

WIVENHOE SCOUT & GUIDE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st March 2008



Chairman's Report

I am pleased to report that Scouting and Guiding is healthy in Wivenhoe. Yes, we could hope for a few more youngsters in some of the Units and perhaps a few more leaders but then I suggest there is an argument for quality over quantity.

We are strong and active as the reports which follow this one show. We are blessed with a very strong team of leaders, many of whom have been in post for a long time. They do a sterling job and I believe get great satisfaction from the valuable role they perform, otherwise I guess they wouldn't be doing it.

I hope and believe the 'Association' gives them the support they need in order to focus on providing an exciting and challenging programme for the youngsters under their wing. That is the principal objective of the Association together with that of maintaining the Hall in good order.

Through continued use of the Hall by many groups of people outside of the Scouting and Guiding movements, we have been able to generate several thousands of pounds of revenue each year towards our costs as well as providing this much appreciated service in the community. It has also meant we have been able to keep member subscriptions to a modest level in comparison to charges some times levied by other Groups. I think we are all indebted to Bonnie Hill for the time and effort she spends on this each week, taking bookings, issuing invoices and dealing with issues when they arise.

This revenue also means we can pay for someone to visit the Hall every day to keep it clean and tidy. Many of you will remember back to the days when there were discussions about who made the mess and didn't clear up afterwards. It just seemed to get progressively worse during the week. So thank you to Pat Green for being a stalwart going to the Hall every day to check, clean and tidy up as necessary. Pat, the fact we never see you in action, so to speak, does not mean you are not appreciated. And Jean

Gale and Debbie Hirst too, who substitute for you when you are away.

During this last year John Sallows has become Premises Manager. He has taken over this role from Bonnie and I am grateful to him for getting things fixed when necessary.

A change also on the administrative front. Chris Thomas who has been Secretary for goodness knows how many years has decided to take a break and Lucinda Harris has volunteered to take on this task (in addition to taking over as Leader 5th Wivenhoe Brownies), not that it is especially onerous these days as we meet only occasionally now that everybody is on e-mail. The good news of course is that Chris is willing to stay on the Management Committee and help publicize some of our activities.

And Karl Douzier volunteered to get really involved by becoming Deputy Chairman of the Association. We haven't had a Deputy Chairman before, the Treasurer traditionally standing in for me when I have been unable to chair a meeting (thanks, Trevor), so thank you Karl for helping me. It is much appreciated. Karl of course is no stranger to the Association as he was Scout Leader even before I became Chairman 31 years ago.

Let me welcome Trisha Parker as the new Beaver Leader who came forward to take over the Beaver Colony in September, and to thank Amanda Taylor and Tracey Lawrence for their efforts in running Beavers together with Liz Birkin who remains Colony Assistant.

Finally, let me give a general thank you to all who contribute to the Association and the Scouting and Guiding Units in one way, shape, form, or other. We are very fortunate to have so many people in uniform and other friends and supporters to help youngsters here in Wivenhoe experience all that Guiding and Scouting has to offer them – which is a great deal. Without you all, it just would not happen.

Yours ever

Peter Hill, Chairman and Acting Group Scout Leader

Unit Reports:

5th Wivenhoe Brownies Unit Report

We started the year by doing our First Aid and First Aid Advanced badge. As Lis Iles was going to be leaving us at the end of term, we started making a scrapbook and planning a surprise party.

This year the Father's Day craft was a key ring where the girls designed their own pictures. On our last meeting of the term we had a surprise leaving party for Lis where she was presented with a scrapbook, a Guiding Clock and card. Many of the parents came to wish Lis well as did some of her old Assistant Guiders.

In September I officially took over the Unit and I was looking forward to the challenges of this.

Over the summer holidays, the girls collected 5ps for the Little Haven's Gimme 5 Appeal and we raised £58.10. Jackie Latham came and presented us with a certificate.

We then worked on our Out and About badge which consisted of a walk around Wivenhoe, designing posters and a Treasure Hunt which was enjoyed by all.

