

AGENDA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 10th May 2008

1. Welcome by the Chairman Mrs Susan Leighs.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of last A.G.M.
4. Matters arising from last A.G.M.
5. Section Reports
 - a) Beaver Scout Leader
 - b) Cub Scout Leader
 - c) Scout Leader
 - d) Explorer Scout Leader
 - e) Group Scout Leader
6. Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Accounts for the year.
7. Chairman's Report
8. Appointment of Executive committee for the year.
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Committee Members
9. Any other business

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 12th May 2007 @ 6pm

Minutes

1. Welcome by Chairman Mrs Sue Leighs
Thanks to Greens Digital for the printing for this evening

2. Apologies:
Mike Day and Graham Woollas

3. Minutes of previous AGM: Accepted as a true record

Proposed – Mike Payen

Seconded – Jane Sanguy

4. Matters arising from last AGM: None

5. Section Reports:

Beaver Scouts

Jane Sanguy gave the report.

The Beavers have taken part in the following events

- A sleepover
- A pantomime
- A Soccer fun day which took place at Uxbridge High School
- The Beaver founders day service – one of 2nd Uxbridge Beavers renewed the Beaver promise on behalf of every beaver scout in the country
- Thanks were given to all those people who help at Beavers.

Cub Scouts

Mike Payen gave the report.

- The pack is full at the present time.
- He thanked Sue for her support and Graham and the other helpers.
- He would welcome more helpers.
- He thanked parents for their continued support.

Scouts

Steve Leighs gave the report.

The Scouts have taken part in the following events

- They went to HOAC – raft racing
- They went to a Canoe camp – camped by the Thames at Longridge
- The Summer Camp was at Broadstone Warren, The Scouts cooked for themselves and their leaders.

Explorer Scouts

Tony Wolff gave the report.

- Tony thanked Charlotte Cummings for her help.

Group Scout Leaders report

Kevin Brown

- He thanked Dave Williams for doing a wonderful job for 3 years. He is still very involved in scouting
- He praised the family atmosphere of the group
- He believes that the group has the best leadership in the county
- He thanked Stevo for his work on the website
- There is a good executive committee however there is still a need for new people
- He thanked the committee for its work.

6. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts for the year
Francine Brown gave the report.

- The accounts have been fully audited
- Full notes are provided with the accounts

Accounts were agreed

- Proposed by Emile Sanguy
- Seconded by Melanie Heywood

7. Chairman's Report

Sue Leigh's thanked everyone for attending and the leaders for their hard work.

8. Appointment of Executive committee for the year

Appointment of Committee

Chairman – Susan Leighs

Proposed by Kevin Brown

Seconded by Sue Payen

Secretary - Volunteers were asked to consider this position

Treasurer –Francine Brown

Proposed by Kevin Brown

Seconded by Richard Whitcombe

Executive Committee

Aimee Jones was standing down. The rest of the committee agreed to stand.

Proposed by Kevin Brown

Seconded by Richard Whitcombe

9. Any Other Business

None

Meeting Closed at 7.15pm

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Annual Report for the Year to 31st March 2008

The 2nd Uxbridge Scout Group (St Margaret's) Charity, 2 Gatting Way, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1ES, is registered with The Charity Commissioners (No. 274788).

Group Registration No. with Scout Association: 28396

The Group is a Trust established under its rules, which are common to all groups.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association Trustees:

Chair	Mrs S Leighs	Elected
Secretary	Mrs B Ewart	Elected
Treasurer	Mrs F Brown	Elected
Other Members	Mr K Brown	Ex-Officio
	Mr M Day	Ex-Officio
	Mr M Payen	Ex-Officio
	Mrs J Sanguy	Ex-Officio
	Mr A Wolff	Ex-Officio
	Ms M Heywood	Elected
	Mr N Johnson	Elected
	Mr J Kirkpatrick	Elected
	Mr A Harris	Elected
	Mrs J Underhill	Elected
	Rev Andrew Sheard	Nominated (Parish Rep.)

Custodian Trustees: The Scout Association Trust Corporation holds the lease to 2 Gatting Way.

Bankers: National Westminster Bank, Uxbridge

The object of the charity is to raise and manage the funds of the 2nd Uxbridge (St Margaret's) Scout Group. The charity has no employees and depends entirely on local volunteers.

