

# ***1ST OXTED SCOUT GROUP***



## ***ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010***

*Headquarters: Stafford Scout Hall, Chalkpit Lane, Oxted, Surrey.  
Registered Charity No. 305779*

*A member of Tandridge Voluntary Service Council*



# *THE GROUP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*



**T**his is my Chairman's 20<sup>th</sup> report and the 21<sup>st</sup> year with the Group Executive, how time flies. 21 years ago my son Peter volunteered my services onto the Executive just after he joined the Cubs. Last week he became a Dad for the first time, so perhaps in a few years time the Group may have another Kirk join as a Beaver?

Under the capable leadership of Nick Hough, our GSL, the Group has retained its strength in all sections this last year. Whilst there has on more than one occasion been discussion over expanding the Group and with waiting lists for the all sections this could be achieved, the sensible view has prevailed in that we will not expand in the foreseeable period, as this would then definitely mean the creation of additional sections and the need for a significant increase of adult leaders and helpers who are not there yet. There are enough children coming through from Beavers to keep the Group strong all the time leading on to the Explorers - that is probably the one area we still might expand into yet.

Financially we also continue to retain our strength under our Treasurer Tony Martin's able skills. This year we paid back to East Surrey District the final installment of the £6000 loan we took out just over two years ago to help clear the costs of the kitchen and toilet refurbishment. We also managed to build up our reserves at the same time. This was due to the hard work within the Group Executive with Fund raising activities such as the Bike Sale, Donkey Derby and obtaining funding from other Charities for such items as the new carpet in the Hall.

We have already started our activities this year with the May Bike sale, the best to date with nearly £1400 profit despite the weather. In June there is, of course, the Donkey Derby - the 39<sup>th</sup> one. We have another Bike Sale in September. These particular activities raise around £6000 each year, but it takes around £10,000 a year to run the Group, I bet that surprises people and it's all done by volunteers who are paid nothing for all their hard work and don't claim any personal expenses (tell that to those Members of Parliament). We, of course, raise money in other areas such as the subscriptions for all children and other charities as already mentioned. So a very well deserved pat on the back and heartfelt thanks to all members of the Executive, the Leaders and Helpers of the sections, we could not do it without you.

Attached to this annual report you will see the individual reports from the Section Leaders which shows the various and exciting activities that go on and the hard work required.

Next year is the 1<sup>st</sup> Oxted's 100 year anniversary and we are already planning a bumper 40<sup>th</sup> Donkey Derby, a Firework party, a Talent show at the Barn Theatre, also we are looking to do an Anniversary Dinner and probably a few other things to celebrate Oxted's 100 years of scouting. Finally thanks to all the parents who do all that running around delivering the children to the Hall each week, and the activities, and help out at times, and dig deep into their pockets to support us. Perhaps one or two of you would also like to join the Executive and help out a little more?

*Malcolm Kirk, Group Executive Chairman*



## *THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*



**D**o you know - I have been writing reports for the Oxted Scout Group's Annual General Meeting for the past 44 years – every since I became Scout Leader in 1965 and Group Scout Leader in 1966. When I retired from “Uniform” in 1997 I thought that I wouldn't have to write any more. How naïve can one be?

No sooner had I retired than I found myself as President of the Group. I thought, as President, that I would just attend a few meetings. Wrong!! There are Donkey Derbys, Bike Sales, meetings here, meetings there – but I no longer have to attend camps, though I do go canal cruising, and this year I was invited to go with the Guides. (The Oxted Group introduced the Oxted Guides to canal cruising quite a number of years ago.). And then there are the District meetings. I'm not sure how it happened but I found myself as District Secretary!!

Does it sound as though I am moaning? If it does, then I apologise. My connection with the Scout (and Guide) Movement is something which I would have hated to miss. I'm not sure if it keeps me young, but I don't feel my age – even if I look it!

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**L**ast year I wrote that we had managed to get Malcolm back as Chairman. I have to say that he is even more active than he was before – how that is so I don't know – but it's true. I see his opening paragraph in his report says *“This is my Chairman's 20<sup>th</sup> report and the 21<sup>st</sup> year with the Group Executive, how time flies.”* He should have added *“when you are having fun!”*

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**O**ur 39<sup>th</sup> Donkey Derby is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> June. We hope to see you all there. While we work very hard at each Derby, it is the 40<sup>th</sup> which will see us in full flow. I know I said it at the last AGM but it is worth repeating - the 40<sup>th</sup> in 2011 coincides with the Group's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and we intend to make it a day to remember! Mind you, we will have other celebrations in 2011 – just keep your eyes and ears open – and we expect all parents and the boys and girls of the Group to take part.

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**Y**ou will see that Nick has written the Group Scout Leader's and the Scout Leader's Reports. This is because he hasn't actually got a Leader for the Troop though he has got some good Assistants and help.

In his reports he emphasises that the Group is active and each section is quite full – it would be nice if we could get some more Leaders, especially for the Explorer Scouts for we could then have our own Unit in Group rather than a combined one for the northern part of the District. After all Hedgecourt, Hurst Green and Lingfield have their own Units – so should we!

Talking of the Explorer Scout Leaders – I was delighted with the marriage of Andy and Amanda. I wish them a long and happy relationship. They were both very much concerned with the Oxted Group. Perhaps one of these days they will return to Oxted and help us form our own Unit.

