



# SHEERWATER SCOUT GROUP



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2008**

# **SHEERWATER SCOUT GROUP**

## **GROUP SCOUT LEADER**

Lorely Trendall

## **BEAVERS**

Sophie Benham - Beaver Leader  
Janet Moore - Assistant Beaver Leader.

## **CUBS**

Neil Jones - Cub Leader  
John Chaves - Assistant Cub Scout Leader  
Miriam Mulvihill - Assistant Cub Scout Leader  
Martin Smith - Cub Pack Administrator  
Matthew Smith - Adult Helper

## **SCOUTS**

Kath Brown - Scout Leader  
Paul Gowen - Assistant Scout Leader  
Chris Potter - Assistant Scout Leader  
Joshua Coetzee - Assistant Scout Leader

## **GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Martin Brown - Group Chairperson  
Mary Smith - Treasurer  
James Towner - Secretary  
Paul Redwood - Group Administrator  
Scott Davis - Premises Manager  
Ken Taplin - Quartermaster,

Plus a Parent Representative from Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHEERWATER SCOUT  
GROUP HELD ON SATURDAY 12 MAY 2007 AT SHEERDALE**

**PRESENT** Martin Brown (Chairman), Lorely Trendall (Group Scout Leader), Mary Smith (Treasurer), Margaret Bruce (Secretary), leaders and approximately 50 parents and District officers.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 3.15pm.

**WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Fr Frank Harrington, Rev Peter Leonard, Sally Elder, Sheerwater Police Community Support Officer Neil Wilkinson, Margaret Bryan, Paul and Toni Truscott, Brian and Sue Moore, Linda Plunkett, Helen Gristwood, Sophie Benham, Neil Jones, the Holmes family.

**MINUTES OF THE 2006 AGM**

It was pointed out that Judith Canty's name was incorrectly spelt with an "e".  
The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT**

The Group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year had been special in many ways. Numbers had increased and there were girls and boys in all sections. The Wood Badge had been awarded to Alison Stubbs, Paul Gowen and Matthew Piercy for completing their leader training. Anniversary celebrations included an Anniversary Camp for the whole Group at Birchmere and parents camped or came along for the fun. A badge was created to commemorate the anniversary and was now worn on Group scarves. In October 2006 a grand reunion of past and present members was held at the HQ. All celebrations were memorable and showed Scouting in Sheerwater was thriving.

Three Group members - Alison Stubbs (ASL), Matthew Smith (Explorer Scout) and Alex Hovden (Scout) - had been selected to represent the Group and the County of Surrey at the World Jamboree in 2007. Thanks were extended to all who had helped in raising funds towards the cost of attending such a magnificent occasion. The three would represent the Group with great pride.

All Sections were flourishing and Lorely thanked the leaders for the varied and lively programmes they had organised and for their time and dedication to good Scouting in Sheerwater. Not only were there many camps, but also participation in District events. Lorely thanked the many people who undertook various jobs for the Group, not least Ken Taplin, the Group's Quartermaster, the leaders and members of the Group Executive. She urged parents not to leave the jobs to others, but to volunteer and join the team. The Group had had a very rewarding year and she looked forward to its continued success.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial year had ended with an increase of just over £2200 in the money held by the Group in cash and the bank. This figure only gave the position on one particular day and there were factors which made the apparent increase not all that it seemed. It was important to realise that the Accounts were an accumulation of the Section accounts and the Group accounts kept by the Treasurer.

Just under £1100 of the money in the bank was the result of fundraising and donations to the Jamboree Fund and was not available for Group use. There was about £800 in the Scouts bank account at 31 March which had been collected for their March camp. Expenditure on equipment was considerably higher this year, the Group having received a grant from "Awards for All" of £2150. Items purchased included a first aid tent, a special bed, jackets, pots and camping tables and items to improve accessibility for those in wheelchairs.

Capitation had been almost £400 more than last year due to more members and a higher rate per capita. Subs had recently been raised. It was important for parents to know that the only monies received by

the Treasurer were a proportion of subs (approx £4000 this year), Gift Aid (approx £700) and lettings: the latter had been very low this year. £2625 had gone directly to Woking District for capitation, leaving approx £2000 to run the HQ, etc. Gas, electricity, water, insurance, repairs and renewals had amounted to £2500, hence the necessity to raise subs.