This year we did the sponsored silence with 4th Wivenhoe Brownies in aid of the Poppy Appeal; Daphne Meyers came to make sure we were totally quiet. The girls did their poems for Bonnie and we raised £412!

For our Christmas craft we made snowmen storage jars which the girls thoroughly enjoyed making even though we all got into a sticky mess.

Some of our girls made Christingles again this year at St Mary's Church with Snowy Owl and in total they helped to make 192!

For our Christmas Carols this year, we were invited to entertain the elderly at the William Loveless Hall for their Christmas Lunch and 4th Wivenhoe Brownies joined us for this.

It is now 2008 and we went and saw "Mother Goose" with 4th Wivenhoe Brownies which was a really enjoyable evening.

We started our Mother's Day craft early this year where we decorated heart shaped boxes and filled them with potpourri.

For Thinking Day this year we were joined at the Scout and Guide Hall by the Wyvenford District where the girls decorated masks and had a quiz.

For our Easter craft we made Easter shapes which were wooden wind chimes, cards and decorated an egg. After Easter we started the World Cultures badge where the girls made a scrap book, masks and spring rolls!

We had two girls make their promise this term and we also had a leaving and welcoming party as some of our girls were going up to Guides and we had some new girls who wanted to join.

During the Summer holidays we joined 4th Wivenhoe Brownies for their pack holiday and it was my first one as a Leader. It was very enjoyable and I was joined by 6 of my girls who have put their names down for next year!

After the summer break we started preparing for The D Factor which will be performed in October. We had a new girl start this term and we have 3 more starting after half term. We currently have 17 girls and 1 will be leaving us after Christmas to join Guides.

Last of all I just wanted to say thank you to Emma Gale and Chris Harris for supporting me in my first year. I also would like to thank everyone who has given me advice and supported me during this time.

Lucinda Harris, Guider

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2nd Wivenhoe Rainbows

Currently, we are learning all about ourselves and this is the topic that is taking us to half term.

We have completed a little booklet which includes pictures of the Rainbows families that they have drawn with other things like their favourite colour, food etc.

We had a Teddy Bears Picnic for our last meeting before the summer.

We are taking part in the Christmas Tree competition at the church in December.

Before the summer our theme was outdoors and creating crafts like handprint flowers.

For the first term back we visited different countries and the best activity we did for this was to learn the numbers 1 - 20 in Chinese.

The Rainbows found it really easy to remember the shapes for each number.

We have also tried a few of the food activities off the Rainbow website.

Karen Murray, Leader, 2nd Wivenhoe Rainbows

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1st Wivenhoe Scouts

Current numbers 18 (16 – Boys 2 – Girls)

We have had 4 camps this year and are going on another camp this weekend (11th/12th October) which is a survival camp in Thorington Woods.

12 of our scouts & 3 leaders attended the week long Essex Jamboree which we all enjoyed but were totally knackered after it.

New equipment has been brought with the money raised from my walk along the Great Wall of China, this has included new khyam patrol tents, a marquee, gazebo, dining shelters, patrol boxes which are filled with equipment from the international centenary jamboree.

We will be working on our forestry skills in the coming months. We have over 60 saplings turning up in November, 30 of which we will be planting in the waste ground near the Scout & Guide Hall, the others are going to be planted at a new camp site which we have been using on East Mersea.

We are also going on a cycle ride around Oulton Water for our cycling proficiency badge. Phil Osborne has now resigned from the Scouts as an Assistant Scout Leader so we now only have 2 leaders for the troop. This has proven hard as we have had to cancel some events due to lack of leadership.

Dave Horan, Leader 1st Wivenhoe Scouts

4TH WIVENHOE BROWNIES - 2007/ 2008

We began 2007 by looking at the various special days in the Calendar. This included making crafts, cooking and food tasting.

In February we joined in the District Thinking Day event held at the Scout and Guide Hall.

For Easter the girls decorated Easter Bonnets and we held an Easter Parade.

After the Easter break we spent the Summer term exploring some of the Countries from four of the Continents. Each six choose a Country and found facts and pictures to share with the other groups. We also made passports and spent an evening "visiting" these places.

In May some of the girls took part in the Division Ramble.

