

# 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom News

March 2008



## GSL's Report

### **Programme**

Plans have started for another expedition to Uganda in 2009 with a clear understanding that fundraising for the New HQ takes priority!

The decision to go ahead with Uganda 2009 was not taken lightly and I am hoping that by having a motivated team for Uganda will benefit the group in a number of ways including the effort to raise the funds for the new HQ.

### **Census**

The census results are included in this 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom News. As I reported last month I firmly believe it is because of the active, varied and challenging programme we offer.

For this to continue we must recruit more adults to help both as leaders/helpers and on the support side, especially fund raising.

### **New HQ**

I make no apology that this is the third reference to the New HQ and the need to raise the funds! The church has provisionally been offered £80-90k in grants towards the new HQ subject to being convinced that the remainder is within reach!

Almost every parent works for a company – we need you to find the right person to approach in your company for corporate donations!

If you have any questions or would like to be more involved, please contact Doug Clasby (01372 723077)

Neil Dallen (01372 728187)

## **An opportunity to support fundraising for our new HQ**

One of our Beaver dads is to embark on a week long 420-mile cycle from Bilbao to Barcelona on 25 April 2008 to raise funds for our new build. As he has not done more than 40 miles on any one day he will need to have loads of inspiration to keep him going!

Please inspire Tony Froud (Daniel's dad – Albany Beavers) to fight the tired muscles and middle age fatigue by sponsoring him in aid of our very worthwhile Scouts and community project. Tony himself was a 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom Scout some 30-something years ago and he thinks a new HQ was needed then!! Tony says, "I have been moved by the amount the young people in this Group have raised already and am keen to support my old Scout Group in their efforts to raise in excess of £500,000 for this project." Our Group is the largest and most successful Scout group in the UK. It is vital that we continue to offer Scouting at the highest level. We need this new Hall sooner rather than later. With everybody's help we can achieve our target.

Sponsoring Tony is easy. Just click on <http://www.justgiving.com/tonyfroud> and follow the simple instructions on your screen. Alternatively, you can fill in one of the forms found in the Epsom Methodist Church Office. As Tony is meeting all of his own costs, your kind gift will go a long way.

On behalf of all the young people the New HQ/Youth Hall will serve, thank you for your generosity. For more information on this venture please email Tony at: [anthony.froud@btinternet.com](mailto:anthony.froud@btinternet.com) or phone 01372 811555



Tony Froud preparing for his marathon!

### **Master at Arms Badge Successes**

We are pleased to announce that the following Scouts have recently been awarded their Scout Master at Arms Badge in Basic Air Rifle Target Shooting:

Jamie Earl, Byron Oliver, James O'Neill, Luke Parry, Harry Sabine, Matthew Skudder, Harley Tyler & Charlie Wilson. Congratulations go to all.

Attendance at this badge course is a pre-requisite for joining the main sessions of the 7th Epsom Scouts Shooting Club.

We intend to run another course later this year, so if any Scouts are interested, then please can you let Simon Wellsted or David Shickle know.

### **Census figures**

| 2008                  | 2007       | 2006       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Beavers               | 66         | 68         | 73         |
| Cubs                  | 78         | 71         | 60         |
| Scouts                | 110        | 129        | 111        |
| Ventures              |            |            |            |
| Fellowship (over 18)  |            | 4          | 6          |
| Sub total             | <u>254</u> | <u>272</u> | <u>250</u> |
| Leaders/Helpers       | 50         | 48         | 48         |
| Total                 | <u>304</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>298</u> |
| Explorers (& leaders) | 60         | 51         | 40         |
| <b>Grand total</b>    | <b>364</b> | <b>371</b> | <b>338</b> |

## Census results

Another incredibly successful year especially with the building works resulting in no car park and restricted access.

It was agreed at the beginning of the year that the Scouts introduced a waiting list and had a maximum of 112 (16 patrols of 7) due to a combination of accommodation limitations and lack of leaders/helpers.

Explorers are identified separately as they are recorded as part of the District but they grew by another 9! This is very encouraging as the older scouts and explorers are traditionally the hardest to satisfy!

Beavers were down 2 at the time of the count, Windfalls having been suspended for a term due to lack of leaders but we still have 4 healthy Colonies with Windfalls filling rapidly! Cubs are up to a 10 year record high. Our biggest problem is the size of the accommodation.

Although numbers in themselves are not the important factor, they indicate that the youngsters like what they are getting and that we are running a good programme. That is important and thanks must go to all the leaders and helpers that make this possible every week.

## Diary dates

|              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| <b>March</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup>                         | County Explorer night challenge for Explorers<br>Fund raising quiz night and social for new HQ |
|              | 5 <sup>th</sup>                         | Group Executive meeting  |
|              | 9 <sup>th</sup>                         | Church parade  |
|              | 15 <sup>th</sup>                        | Group jumble sale  |
|              | 20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>     | Explorer Easter expedition   |
|              | 30 <sup>th</sup>                        | District cross country competition   |
| <b>April</b> | 6 <sup>th</sup>                         | District challenge hike at Bentley Copse (Scouts,<br>Explorers, Network and Leaders            |
|              | 10 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>     | PL/APL training weekend  |
|              | 13 <sup>th</sup>                        | Church parade  |
|              | 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>     | EMC book sale  |
|              | 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>     | Knights Away for Scouts and Explorers  |
|              | 20 <sup>th</sup>                        | Knights Away for Beavers and Cubs  |
| <b>May</b>   | 11 <sup>th</sup>                        | Church parade  |
|              | 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>     | Spring camp for Cubs and Scouts at Frylands Park   |
| <b>June</b>  | 7 <sup>th</sup>                         | Group AGM and family barbecue  |
|              | 8 <sup>th</sup>                         | Church parade  |
|              | 14 <sup>th</sup>                        | Giant sleepover for Cubs   |
|              | 20 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>     | Scoutabout for Scouts  |
| <b>July</b>  | 5 <sup>th</sup>                         | Fundraising night for new HQ   |
|              | 13 <sup>th</sup>                        | Church Parade  |
|              | 25 <sup>th</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. | Scout and Explorer summer camp at<br>Buddens in Dorset   |
| <b>Sept'</b> | 19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>     | Group water weekend at Longridge   |

## **An appeal from your new Editor**

This newsletter doesn't write itself! Articles etc. for 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom News are welcome from Leaders, helpers, parents, children, aliens and anyone else.

Articles should be sent to Paul Downs. 13 Heathcote Road, Epsom. KT18 5DX or email:  
p.downs@london.com

The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude any items.