The Treasurer concluded by thanking the Section treasurers for having their accounts ready in good time and invited questions from the floor. Niall Maynard asked if it would be possible to get another grant for next year. This was always something the Committee were exploring. Caroline Jones asked whether the boiler would soon be repaired. Lorely explained that the Group had not had the funds to do this, but it would have to be repaired somehow by September and an estimate would be obtained. The Chairman signed the Accounts.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Lorely thanked Martin for all he had done and nominated him to continue for a further year.

Approval was received from the meeting.

GSL: Martin proposed Lorely Trendall and the meeting approved this.

Secretary: Margaret Bruce was stepping down. Martin thanked her for her contribution, first as a Beaver Leader and then as Secretary. He was delighted to propose Martha Towner as Secretary and Kath Brown seconded the proposal.

Treasurer: Martin proposed Mary Smith, seconded by Janet Moore.

Lorely welcomed Mark John, District Training Manager, who had kindly stepped in at the last minute to represent the DC Margaret Bryan, who was unwell.

### **DC'S ADDRESS**

Mark John thanked the parents for attending the AGM and supporting Scouting; without such support the Group would not be as good as it was. He hoped they would continue to help. With regard to capitation, a proportion went to District, some to County and a further element to National Scouting, so everyone was supporting Scouting nationwide. He believed the Group was justifiably proud in sending its three members to the World Jamboree in Scouting's centenary year and he wished them every success. In addition, he wished the Group good luck and continued success for the next twelve months.

Before making his address, Martin proposed Tony Box as auditor of the Accounts; seconded by Mary Smith. In addition, the meeting's approval of the following nominations to the Executive Committee was requested and received:

Scout Representative: Sarah and Niall Maynard

Cub Scout Representative: Dave Brown

Beaver Representative: Anthony Holmes

Any parent wishing to help the Group in any way would be warmly welcomed.

### **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

Martin confirmed that it had been a very good year for Scouting in Sheerwater, with increasing membership and a wide range of activities at all levels. The financial picture had not been so good and it was important that the Committee should ensure that this did not impinge on Scouting activities in the coming year. He thanked everyone for their time and patience and hoped they would enjoy the BBQ, bouncy castle and various stalls that had been organised.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.45pm.**

# GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

The past twelve months have seen the Group go from strength to strength. The number of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts has increased with girls and boys in all sections.

## World Jamboree in 2007

Three members of the Group represented us and the County of Surrey at the World Jamboree in 2007, this time held in England; Alison Stubbs (Assistant Scout Leader), Matthew Smith (Explorer Scout and adult helper with the Cub Pack) and Alex Hovden (Scout). They all had an experience they will never forget, including meeting Peter Duncan the Chief Scout.



We said farewell to Matthew Piercy (Akela) in December and to Alison Stubbs and Jenny Hamm (Assistant Scout Leaders) in July. We thank them for all their support for the Group and hope they will return to help in the future.

We said farewell to Margaret Bruce, who retired after many years as a Beaver Leader and then Group Secretary. We thank her for all the support she gave to the Group over many years.

Thanks must go to Martha and James Towner who have taken over the Group Secretary's role since September.

## The Beaver Colony

Sophie Benham (Beaver Leader) is running the Colony ably assisted by Janet Moore. Thanks must also go to all the parents who help, on a weekly rota and to regular Explorer Scout Helpers.

The colony is now full, with a healthy waiting list, all of whom will be given the chance to join. The Colony has a very active programme and the Beavers enjoy their meetings.

Congratulations to you all on a very successful year.



## The "Lions" Cub Pack

Neil Jones became the "Akela" in January and is running the Pack ably assisted by John Chaves, Miriam Mulvihill, and Matthew and Martin Smith, with tremendous parental support.

The Cub programme is very varied and lively and it is obvious that the Cubs enjoy their Pack meetings and the Camps.

Thank you for all your dedication to good Cub Scouting in Sheerwater, and to another very rewarding year.



## The Scout Troop

Kath Brown our Scout Leader is running the Scout Troop ably assisted by Paul Gowen, Chris Potter and Joshua Coetzee, who joined the Scout team as a leader in July.

The Troop has regular help from the Explorer Scouts, who Kath encourages to return to help once they have been with Explorers for six months. Parental involvement with Troop activities is encouraged.



The Scout Troop is a credit to the Group. The Leaders provide a very full Scouting programme, participate in all District events and organise regular Scout Camps, which includes a Summer Camp.

## **Fund Raising**

We need to set up a Fund Raising Committee to raise funds for the Group.

