !

In February we had a guest speaker from the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth - no they did not bring any exhibits so the Winslow HQ remained in one piece.

March and April were social evenings including planning for the Beaver Fun Day event in July. In May we held our AGM at which John Robbins stood down as Chairman.

June saw us at evening meeting at Towcester races. A great time was had by all and as usual the only winners were the bookmakers!

In July we ran a number of events at the Robin Hood Beaver Fun Day at the Quarries. Hard work but great fun and we all enjoyed the opportunity to play a supporting role in District Scouting. Our thanks to Tina ADC Beavers for her leadership and encouragement.

Our annual August BBQ was this year a very wet and soggy. In September I was approved as the new Chairman and we took time to take stock and look at what our goals should be.

Finally on behalf of all of the members of the Fellowship I would like to say a big thank you to John Robbins for all of the hard work he put in during his time as our Chairman – (some 9 years we think). Without him we would not have a Fellowship, I only hope a can do equally as well.

**Peter Frohock**  
Fellowship Chairman.

## Group Reports

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Buckingham Scout Group

This last twelve months has seen 3<sup>rd</sup> Buckingham achieve a number of notable successes:

- Increase and stabilise the size of the Scout Troop
- Increase the size of the Beaver Colony to the point that it is currently running at maximum capacity with 24 members
- Introduce girls into both the Cub and Scout sections
- Increase the number of parents who are regularly helping and supporting the work of the sections
- Win the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Buckingham's Christmas Parade (Youth Section) with our Dr Who float
- Have a wonderful time at the Beaveree at Cosgrove

We have also learnt more about ourselves most notably:

- To be successful in orienteering – map reading skills are helpful/essential - District Scout Orienteering Competition
- If all else fails – just do your best – our approach in the District Swimming Gala (Scouts)
- It is possible to cook a really tasty meal over an open fire in the middle of a green field site where none of you have ever done it before (Troop Camp 2008 – Dorset)
- Crate Stacking is not as easy as it looks – Phasels Wood – Group Camp 2008

**Sarah Vinson**  
Group Scout Leader

### 1<sup>st</sup> Granborough Scout Group

We have had a good start to the new term having set out at the end of last term to try and increase our numbers. We had great success with the Beaver section and now have 26 boys attending with several on the waiting list. Unfortunately, we were not so successful with Cubs but have 13 boys at present. We are still without a Scout section.

Beavers enjoyed a varied and active programme last year, the highlight being a visit to Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes; this enabling Beavers to gain their Personal Safety badge. They also attended the Beaver Day and a great time was had by all.

Cubs have attained Art and Fitness Challenges, Map-Reader and Astronomer badges. They are hoping to attend Cub Camp next year.

Due to shortage of Leaders, Beaver and Cub Leaders have combined their evenings and both Leaders run a joint evening with Beavers meeting first, followed by Cubs. Although this makes for a long evening, it seems to be working well.

We have been asked by Whitchurch Royal British Legion to join in their Remembrance Day Service at Oving Church this year and we hope for a good turnout.

**Sheila Lodge**  
Group Scout Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Great Horwood Scout Group**

The Group has 16 Scouts about half-approaching Explorer Scout age, 16 Cubs and 10 Beavers.

During the last year the Scouts have been active in pursuing traditional scouting activities including pioneering, local hikes, improving map reading skills and making use of our own indoor climbing wall.

The Scouts took part in the District Challenge Weekend in June and were please to find themselves winners of the District Challenge Trophy.

It is encouraging that the Patrol Leaders play major part in planning activities with the opportunity to learn skills as young leaders and with the encouragement to progress on to being Explorer Scouts.

The Cubs have enjoyed a varied programme during the year including learning to use British Sign Language as part of their communication Badge making periscopes for their science badge and achieving a fitness challenge. They have had an evening's archery at the Quarries and at Christmas held a charity fund raising evening.