During the year the main source of funds was a donation from The Activity Nursery which provides day-care facilities for pre-school children in the Scout Hut. The main outgoings were for heating and electricity for the Hut and for routine maintenance. Additional expenditure was for Scout equipment and expenses incurred in connection with scouting events. There was a surplus during the year.

The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis.

Approved by the trustees on 10th May 2008 and signed on their behalf by

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Mrs S Leighs, Chair

Statement of Financial Activities – Year ended 31st March 2008

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>
Incoming Resources		Funds	Fund	Total	
Hall Hire	2	11,533.00		11,533.00	11,958.00
Donations	3	4,100.00		4,100.00	0.00
Membership Subscriptions & Income	4	5,102.92		5,102.92	4,257.44
Fund Raising	5	945.00		945.00	2,168.65
Interest		1,335.54		1,335.54	1,008.22
Total Incoming Resources		£23,016.46	£0.00	£23,016.46	£19,392.31
Resources Expended					
Maintenance	6	12,724.09		12,724.09	3,942.56
Ground Rent	7	980.00		980.00	980.00
Cost of Fund Raising	5	528.36		528.36	513.70
Payments to Charities		0.00		0.00	716.24
Heating & Lighting	)	2,181.64		2,181.64	2,037.84
Water	) 8	505.85		505.85	449.02
Insurance		757.68		757.68	720.83
Equipment	9	2,483.08		2,483.08	1,967.04
General Consumables		321.79		321.79	506.60
Main Camps	10	1,219.40		1,219.40	1,391.28
Section Costs - Explorers	)	0.00		0.00	0.00
- Scouts	) 11	692.54		692.54	602.94
- Cubs	)	492.95		492.95	508.47
- Beavers	)	564.06		564.06	676.32
Training	12	450.00		450.00	35.46
Postage and Stationery		40.75		40.75	25.97
Trips and Activity Subsidies	13	123.27		123.27	900.07
Miscellaneous		490.09		490.09	128.82
Total Resources Expended		£24,555.55	£0.00	£24,555.55	£16,103.16
Net Movement in Funds		£(1,539.09)	£0.00	£(1,539.09)	£3,289.15
Total Funds Brought Forward		£29,666.29	£5,000.00	£34,666.29	£31,377.14
Transfer between Funds		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Total Funds Carried Forward		£28,127.20	£5,000.00	£33,127.20	£34,666.29

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2008

Fixed Assets

Headquarters at Cost	14	11,907.00		11,907.00	11,907.00
less Written off		11,907.00		11,907.00	11,907.00

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Current Assets

Debtors & Prepayments	15	5,458.03		5,458.03	6,101.72
Sundry Stocks		359.50		359.50	603.00
Bank & Cash Balances		34,058.99	5,000.00	39,058.99	37,565.92
		39,876.52	5,000.00	44,876.52	44,270.64

Current Liabilities

Creditors (falling due within one year)	16	11,749.32	0.00	11,749.32	9,604.35
		£11,749.32	£0.00	£11,749.32	£9,604.35

Net Assets

28,127.20 5,000.00 33,127.20 34,666.29

Income Funds

General Fund		£28,127.20		£28,127.20	£29,666.29
Building Fund - Restricted	17		£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Total Funds		£28,127.20	£5,000.00	£33,127.20	£34,666.29

Notes to Accounts

- 1. Accounting Policies:**
Accounts are prepared under the Historical Cost Convention.
Cost of Equipment is written off in year of purchase.
- 2. Hall Hire Received:**
Includes £10,488 rent from Activity Nursery.
- 3. Donations:**

LBH	£1,000.00
Uxbridge Welfare Trust	£2,500.00
Jack Petchey Award	£ 600.00
- 4. Membership Subscriptions & Income:**
Membership and Sectional subscriptions remain combined into a single payment at the beginning of the calendar year. All section income and costs continue to be handled centrally by the Treasurer. In addition, this includes tax reclaim from Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid scheme.
- 5. Fund Raising/Cost of Fund raising:**
As with last year these show both the income and costs gross.
- 6. Maintenance:**
Main expenditure during the year has been focussed on our new storage facility, the garage. Minor cosmetic finishing is underway but no more significant expenditure on this project is envisaged. A donation towards this project was received from the Uxbridge Welfare Trust.
During the year expenditure highlights were:

Garage	£8,700.53
Cleaning contractor	£1,707.41
Canvas repair	£ 665.05
- 7. Ground Rent:**
The next review of Ground Rent is due in 2010.
- 8. Heating, Lighting and Water:**
In line with expectations
- 9. Equipment:**
We have purchased new tables (£824.22) and alter fires (£815.54). The remainder is normal renewals/purchases.
- 10. Main Camp Subsidies/(Profit):**

Cub Summer Camp	£ 305.29
Scout Summer Camp	£ 304.83
Explorer Summer Camp	£ 573.22 (50% Transport subsidy)
Family Camp	£ 36.06
- 11. Section Costs:**
Figures reflect individual section's expenditure. Performance against budget has been monitored.
Budget for 2008/2009 will remain at:

Scouts	£900
Cubs	£700
Beavers	£750

- 12. Training:**
St John Ambulance delivered First Aid Course.
- 13. Trips and Activity Subsidies:**
Loss/(Surplus) on trips and activities undertaken during the year.
- 14. Non Monetary Assets:**
Cost of Group Headquarters written off in previous years.
Current insured values of assets are as follows:

Building	£99,770
Contents & Equip	£15,000
Money Cover	£ 700
Equip Loan Cover	£ 2,000 #

Maximum cover for equip loaned out to other Association members.
- 15. Debtors and prepayments:**
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Membership | £2,065.50 |
| Gift Aid | £2,100.00 |
| Ground Rent | £ 738.36 |
| Insurance | £ 149.17 |
| Purple Theatre Co | £ 125.00 |
| 2008 Camps | £ 250.00 |
| Whitsun Camp 08 | £ 30.45 |
- 16. Creditors:**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Water | £ 100.00 |
| Mem/Subs (DESU) balance 2006/7 & 7/8 | £ 2,289.00 |
| Gift Aid 2006/7 & 7/8 to Discovery | £ 1,149.36 |
| Jack Petchey (DESU) | £ 200.50 |
| Membership/Subscriptions | £ 4,281.25 |
| 2008 Camps | £ 3,200.00 |
| Surf Camp 07 | £ 529.21 |
- 17. Income Funds:**
Building Fund – Restricted to expenditure directly relating to the
Scout Headquarters



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Francine Brown - Treasurer
4th May 2008

Independent Examiner's Report on The Accounts (Accruals Accounts)

Report to the trustees/members of 2nd Uxbridge (St Margaret's) Scout Group on accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:

Qualification:

Address:

Date:

Group Scout Leaders' Report

2nd Uxbridge (St Margaret's) Scout Group continues to be one of the leading Groups in this area. The individual reports of each section that follow continue to illustrate the wide range of challenging and exciting activities being undertaken. It is these programmes, and the quality of the leaders that deliver them, that give the children and young adults in our Group continually changing and stretching challenges and keep them coming back for more!

We continue to benefit from extremely strong uniformed leadership, unmatched by any other group in Uxbridge District and County. Against this backdrop many of our leaders continue to play an active part in organising and running District events, on top of their Group responsibilities. This has been recognised in the recent Scouting awards received by Mike Day, Mike Payen, Jane Sanguy & Stephen Leighs. I am sure we will see further awards to the remaining leaders in the Group over the coming months.

Our Executive Committee continues to provide good support to the leaders and I by the undertaking of key administrative activities – which is much appreciated. The year has seen the completion of a major project – the new garage, which is very welcome. We could however do with “more hands” and I would ask that more people consider stepping forward. I hope that all parents would give some thought to whether they could spare some time or expertise to assist in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Leaders, Helpers and Committee for all the hard work they have undertaken during the last 12 months and for the support that the parents give in helping run many of the individual section and group activities. My personal thanks also go to my family Francine, Siobhan, Ed & Niamh who, again, have given me great support throughout the year particularly as work has reduced the time I have been available.

I am sure that 2nd Uxbridge we will continue to develop & grow successfully in the coming year.



Kevin Brown
Group Scout Leader

Beaver Scout Section Report.

We have had various events within the Section, Group, District and the County.

Firstly I would like to say a very big thank you to you the parents.

