

SHURDINGTON

Saturday 30th August 2008

- It is with great sadness we heard this month of the passing away of Barbara Clapton at Cranham Scouting Centre. Barbara and her husband Ken, together with their family, have run Cranham for many years bringing with them fresh activities, an improved facility and a constant welcome to whoever camped there or used the site for activities. Our sincere condolences to Ken, Nicki, Gill, John and Ian at this time of great sorrow.
- Another sad event was the death of Tom Wheeler last week, long time warden and bookings secretary of the church hall here in the village. Born in Shurdington Tom originally had a career in teaching that took him to Brockworth, Germany and Watford. My sincere condolences to his relatives and friends.
- Unfortunately it doesn't end there. Last Sunday, after a very short illness, a very dear friend and colleague of mine, Dr Bob Lyle sadly passed away. Bob was our family doctor when my wife and I came to Cheltenham in 1974 and was heavily involved in Prestbury Scouts. Our Venture Scouts there in fact met weekly in a room above his garage. Bob was also President of Cheltenham District Scouts Association. My sincerely condolences to his wife Barbara and children.
- I recently had an interesting enquiry from a Derek Jones who is researching the death of Charles Lowe who died in the Gloster Aircraft Company. The factory was bombed on 21st October 1940 together with another four men working there. Thanks to Rev Mitchell the grave was traced together with some of his family who I understand still reside in Shurdington. I am putting together a short story and will publish something on our website. I understand Derek intends to write a book on the Gloster Aircraft Company which will include the history of its wartime activities here
- Next weekend some of our Scouts are going to Defford Airport for a weekend learning all about flying, weather, navigation and so forth. This is their annual Air Camp. All things being equal and the weather being fine they will also get a chance of a flight in a two-seater in the vicinity of the Malvern Hills. A team from our Group will also be providing the catering for the event, which some 60 Scouts, adults and pilots will be attending.
- Holidays are nearly over and schools, Preschool, Scouts and other organisations are bracing themselves for the start of their new term. I understand that Preschool, which was known as Playgroup, will be opening their doors 5 days a week instead of three. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are starting their meetings on Monday 8th September.

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