The Beavers have had an active programme with a variety of events base around our meeting place. In the summer the Beavers undertook a charity sponsored event.

Our Joint Scout Guide Committee continues to support us and the Gt Horwood Brownies and Rainbows. In May we held a joint Open Day to publish our need for Beaver and Brownie leaders and for a Group Scout Leader. While a very successful and well-supported occasion we only achieved recruiting new Brownies Leaders

Our prime concern at present is to ensure that the Beaver Colony continues into 2009 as present leaders at standing down.

**Alan Fletcher**    **Justin Daley**    **Chris Bryant**  
Scout Leader      Cub Leader      Beaver Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Winslow Scout Group**

Demand for Scouting in Winslow is strong and all sections are running to capacity and we have a full team of Leaders and a very strong supporting team behind them.

Finance has been the focus of our attention over the last year since our Playgroup tenants moved to their new HQ. We have raised funds to meet the cost of certain capital expenses and necessary re-furbishment of our meeting place and we are extremely encouraged by the support we have received.

However, we have taken the view that the running costs of the HQ must be raised within the Group so appropriate changes have been made to subscriptions to increase revenue income.

We have been granted the use of a corner of the recreation field and we will start using this area for tent pitching and other activities towards the end of 2008.

Thanks should go to the Town Council for their foresight in allowing us this useful increase to our working area.

**David Childs**  
Group Scout Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Maids Moreton Scout Group**

Currently we operate two separate sections. Both sections have had an excellent and successful year; congratulations and thanks go to the Leaders who have made this possible with so little support.

Mark Payne was appointed Group Scout Leader in January and it has been useful for the Leaders to have regular meetings as a Group.

Looking forward we are establishing a Beaver Colony and this will give us the ability to offer Scouting to boys and girls from 6 to 14½ years.

### **Cub Pack**

We have had another successful year with 24 invested Cubs. One warranted leader assists me for half a term along with regular parent helpers. While this works well more leaders would be great!

Last year we went orienteering, and attended the Funday at Braids Wood. Tingewick Scouts also organized an incident Hike for the Cubs, which they really enjoyed as it, involved lots of water !! For the future we are going to attend the District camp and Sian and I hope to organize a camp and get our Nights Away permits. We are going to be attending the orienteering in Wendover Woods again.

### **Scout Troop**

The last 12 months have been another amazing year for the Scouts. Our numbers have been capped at 30 but this will be reviewed in the light of another new leader, Doug.

This time last year we returned to the Scout Hut, our programme continued with SCUBA diving, Morse code and signalling, work on knots and pioneering. We entered the town Guy competition and didn't win a sausage (trumped by 3<sup>rd</sup> Maids Moreton Brownies!!). We did cook sausages for the bonfire held by the Playing Fields Committee.

We entered District swimming gala and Quiz and put teams into the junior and senior sections of the Grimsdyke hike. We received a visit to the Scout hut from Father Christmas who we promptly attached to a pulley and hoisted him to the rafters.

2007 ended with the Buckingham Christmas parade, cold and wet and we only won a third prize. Our Christmas party was at Quarries, to which we invited Tingewick Scouts.

2008 got off to a flying start with the annual Christmas Tree collecting, fund-raising event. We collected about 65 trees from around Page Hill and Maids Moreton and raised about £135 for Scout funds after all our costs were accounted for.

The year continued with a programme of events including camp cooking, emergency aid badge work, the environment badge and a number of night hikes. We entered teams in the Quest hike event run by 2<sup>nd</sup> Amersham and gained some respectable placings.

After Easter, we left the Scout hut and moved our base of activities to the field in Akeley. The summer term saw us climbing, shelter-building, fire-lighting, sailing and rafting, doing archery and finally undertaking a bike hike around the area.

The autumn term begins with a planned trip to Hathersage for some. In the spring of 2009 we plan for the Troop to walk the 68 miles of the Bernwood Jubilee Way around Buckinghamshire. This is being organised by the older Scouts and local Explorers.

