

# SHURDINGTON NEWS

## Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009

- This year our Scout Group is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we hope to have some kind of party at the Millennium Hall perhaps towards Easter time. Any previous members of the Group are invited to get in touch with us as we would very much like to meet up again. Old photographs and records would also be very welcome. Either call my mobile 07770 480272 or e-mail scouts at shurdington dot org in the usual fashion.
- I have seen the Chair's report by Gillian Emery presented at the Playgroup AGM, which paints a truly positive picture of what is happening at their daily sessions. Both parents and PATA officials have said how great the Playgroup is running and how calm and happy the children are. The whole team working together, and this includes the Leaders Naomi, Morven Sally and Sammie have achieved quite a lot since last September when the new team got together. Activities have included fundraising events such as raffles, Christmas Fair, big bug hunt and Nativity. Donations of gifts like tractor tyres for climbing on or painting, a lap top computer and workstation have been received showing great community spirit. By the start of Easter term staff hope to be getting uniforms and t-shirts with logos for the children.
- One item that was brought up at the meeting is the Health Visitor who attends the Millennium Hall on the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays. They were saddened to note that this drop in was poorly attended and very few families used the free facility. Playgroup will be liaising with the Health Visitor to improve matter in the near future.
- Some 30 members of our Scout Group went on their 7th Polar Camp at Youlbury last weekend and had a fabulous time. Everything went like to clockwork, with a hike on Friday night, a trip to Oxford Ice Rink, shopping and a Chinese meal, campfire on Saturday evening and more site challenges on the Sunday. Special thanks to Louise, Craig, Marie, Steve, Rick and Kath for looking after the Scouts, Rob and Norman for keeping the Explorers in line, and the youngsters themselves for attending a fabulous camp. Thanks also to Swindon Village Scouts for the loan of their minibus.
- The primary school newsletter is now in circulation and I note that a Valentine breakfast is again on the cards this year for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. I tend to agree with the Head teacher that everything should be done to get over this modern trend of not allowing photographs to be taken of children at school events. What a loss for future historians and school archives, and also parents not having a treasured memory of their children. There is more risk of children slipping on a banana skin on the moon than something untoward happening from a simple photograph of children enjoying their childhood.
- Many congratulations to Max Rendell for being this year's Beaver winner of the Scouts' Leonard Trainer Trophy. He was presented with the cup at the New Year Party last week. The cup is presented to a section member giving due consideration to their attendance, behaviour, example and participation. Max who has now moved to the Cub section.
- Today sees Snowdrops and Candles in St Pauls Church starting at 10am and again at 2pm. Teas, raffle and bric-a-brac on the programme.
- A reminder that Monday evening all Sections of the Scout Group are taking part in the game of Trading Post. More on this on our website.
- Last Monday Beavers had a taster of Chinese food to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Cubs visited St Paul's church and were instructed by Rev Mitchell on their Faith Badge and even tolled the bell. While some Scouts practiced for their Cotswold Marathon hike, the younger ones and Explorers also cooked and ate Chinese delicacies they made themselves.

Paul Calleja-Gera