We had a few behaviour problems at the back end of last year. After the Christmas break we spoke to all the Beavers about their behaviour and sent out a letter to the parents.

We are very please to say that on the whole there has been a very big improvement in the behaviour of the Beavers. This we believe has a lot to do with you the parents. So THANK YOU. Your support is very much appreciated.

Section

We have had another busy year in the Beaver Section, with various craft evenings and games nights. Number wise we have 24 Beaver Scouts.

September till December 2007 - During this term we have been concentrating on some of the Beaver Scout badges. We invited the parents to our Thursday evening where the Beaver Scouts made chocolate krispie cakes which were very messy. We rounded the evening of with some games. As usual there was a lot of competition between parents!!

December was full of fun things, Christmas cards and games to name but a few. To round off 2007 we had a Christmas party with lots of food and games. Father Christmas had a problem getting to us due to the reindeer being ill!! But he managed to get some reserves in and arrived just in time with his Elves and Reindeer.

January till April 2008 - During this term the Beaver Scouts have been doing a variety of different things. We have tried Chinese food, cooked pancakes, made Welsh cakes and Mothers day cards. We have also been doing some badge work, with lots more planned for the rest of the year.

Group

January 2008 - We arranged to go to the Winston Churchill Hall in Ruislip for a visit to the pantomime (oh yes we did). This was a joint event with the Cub Scouts; we took 53 children to see Aladdin. A great time was had by all;

District

July 2007 - The group took part in a Super Hero's sleepover held at 2nd Uxbridge HQ. There were 28 Beaver Scouts altogether. We took 6 Beaver Scouts and they all had a great time. We started off the evening with some getting to know you games and then settled down to watch a DVD. Popcorn was sent round so the Beavers could munch and watch at the same time. Afterwards they went outside for the camp fire and hot chocolate. While that was happening some of the leaders set about transforming the HQ in to a campsite, we placed 10 pop-up tents inside the hall(which slept 3 Beavers per tent). This was a huge success which also meant the darling Beavers were all asleep by midnight!! Another event is planned for 2008.

April 2008 - On Sunday 27th April we gathered at Chalfont Heights campsite for the District renewal of promise. The Beavers enjoyed activities in the afternoon and then a short service in the chapel afterwards. Beavers got the chance to use the go-karts, enter the rabbit run And have lots of fun on the adventure playground.

October 2007 - We took part in the Inter Beaver Soccer Fun Day. This is a league and knockout competition. The event was held at Uxbridge High School 2ND Uxbridge got to the finals again but lost to 7th Hillingdon Beaver Scouts. Well done to all the Beaver Scouts who played.

February 2008 - We entered CARQ (Craft and Reason Quest.) The theme this year was 90 years of the RAF. Our Beaver Scouts made a model airfield portraying what it might have looked in 1908. Well done to all who took part.

County

On a very rainy day in June 2007 we gathered at Chalfont Heights for the annual event of Beaver Bonanza. Umbrellas and Wellington boots were the order of the day as it rained and rained and rained. After the opening ceremony we were off to explore the sites along with 800 other Beaver Scouts. The bouncy castles managed to stay open most of the day. The leaders got put in the stocks and got even wetter by the Beavers throwing sponges at them. The clowns came to visit at lunchtime and amazed us with there juggling and clowning antics!! We finally went home very wet, tired but happy at 3.30pm. Let's hope the sun shines in 2008.

And Finally

I would like to say a very huge thank you to my assistants Mark (Otter) Edward (Hamster) Kate (Robin). My thanks also go to the all the Leaders in the group for there help and support.

Yours in Scouting
Jane Sanguy

Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Section Report

Leaders and Current Membership

Our present numbers are much the same as last year and are running at 36. Weekly attendance has remained steady averaging at about 31 per meeting. We have no waiting list as most of the spaces are taken by rising Beavers. With such large numbers we need plenty of help.

Our current Leadership has been boosted this year with Keith and Lewis as new helpers Graham, Sue and Mark continue the good work and without them I would find it a very difficult task to complete, so when you see them next let them know they **ARE** appreciated as I don't always have the time to tell them myself.

