

SHURDINGTON

Saturday 27th September 2008

- Atherton House residents held their Jumble Sale last Saturday in the Century Hall and I am always amazed at the amount of jumble that arrives on the morning of the sale. I take my hat off to Pete Smith and his team for cramming so much in the hall, and selling so much of it. Certainly a very popular sale bringing people in from far and wide. Not sure what they raised but no doubt word will reach me some time.
- If you watched the Paralympics on TV and especially the closing ceremony last week, you could not have missed this young smiling boy in a wheelchair, with two batons in hand, directing the London Bus onto the stage for the final ceremony. Well, this young boy is Gareth Pickens, who lives in Cheltenham, and has been with our Scout Group here in Shurdington from when he was six years old as a Beaver Scout. Now a Cub Scout he turned up last Monday to his meeting here as usual and brought with him his mum and dad, and a wealth of information, quizzes on Chinese food, chopsticks to try, practiced Chinese writing, souvenirs and reminders of Beijing neither he nor us will ever forget. Gareth entered a Blue Peter competition some time ago, which required him to write 100 words on the Paralympics, why he thought it was such a great event and so forth. Well, Gareth came out tops and the prize was a ticket to Beijing for him and his family, and a chance to meet several competitors, dignitaries and famous people. And also to be a part of the closing ceremony. He met the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, was interviewed on Children's BBC, other stations and I understand it was back to the Studios this week for more interviews. There is a short video on our website of Gareth at the closing ceremony if you missed it on TV. Well done Gareth and thank you for bringing your Beijing experience with you to Shurdington.
- Tomorrow Sunday there is a meeting of the Chapel in the Millennium Hall in the morning.
- Thursday 16th October there will be a doctors surgery from 1pm in the Century Hall for the annual flu jabs. You will have been advised to attend if you are on their list.
- To all you animal lovers out there; two shows that you may find interesting are happening at the Social Centre next month. On Saturday 18th October the Midlands Hamster Club will be having their show, and the following Saturday 25th October the National Fancy Rat Society will be having their Annual Cup Show. Judging starts at 10.30am. The public are welcome to attend and watch proceedings and the antics of the Hamsters and Rats on view.
- This Monday 29th our Scout Group are having their Annual General Meeting with reports by the Section leaders of their achievements this last year and also some entertainment by the young Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The general public are invited to attend; please be seated at 6.15 for 6.30pm in the Millennium Hall. Parents especially are asked to support this annual event where they will be able to see their children perform specially for them. Our young Explorer Scouts will serve tea and biscuits after the meeting. Troop intends to have some investitures after the meeting around a campfire.
- Play Rangers, aimed at the 8 to 16 year olds are still meeting on the village green after school from 4pm to 6pm. Their aim, quite rightly, is to encourage children, young people and their families to 'Get Out and Play'. More details on our village website.