Do you have a talent, for running a Jumble Sale, Race Night, Car Boot, Bag Packing, Table Top Sales or anything else you can do. **We need your help!**

Please volunteer, the Group does need your help. The more you can raise the less the increase in the termly subscriptions. Please see me after the meeting.

## **Conclusion**

Many people undertake jobs in the Group, whether it be cleaning, lawn mowing, clearing leaves, etc, and all help is appreciated. So if you don't have a job, come and volunteer. We have lots of one off jobs that we need help with.

Every hour of support encourages the Leaders to do more for your boys and girls, so please don't leave it to others, support your children as they progress through the Group.

May I take this opportunity to thank Ken Taplin, our Group Quartermaster, who looks after the Group Equipment. To Scott Davis our Premises Manager, who organised the redecoration of the main hall in the Headquarters and who has taken over the maintenance of the premises. Please let me know if you have skills we can use to save the Group money on maintenance issues.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank every one of the Leaders and the Members of the Group Executive Committee, who do so much to ensure the success of the Group.

Sheerwater Scout Group has had a very successful and rewarding year, and I look forward to the continued success of the Group.

**LORELY TRENDALL  
GROUP SCOUT LEADER.**

## Sheerwater Scout Troop Annual Report 2007 – 2008

I can only describe this last year as one which has stretched our leadership skills somewhat! I haven't yet hit 40 scouts (I haven't hit any of them!) but it's close, very close. Unfortunately my increase in young people has been met with a net decrease in leaders – I have 3 Assistants, plus 2 Young Leaders.

Despite this and an increase in my paid workload and hours, I think we have managed to provide a challenging and interesting programme.

2007 was a great year for Scouting and we continued on from where we left off last AGM. In the May half-term we had a week long camp in Dorset, returning to Buddens camp site. It certainly wasn't good camping weather, with torrential rain and gale force winds, but we ran a busy programme, with a trip to Brownsea Island, an afternoon at Splashdown in Poole, onsite activities, patrol cooking (record 90 minutes to boil water it was so windy!) and surfing! The highlight for me was 2 hours surfing at Bournemouth where the sea temperature was warmer than on land – although we had to wait for my toes to regain feeling before I could drive the minibus back! The weather improved towards the end of the week, with sunshine for our coastal path hike to Swanage and a dry strike.



Our goal for the summer was to give as many scouts as possible the chance to take part in a back to basics patrol camp, spending the weekend cooking on wood and concentrating on simple skills, such as the importance of pitching a patrol tent properly and how to fry sausages so I get lots of \*BCBs.

Sadly our planned Sunrise all-nighter couldn't go ahead due to a lack of interest and support, but a small group of us had a fantastic daytrip to the World Scout Jamboree, meeting Scouts from all over the world and getting a taster of some of the activities the lucky participants could do.

In September Josh turned 18 and joined the team as an adult leader. All of the warranted leaders now have Nights Away permits, so we can all organise camps. We had 20 scouts for a decidedly chilly November camp on Box Hill. However it is time and work which mean we haven't been able to run more camps so far this year. We have however taken part in District events, as well as helping run them. Teams have taken part in the night hike, the lightweight competition and the Brecon Challenge. All the older scouts taking part have gained their Expedition challenge badge.



However our main focus over the next few months has to be our summer camp. We are going overseas for the first time – to Scouting Centrum Buitenzorg in the Netherlands. I am putting a lot of effort into making sure this is a success. I hope that for all 16 of the scouts it will be a great adventure – my aim is that they have as much input into the programme and activities as possible. The camp programme will include trips to Utrecht and Amsterdam, visiting Anne Frank's House, a cycle hike to a local attraction, lots of shopping trips for food and onsite activities towards the site's own badges.

**Kath Brown**

\* **Burnt Crispy Bits**

## Sheerwater Lions Cub Pack Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Another busy year for the Pack, with plenty of camps and outdoor activities, and tremendous enthusiasm from the Cubs.

In December Matthew Piercy stepped down as Akela, after very successfully leading the Pack for a number of years. It is through his commitment and hard work that the Pack is the strength it is now, and we offer our sincere thanks to Matthew for his years of service.

I have stepped into his shoes as Akela, and I am indebted to my Assistant Leaders John Chaves (Shere Khan) and Miriam Mulvihill (Raksha), along with loyal support from Martin Smith (Baloo) who is responsible for our administration, record keeping, accounts, etc, etc, etc. Without the hard work of these people, the Cub Pack simply couldn't survive.