Last years Programme

Summer Camp 2007

This took place at "Ferry Crofts" Scout Camp Site in The New Forest. This year due to restraints of leadership we opted for a smaller than usual camp but as they say quality rather than quantity, and as I approached the big 50 I was beginning to appreciate an easier time. (I may also take this opportunity to point out that Sue got there before me). We had 13 Cubs, 1 Explorer and 4 Leaders. To get around we hired 1 Mini Bus and a Luton Truck for the gear and Jane brought along her car just in case (more of that later).

Saturday

We had a reasonable trip down with 1 stop for lunch at Rownhams Service station on the M27. On arrival it was all hands on deck to erect the tents and set up camp. The campsite was a lot quieter as most groups had opted for camping at the start of the holiday. First nights on camp are always late and noisy, this was no exception.

Sunday

With the weather being so unpredictable this year we were expecting the worst but first light saw blue sky and the promise of some late summer warmth. John and Annette Sears from 2nd Ickenham dropped in for a visit and were soon joined by Mike and Angela Day (Mike is our Scout Leader if you weren't aware). The boys eagerly awaited the afternoons Target Shooting but before that we had to explore the campsite. Whilst on our walk we collected stout pieces of branch which are christened "faithful sticks" some parents may have seen these appear on cubs return. The site has some ponds and a lot of water left over from our "Summer" Jack Hester and Daniel Simpson were the first to test it. Mike and Angela never sit around and pitched in with the cooking (thank you) while I sat fettling them faithful sticks. I spent some time cutting and carving these things so don't use them for firewood! After tea we set the fire up and the cubs entertained us with jokes. Its funny how the theme of the gags never changes from year to year.

Monday

Again another lovely start to the day. I wanted to show the Cubs how easy it is to cook on an open fire so with our guidance they had a full English cooked in the traditional fashion. All the proper techniques no incinerated sausages or blackened billies! It being Bank Holiday Monday we decided to head off to a less populated beach at Lepe near Calshot Point. The tide and currents here are very strong so unsuitable for swimming, still you can still chuck stones at Ben for entertainment. As with most evenings we were serenaded by owls and bitten to pieces by the mosquitoes. The squirrels were almost extinct but were replaced with extremely tame Black birds and Song Thrushes who would fly into the tents for a quick feed.

Tuesday

I got up early most days just to enjoy the piece and quiet but it doesn't last long and soon the boys were up and vocal, morning didn't just break it got damaged irreparably. After breakfast we tripped off to Mudiford for a spot of crab fishing. Unfortunately I reckon someone told the crabs because our catch was to say the least disappointing. The tide went out revealing large pools and a pebble free beach, time to kick sand in Akelas face. Then back to camp for tea, campfire and story. That's how we like to do it...fun, food and scare the hell out of them!

Wednesday

By Wednesday the boys kit was looking a little disorganised so a full kit inspection was necessary. After some investigation it appeared that most of the cubs were washing and changing, either that or they were very convincing fibbers, they even told me they had a shower. When all was packed away we went off to Moor Valley Country Park and time to get rid of some energy. Then back to camp for a late evening meal. After a short rest we embarked on our manhunt for Ben who had hidden himself somewhere on the site, too good I might add as they never found him!

Thursday

We had a continental Breakfast because we were on site at 9 AM for Archery, Wall climbing and Abseiling. The climbing is quite testing and all the boys had a go. In the afternoon we were off out again to visit The Otter and Owl Sanctuary. They had, as you would expect rather a lot of otters and owls and of course a shop where weaker souls can indulge in a spot of retail therapy. With time to spare we drove to Southampton to see "Transformers". At nearly 3 hours long it's an epic of noise and mayhem, ideal for kids. The day wasn't over quite yet so time for a Macdonalds. (none for the leaders because they won't eat their take away later)

Friday

Nearly there now, but still time for another trip out. We loaded up again and set forth to Beaulieu Museum. I took a lot of pictures and Steve should have posted them by now. The high light was interacting with the Lord and Lady, The Maid, The Butler and also a Bobby. Lord Beaulieu even got them singing round the piano. (They're not real just actors you know). So very tired and money all spent we returned to camp.

Saturday

No problem with the weather and all dry tents for the 18th consecutive year... sorted! It was a short journey home but not without some drama. We had to leave Jane and Sue at Fleet Services because her car didn't want to go home. So if you missed them they were drinking coffee and chatting up two AA men!