**Mark Payne**  
Group Scout Leader

**Claire Groves**  
Cub Leader

**Vincent McDonagh**  
Scout Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Marsh Gibbon Scout Group**

The 1st Marsh Gibbon group has progressed steadily since re-starting in February 2007.

I am pleased to report that we have maintained a full compliment of 24 Beaver Scouts across the age range and also have an active Cub Pack with a compliment of 21.

We could easily have filled all the Cub places but we have managed the numbers to accommodate Beaver Scouts that will be moving on within the next few months. I have also been pleased to see that we have recently gained a new uniformed leader to assist with the Cubs and one more regular helper. This brings our uniformed leader compliment to five with two regular helpers.

In July this year there was a very successful Cub Camp at Braggers Wood Scout Site where almost the full contingent of Cubs attended. This was very well organised by the Cub Leaders Elliott Timms and Debbie Cross and the children experienced The Climbing Wall, Archery, Kayaking, Raft Building and a visit to "Meet the Navy" at The Historical Shipyards in Portsmouth. The camp lasted for three nights (under canvas) and for many of the children this represented the first time they had ever camped. The support for the event by parents was outstanding. Unfortunately due to the Weather the planned "Family Beaver Camp" was cancelled but we will arrange an alternative event early next year.

It has also been our great pleasure to see that six of our Beaver Scouts have achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Award and will be attending a presentation ceremony at Aylesbury on the 2nd November.

Looking forward, it is our wish to start a Scouts Troop at Marsh Gibbon in the latter half of 2009 if we can develop the numbers and arrangements of Leaders to accommodate the extra responsibilities.

**Andy Hunter**  
Group Scout Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Steeple Claydon Scout Group**

Firstly we would like to thank the Leaders, committee and the parents for their support and efforts during the past year that has made this one of the most successful years of Scouting in the village for a long time.

We re-started the 1<sup>st</sup> Steeple Claydon Scout Troop in June and have girls in all sections this year with Scouts leading the way but both Beavers & Cub having had a girl trying out and saying they will be back, but still early days.

We increased the number of Leaders involved this year and will be continuing to recruit so we can share the effort further across all sections. We are very close to having our target of 2 warranted Leaders in each section, and our longer-term aim is to have 3 or 4 so that the load is shared. All the Leaders, and some of our Young Leaders, have been undergoing training this year and we are making every effort to ensure that this continues & that the individual efforts and experience are recognised.

We still need to replace the scout hut - thanks to Richard for his efforts so far in this area – we need to raise about £2000 to be able to remove & dispose of the existing shed as well as replacing it with a new one. We hope to do this in the same place as the current one.

Although we did not manage to get out camping we seemed to be very busy. In April the Cubs enjoyed the 'Cubs Try It Day' at Braid Wood, and in June the Beavers attending the Robin Hood Day at the Quarries Camp site and managed to be the first Colony to win the Beaver Funday Trophy.

Meanwhile in the village this year we had entries in the Christmas Tree Festival at the church in December, we won the Village Guy Group competition and had a good presence at the Wild West Village Fayre both in the parade and fund raising afterwards.

A good year and we are looking to match & pass in the year to come.

**Jay Vignoles**  
Group Scout Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Stewkley Scout Group**

It's now been a year since Stewkley moved into its new Scout headquarters and what a difference a year makes. The first thing that is really noticeable is the identities of the Sections are taking shape. In the past, at the end of every meeting everything had to be cleared away and now things get left out and each Section is able to see what the others are doing. It is really interesting to see those who have come up through the Sections relating back and remembering when they did things in either the Beavers or Cubs.

With the land attached to the building we are able to do so many more things and it's interesting to watch the reactions of some of the younger children when we do things like cooking over an open fire, they are completely mesmerised and it is quite clear that we are giving them chances to do things they would not normally do.