We are fortunate to be part of a very strong District, who have organised a number of activities throughout the year, all of which Sheerwater have joined in:

- In June we took 19 Cubs to the District camp, where they took part in a huge range of activities amidst beautiful sunshine. This was also a great opportunity for the Cubs to mix with other Packs and make new friends, which for me is a very important part of Scouting.
- 6 Cubs attended the District Science Day in November where they had great fun, learnt lots and earned the Scientist badge.
- In February we took 24 Cubs to the District Sports evening, giving them the chance to try a wide range of activities from trampolining to self-defence before ending up in the Pool in the Park.
- In March 11 of the most senior Cubs attended the District Back to Basics day at the Birchmere campsite. The skills they learned and practised included tent pitching, pioneering, orienteering, backwoods cooking, woggle making, fire lighting, animal tracking and shelter building. Despite the rain (and mud!) they all emerged with high spirits at the end of an exhausting day.



We are very grateful to all the District Leaders, headed up by Linda Plunkett, for arranging so many good activities for the Cubs.



In September we took 22 Cubs away for our traditional autumn camp at Bentley Copse. Here they had a go at archery, scrambled through an assault course and raced fiercely on the go-karts, as well as going on a hike and joining in with a campfire. We were also joined at the campsite by some of our Beavers, who were having their sleepover there, which made the camp even more special.

As part of the Scouting Centenary events, 5 Cubs went to the O2 Arena for "Live 07" – a fantastic afternoon celebrating the best of Scouting. Of course, we were particularly pleased to see some Sheerwater Beavers taking centre stage!

Congratulations to all the Cubs who have earned badges over the year; in particular we recognise Conor, Edan, Emelia, Gregory, Luke, Dominic, Oliver, Daniel, Sean, Kingsley and Elena for gaining the Chief Scout's Silver Award – the highest award in the Cub section. This badge can only be awarded by the Assistant District Commissioner, and she is very careful that all Cubs hoping to get the Award have fully completed all the requirements.



Looking ahead, we have got a very busy term with the emphasis on outdoor activities. As well as the Group Family Camp, we are looking forward to another District camp for the older Cubs in June and our own Pack camps in July and September. By the time of the AGM, a team of Cubs will have taken part in the District cooking competition; we hope they enjoyed the challenge.

Of course, with such an ambitious programme, and with such a large Pack, we inevitably depend heavily on the support of parents. Whether it be helping at Pack meetings or other activities, or setting up and helping to run camps, we are very grateful to you all.

I would like to thank the Quartermaster Committee for their work in maintaining the stores and all the equipment; we do miss having Ken Taplin around so much, but we wish him well. It says a lot, that we have had to establish a committee to take over the work that Ken used to do!

Finally, our thanks go to Lorely Trendall for her continuing support, encouragement and wise leadership for the Group. We are very grateful indeed.

**Neil Jones, Cub Leader**

**May 2008**

## Sheerwater Beavers Annual Report 2007- 2008

It has been another successful year for Beavers, with a number of new activities. Last Summer we spent an evening at Woking Hockey Club trying out the all-weather pitch and gaining plenty of bruised ankles. As usual, we spent many meetings outdoors, visiting Horsell and Pyrford Commons to build shelters and practice tracking and camp cooking.



Many in the colony attended the Back to Basics District Fun Day at Birchmere where we enjoyed traditional Scouting activities such as rope and woggle making, Beaver caving, orienteering and camp cooking.

In September 6 Beavers attended a Sleepover in the Nest at Bently Copse, a very successful joint venture with the Cubs. The Beavers carried out activities on an American Indian theme, making dream catchers and warrior sticks.

In the Autumn term, we were offered the chance of taking part in Live 07 at the O2 Arena in London. This was a huge celebration of 100 years of Scouting. After a couple of practices, 4 brave Beavers plus River travelled up early one Saturday morning to take part in the matinee performance of the 'Beaver Rap' – an experience none of them are likely to forget!

At the end of the Autumn term, we were pleased to award the first ever Chief Scout Bronze awards at Sheerwater. We hope many more Beavers will achieve this.



Over the last year, Beavers have also worked for their Air Activities, Healthy Eating, Fitness, Creative and Animal Care badges.

In 2008, the suggested programme of activities has changed, and there are now 6 Challenge badges for Beavers to attain. We will aim to complete one per term, along with other badges and plenty of fun.

### **River and Willow**