To sum up.....The weather.....Dry and sunny all week who would have thought it after this summer of ours. The cubssmall in numbers but BIG in personalities, parents you know what I mean. Will we do it again?Probably if my body holds out for another year. Many thanks to all my leaders who gave their time to make it happen.

Christmas Sleepover 2007

In December we had a Christmas Sleepover. Most of you know by now that it's not my favourite time of year but I still enjoy that excitement that only a 10-year-old high on sweets, crisps and Coca Cola can generate. After many years we've given up trying to make them sleep. I just can't do 3 in the morning any more! In fact I'm ready for bed at 10! The best solution is shut your self in a sound proof room with earplugs and a luxury inflatable bed!. Unfortunately Graham and Mark were not afforded that luxury.

Lynx Evenings

We continue to have great success with our "Lynx" evenings. At the last one we burnt stuff. Newcomers should have had a letter explaining how they work, if you want to know more ask and I will explain. The next is planned for October 3rd.

Coming up.....

Summer Camp at Aug 23rd ~ Aug 30th at Buddens Camp in Wareham

As with last year we are offering places only to 2nd Uxbridge Cubs. We have a full compliment and will probably close the books on this one. I am hopeful this year that I can stay for the whole week work permitting.

Annual reminder, gripes and moaning (I do go on a bit !)

Just a couple of points.....could all parents make an effort to get their boys to Cubs on time. We only have 1-½ hours for fun and at times we waste 15 mins waiting for everyone to turn up. Oh and uniforms.....navy blue trousers, cub top and a neat rolled necka. When the weather really hots up a group tee shirt is fine.

Please check with my self for up to date info especially if your son has been absent as I am apt to change the programme to suit weather and other circumstances.

Finally

As you know some of us were awarded "The Medal of Merit" in recognition of our long service to Scouting. To be honest I wouldn't get to base one without the help and support of my darling wife Sue and my top mate Graham.

So I would like to sincerely thank all of my team for their continued help though out the year, as well as all the parents who gave up the time to give our boys the fun and experiences made possible through what is still the best youth organisation in the world (probably).

Mike Payen

Cub Scout Leader

Scout Section Report

Our numbers have increased to an average of about 32 Scouts in the Scout Troop, with the addition of girls into the Troop. We have had a number of our older Scouts progress up to Discovery Explorer Scout Unit.

We continue to enter all the District competitions; we retained the Scoutcraft 'axe' trophy. Tom Bate retained the District Shooting competition again last month practically destroying the centre of the bullseye, we came second again in the Stilwell Shield Camping Competition to 1st Ickenham. We also competed in the annual Dragon Boat National Championships at Marlow in September.

We also stayed at Swanage YHA and Ironbridge YHA during last year where we completed local walks.

We had a different summer camp in 2007, a true greenfield site at Gradbach Scout Camp in Derbyshire. Unfortunately, we had more than our share of rain, but it meant that Alton Towers was near enough deserted. This year's summer camp will be held at Beaudesert Scout Campsite where hopefully the sun will be shining.

Last year was the Scout centenary, to help celebrate this, Steve organised a weekend camp on Brownsea Island Scout camp where it all began.

The world Jamboree was held in August over in Essex where 40,000 Scouts from around the world attended, Home Hospitality was arranged afterwards for the Scouts attending the Jamboree. Steve & Sue, Martin & Sandie Smith and Angela & I 'looked' after eight Icelandic Explorer Scouts for 5 days, a memorable experience. We are grateful to the committee for paying towards their entertainment.

Every year we run an Incident Night Hike, this has now extended to a District Night Hike in November, this would not be possible without the help of the leaders from the other sections of the Group, our own Explorer Scouts, and now the District. The Scouts had to perform different tasks at bases on a route taking them around Harefield in sub zero conditions. Amazingly, our 2 Patrols didn't get lost, other groups with leaders in attendance did!

Four of our older Scouts completed a one night hike, starting from the other side of Amersham and camping at Chalfont Heights and returning to Uxbridge.

As ever my thanks go to Steve (Stevo), Helen & Ben, and our Explorer Scouts, David Whitcombe and Mike Redgrave. Without their support, we would not be able to offer the Scouts such a diverse programme offering adventure, challenge and fun.

