

# Chairman's Report 2008

## **Overview**

This has been a very busy year. We started with a washed out carnival last year, progressed through camps, jumble sales, climbing and leader training, a fabulous Christmas show, to another washed out carnival and – you may have noticed – we no longer have any stores.

## **Activities**

All sections have taken part in District events and competitions as part of the wider family of Scouting. The Cub trips to PGL Hindhead and the Science Museum and the Beaver trip to the National Maritime Museum, in particular, stand out. There is a huge effort put in by the leaders to make sure activities are varied, exciting and fun. On behalf of all of us I would like to a huge thank you to all our leaders – Hilary, Rosa, Harriet, Simon, Mark, Norman, Dave, Shaun and Dominic – for the excitement they bring into our children's lives. I would also like to say a big thank you to Doug, our Group Scout Leader (GSL), for all his work in keeping the Group running smoothly.

The testament to how much the children love all this is they have been telling their friends how great it is. We have large waiting lists for Beavers and Cubs and new Scouts who have gone straight into Scouts without ever going through Beavers and Cubs.

## **Building developments**

Over the last year the HQ in Sandy Lane has had new fire doors, new fire extinguishers, a new anti-slip kitchen floor and a new anti-slip boys' toilet floor. The old wooden stores building has been demolished and a new concrete stores building is about to go up. The new stores building will have enough space to partition off a large part for a workroom and Explorers' HQ. Funding for this work has come from very generous donations from Ascot Authority (£1,500), The Lottery Fund (£10,000), The Berkshire Foundation (£2,500) and Fernbank Flooring (£500).

Organising the funding and organising all the work has been done almost entirely by Geoff Adams to whom we all owe an enormous debt of thanks.

This work is not over. The new stores still need money, materials and help to partition and fit out. If you can help, please join in.

## **Committee**

The Group Committee are responsible for the safe and sound running of the Group. I would like to say a special thank you to Jennifer Adams for a keeping a close and beady eye on all our activities and for her words of wisdom, and to Geoff Streeter for keeping the Group accounts and chasing everyone for details.

Gareth Davies will be stepping down as a parent committee member. I would like to thank him for all his contributions while he has been on the committee and I would like to thank Vanessa Crook, Fraser Laurence, Steve Peacock and Nigel Cook for all their contributions to the Group and the committee.

### ***Waiting Lists***

There is a very high demand for places at 1<sup>st</sup> Sunningdale. The Beaver waiting list is now over forty and the Cub waiting list is nearly twenty: the Cub waiting list does not include Beavers who will be moving up to Cubs. There are more than enough children waiting to be able to run two Beaver colonies and two Cub packs. The question is: is this something we should do? If we do, we will need more leaders; if we don't, there will be a lot of children who will never be a Beaver or a Cub. We keep coming back to the same thing. This is our community and these are our children. They love the independence, camaraderie, challenges and adventure they get in scouting, but it is down to us, their parents, to organise it for them.

### ***Centenary***

The Scout Association had its centenary last year. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunningdale will have its own centenary in two years, in 2010. Doug will talk about this some more but we need to start thinking about how to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Sunningdale and Sunninghill.

### ***Fundraising***

With all the recent building work the Group is now low on reserves and we will need to replenish our funds. Some of this money we will need to finish the work that has already been started.

Because of the recent donations we will be ineligible for grants for a couple of years and we will need to start building up for our centenary. A Social & Fundraising subcommittee would achieve two goals, funds for the growth of the Group and social occasions for fun and games. If you would like to get involved come and join in.

### ***Communication***

The Group web site and email are proving very effective means of communication and this will continue to be developed. It is our intention to make the web site your first point of contact if that elusive piece of paper from the last meeting has gone missing, or the starting point for anything else Scouting related.

### ***Barbeque***

This evening's barbeque is being provided by the Group and is being cooked by Paul Hadden. Paul no longer has children in the Group but he has been a long-time supporter and help to the Group. Thank you Paul.