All 3 Sections have a healthy membership and in some cases we have a waiting list of joiners and this is down to one key factor and that is sufficient leaders.

We have an active programme where the units drive towards a number of badges with the Scouts probably the most active in District and other external activities.

The Scouts took part in the annual water camp coming second this year after some interesting judging decisions but none the less had a great time. This year the Scouts were even more adventurous and took their summer camp in Guernsey and had a fantastic time. They probably had the week that we called summer and for the first time had to be concerned about sun burn rather than wet rot. Gail did a fantastic job in arranging so many varied activities the Troop are asking, can go back again next year.

Lastly it goes without saying that if it wasn't for the Leaders, helpers and committee we would not be in existence. We have some very dedicated people who have been associated with the Group, in some cases for over 20 years. The Executive Committee do a fantastic job in raising funds for us to keep going and trying new things all the time.

**Steven Wass**  
Group Scout Leader

## **Swanbourne House School**

The Cub Pack opened in the autumn of 2007 with three Leaders and 18 Cubs. Our formal investiture ceremony took place in January and was an exciting event with several District visitors including the District Commissioner and a number of parents.

We have had a busy year including trips to Hazard Alley, Archery at The Quarries and a visit to Winslow Fire Station. We went on a night walk and on a walk around historic Swanbourne. We had visits from a Morris Dancing group and the RNLI.

Activities have included baking, knot tying, fire building and a treasure hunt, campfires with singing and chocolate bananas and we had a successful overnight camp in the school grounds.

Badges gained include Safety in the Home, Reading, Equestrian, Artist and Athletics.

The year ended with a waiting list of 6 and some happy and well-satisfied children and parents.

**Elisabeth Eve**  
Cub Leader

## **1<sup>st</sup> Tingewick Scouts**

1<sup>st</sup> Tingewick Scout Troop continues to meet on Tuesday Evenings from 19:15 to 21:00, primarily at Tingewick Village Hall.

### **Troop Numbers**

The troop has been consistent with 14 scouts, 1 young leader and 2 leaders. with an average turn out of 12 per night and there are 3 young people who have expressed an interest in becoming young leaders/or Scouts and are on the general Tingewick Scout News Information E-mail service waiting for them to come of age to join the troop

### **The Past Year**

This has seen Troop active on all stages other than in the national arena. They have participated in County events such as the Grimsdyke Hikes, The Quest (Putting on an Activity for the first Time), The Water Camp (Returning with 3 of the 9 Raft Racing Certificates) and County Orienteering.

At the District level Tingewick has been represented at the Climbing and Walking weekend, the District Challenge Weekend and District Street Orienteering, combining at Troop level for, Walking and Christmas Party, The Quiz and Swimming Gala.

Within the Community, Tingewick Scouts have helped with Car Parking for the Village Open Gardens Weekend, joined other village organisations at the Village Fete and attended the Village Piano Smash.

At a Troop level they have been seed collecting and planting, pioneering, fire making, and carried out many other traditional activities. The Troop also put on a small evening incident hike for Maids Moreton Cubs, this is due to contacts via parents of Scouts and Cubs in each other's troops.

The Group has a Treasurer and Dedicated Person to ensuring Parental CRB Forms are completed, but few other Group Officials

### **The Leaders**

Roger is currently seeking re-affirmation of various Scout Held Qualifications, while Helen has commenced her leadership training and expects to complete further modules in 2008 / 09

### **The Future**

It would appear that the Troop numbers will hit 18 scouts (3 full patrols) during the next year. Unless additional leaders can be found the Troop will remain as 3 patrols although re-organisation within the Village Hall might provide potential for 4 patrols.

We have a planned visit to Kandersteg in May 2009 and so far 8 Scouts have signed up to go.

Much more benefit to the Troop would be achieved by the reforming of the Cub Pack. This was muted as an objective to our part time leaders, the seed has been sown, it just needs to sprout.

**Roger Williams**  
Scout Leader