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*Mike Moss, President.*



## ***GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT***



**T**he Beaver Colony, led by Jenny Roe, has gained a new assistant leader in Sue Daly and remains in good health. The Cub Pack continues to prosper under Tony Soutter and currently has over 30 uniformed members. The Scout Troop also remains in good health with more than 25 children enrolled. The East Surrey North Explorer unit is increasingly dominated by former Scouts from our Troop, and continues to meet occasionally at the Stafford Hut.

New assistant leaders are being arranged for the Cub Pack, and we welcome Ali Millington to uniform as a new Assistant Scout Leader. This last appointment will in due course enable me to focus more on my role as GSL.

I am also delighted to welcome Mr Colin Poland who has joined us as the Group Quartermaster. We look forward to getting the Group's equipment into top-line condition under his keen eye and supervision. I'd like to thank the several people who have contributed in this area and who have given up their time to tidy the HQ and its grounds – but would like also to say that all these people are still welcome to assist.

In the last 12 months we have at last replaced the aging carpet at the Stafford Hut, and electric motors have been installed for the shutters in the main hall. We are looking closely at different ways to improve the storage of the Group's equipment, particularly the very valuable canvas patrol tents, which need to be kept in a dry rodent-free environment.

The Cubs and Scouts have been to a number of camps and residential activities, including a visit to Kew Gardens and a very successful joint Scout/Cub winter camp at Broadstone Warren on the coldest weekend of the year. As well as our Scouts taking part in the Colditz Night Hike, the 1<sup>st</sup> Oxted had the honour of hosting the event this year, as well as the District Cub night hike.

Fund-raising continues to be important, and the effort put into organising and running the Donkey Derby and the two Bike Sales cannot be under-estimated. Without these events the Group could not function, and everyone's efforts in the area of fund-raising are much appreciated.

*Nick Hough*



## ***SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT***



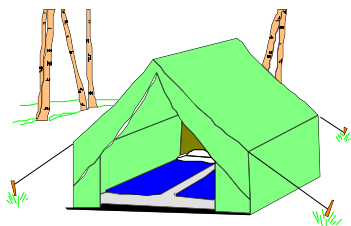
**T**he Scout Troop remains strong, although we have managed to keep numbers below 30 for the present as nearly a dozen Cubs could be joining us within 12 months. We delivered a second tranche of Explorers; in hindsight we let them go too early. Henceforth youngsters will go to Explorers at the last possible moment, not less than two full terms after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthdays – the modern age range of Scouts means that the Troop will be strengthened by retaining older youngsters.

In the last 12 months there has been considerable turnover. Four youngsters have moved up to Explorers. Six have left the Troop for various reasons, and unfortunately, one youngster had to be asked to leave. On the other side of the balance, three Cubs have joined us and a further eight youngsters have joined us directly. The Troop is now nearly half girls.

We are pleased to welcome Ali Millington to the uniformed leadership of the Scout section.

Last summer we took the Troop to Summer camp at Collard Bridge in North Devon. It rained and our site was an absolute mud-bath. We salvaged the camp and everyone survived; however, the poor weather acted to sort out the committed Scouts from those less committed, and a number of youngsters quit as an indirect result of the camp. During the winter the Troop and the Pack went for a very successful winter camp in freezing conditions at Broadstone Warren. This was an outstanding success. Additionally, members of the Troop took part in and much enjoyed the annual Colditz Night Hike.

Youngsters and parents have assisted in fund-raising, both in the Donkey Derby and the two Bike Sales. As always the Troop is a joint effort between the uniformed leaders, parents, non-uniformed members of the Group, and of course the Scouts themselves, and it only remains for me to thank all of those people for the last year's Scouting.



***Nick Hough***



## ***CUB LEADER'S REPORT***



**T**he Acorn Cub Pack has had a successful year and continues with over 30 youngsters invested. We have had a busy year of activities, including an exciting sleepover at Kew Gardens, hosting the District Cub night hike, and a number of successful camps, including a week-long summer camp on the Isle of Wight, including lots of water-sports, tours round the island, and a visit to the lifeboat. The camp was sponsored partly by two local businesses, which provided some of the groceries, and Cub parents played an important part in making the camp such a success.

Tony Soutter has led the Cub Pack throughout the year, ably assisted by Rob Griffiths and Chris Hulme. Other leaders are actively sought to take forward assistance with Cubs in the coming year. Thanks are due to Tony, his uniformed team and a handful of very supportive parents, for their ongoing efforts to help with running the Pack.

**Nick Hough (for Tony Soutter)**

***Tony Soutter***  
***Cub Scout Leader***





# ***BEAVER LEADER'S REPORT***



Where did the year go?

We met up with other Beaver Colonies across Surrey for a fun day out called Bazazz, where we watched a circus act, went on bouncy castles, fair rides, climbing nets and walls, made things, played games, got drenched by a fire engine and ate ice-cream!

We also had a district day out at the Historic Docks at Chatham which included a guided tour on a submarine and a rope-making tour.

Our meetings this year have included caving, a backstage tour around the Barn Theatre, rounders with Godstone Beavers, putting up tents, basic knots, a scavenger hunt, a visit from our local Policeman and sketching St Mary's Church (and yes, the Beavers could draw better than me!)

The badges earned this year were the Global Challenge, Outdoor Challenge, Promise Challenge, Animal Friend, Faith, Explore, Air Activities, Hobbies, Adventure and Safety. As always, we attended the St George's and Remembrance Day Parades, and watched the hilarious Dick Whittington Pantomime at the Barn Theatre.

Lastly, many thanks to Sue, Cherie and Simon for their help at our weekly meetings, and also to our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

*Jenny Roe, Beaver Leader.*