Photo's of all our events can be seen www.2nduxbridge.org

Mike Day

Scout Leader

Explorer Scout & Network Scout Section

First of all may I make my apologies for not being with you in person, unfortunately I have a long term family commitment. This year has seen the Unit grow in number yet again; we have 32 registered members plus an increasing nucleus of older past members (Network Scouts) who have become young leaders/helpers. We continue to gain new members from various directions, our own Scout Troop, other local Scout Troops, Ranger Guide Units, and local schools. Our success, however, does create other problems, transport to events, over subscription to summer camp to name but two. Most of these have been overcome with some of our Network Scouts providing transport and support. They are a very loyal band of young people who give their time with much generosity; their help is very much appreciated by everyone involved in the Unit.

Half of the Unit undertook an intensive course of First Aid Training along with some of the group's leaders. This involved about 20 hours of classroom and practical time with a series of exams at the end. To their credit each of them passed. As many of the Explorers help with other sections during outdoor events it is good to know that now, within the group there are at least 20 leaders, helpers and Ventures who have been trained by St John's Ambulance to a very high standard in First Aid.

During October 2007 the Unit went surfing in Bude. This is the ninth year that the unit has gone surfing either to North Devon or Cornwall and seems to now be a well established date in our calendar of activities.

July 2007 saw the Unit off to summer camp in the Lake District; although it was very wet we completed a full programme of activities with the highlight perhaps being Ghyll Scrambling. For those of you who don't know what this is, it involves hurling yourself off the top of a mountain into a cold river at very severe inclines and jumping, sliding and shooting from one waterfall to the next, sometimes diving headlong 20 feet into a small pool below. Other activities included caving and climbing in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire, Mountain Biking in the Grizedale Forest, Go-Karting and a visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

In February the Unit went to North Yorkshire and stayed in a camping barn for two nights. We had the most glorious walk on the North Yorkshire moors, enjoyed fish and chips in Whitby and had half a day in York, climbing to the top of York Minster.

This summer the Unit has planned a summer expedition to Slovenia where we will Horse Ride in the Julian Alps, White Water Raft on the Emerald River in Triglav National Park, Go-Kart Racing in [Ljubljana](#), Paragliding in Bohinj and Sail on Lake Bled to name but a few activities. On the way to Slovenia we will stop in Cologne and visit a chocolate factory and stop in Salzburg to listen to an open air Mozart concert during the Salzburg Festival. On our return journey we will stop in Munich for a night and sample Bavarian Night Life.

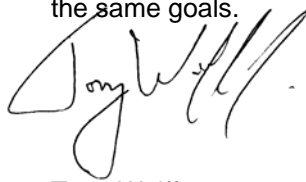
During the past year the Unit has been involved in many other activities, many in support of the local community. The Unit has provided support for Harefield Hospital Half Marathon, for a Parkinson Charity, marshalled at Black Park Mountain Bike Races and provided car parking at the Uxbridge Auto Show.

Over Easter 2008 the Unit had 12 young people out on Dartmoor, undertaking various expeditions of 50 and 80 kilometres. All were completed successfully with each one showing a great deal of skill and determination. These hikes are part of the progressive award scheme that now runs in a continual golden thread of achievement throughout the whole movement. You should be very proud of your sons and daughters.

My grateful thanks go to Mike Day, Charlotte Cumming and Joe Marshall who have all been invaluable assistants at our weekly meetings, and to all the Explorer/Network Scouts who have as a group and as individuals added much more than they realise to my life experience and overall enjoyment. It is a real privilege to be involved with a group of young people such as we have within our Scout Group.

Perhaps our greatest achievement of the year is to gain two assistant leaders for the Unit, Charlotte and Joe. They are now both undertaking leader training. This is the future of our Unit; these are the young leaders that will carry the golden ball of Scouting on for the benefit of the next generation of young people. They are to be applauded for their commitment and enthusiasm.

None of the above without exception could have been so successful or in many instances even possible without the continued support of the Group Executive, the other leaders, our GSL, Kevin, our Treasurer, Francine and your good selves that all support the Unit in varying ways. The Units success is due in no small part to every one pulling in the same direction with the same goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Wolff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Wolff
Explorer Scout Leader