In June we took a very wet trip on the Colchester open top red bus. We did start the ride on the top deck but unfortunately the weather was so bad that we had to move downstairs and the ride ended early. In true Guiding spirit we did have fun though.

We ended the term with a barbeque sausage supper.

During the Summer break we took the girls on Brownie holiday to Holland on sea. Our theme was Pirates and we had a lovely time.

The Autumn term was spent working on the Anglia Region Outdoor challenge and we also took part in the Little Haven Hospice Give Me Five collection. Each girl took home a small collection box in which to collect small change.

In November we took part in the Young People's Remembrance service at the William Loveless Hall and also joined 5th Wivenhoe Brownies to do a sponsored silence for the local British Legion. The girls managed to keep quiet for a whole hour!

The weeks running up to Christmas were spent making tree decorations to put on our tree for the Congregational Church Christmas tree festival. Our tree looked lovely.

We ended the year with a sleepover at the Scout and Guide Hall which included on the Sunday our District Christmas craft event.

At the beginning of 2008 we spent the term working towards the World Cultures badge. This included looking at coats of arms and national flags; cooking different foods from other cultures; and the meanings of our Surnames.

In May we took part in the Division Ramble around Dedham.

During the Summer holidays we went on Brownie holiday to Bradfield. Some girls from 5th Wivenhoe joined us and we had a great time.

**Vanessa Reed, Brownie Guider,
4th Wivenhoe Brownies**

1st Wivenhoe Guides

Our numbers struggled during 2007. We started the year with 9 Guides and ended the year with 6 Guides and remained very disappointed and frustrated that numbers were not improving and we are not seeing Brownies moving up to Guides. However we are making progress with the leaders of the 4th and 5th Wivenhoe Brownies bringing the older Brownies to Guide meetings for a taster of Guides in the hope it will encourage them to move onto to Guides. The feedback we have received has been encouraging.

On a positive note Katherine Bennett was awarded her BP Challenge award at the County AGM in Gt. Bentley and Amelia Mitchell attended her Challenge weekend at Icando London and was presented with her award at the District Carols and Crafts. Katherine & Amelia remain with us and have proved themselves to be very useful Young Leaders. Unfortunately the next three Guides working on their BP Challenge gradually decided to leave Guides before completing the award, although one has continued in Guiding as a Young Leader with Brownies.

Highlights from the year include:

- Craft and Agility badges
- Go For Its Showtime, Splash, Fitness and Chocolate
- An international evening for Thinking

- Day organised by the BP Challenge Guides
- An enrolment at the Swimming pool
- A Ready Steady Cook evening for the BP Challenge Guides
- A visit to Craftability Ipswich to do Easter themed crafts
- A visit to the Mayor's Parlour Colchester
- A St. George's Day themed evening
- A Beauty evening with hand massage with a Beautician
- Volunteering with the Sue Ryder Care Beat The Baton Event at Battersea Park
- Joining the Wyvenford Trefoil Guild at Thorrington for a campfire evening
- A cycle ride to Bourne Mill (National Trust) Colchester
- Making Stitching cards for Christmas
- A visit to Colchester Police Station including an enrolment and eating buns in the mobile unit
- Attended and participated in the Children's act of Remembrance at the William Loveless Hall Wivenhoe
- Began working on the Looking at Me self esteem activity pack including face masks, a Twister game with a food theme, Letting off steam, Guessing who from Baby photos, and a catwalk show activities
- Going on a torchlight Penny Hike

With so few Guides we were unable to find a date where we had sufficient numbers to go on a Unit Holiday which was very disappointing as the girls are keen to have a residential experience.

Financially, it was also a difficult year. Luckily we have sufficient funds to carry this. We have not done any fundraising and have not received the Gift Aid money for 2006 yet. The low numbers must also be impacting on our income verses costs. We are aware of this and will look at it more carefully in 2008.

As we move into a new year we are hanging on in there and look forward to welcoming new Guides.

Sarah Andrews, Guider, 1st Wivenhoe Guides

Note: Reports from several other Units were not received in time to be included in this overall report.

