

District Commissioners Report to 2009 Annual General Meeting



Over the last 2 years, the number of people formally involved in Scouting in the Malverns has grown by almost 20% (figures from January Census data and since the January 2009 Census we have opened / re-opened 3 new sections in the District). This is a fantastic achievement and one entirely due to all the Adult Volunteers (including Leaders, Helpers and Administrators) who have made this possible. My huge thanks to all those adults who have made this possible – you are real stars and very, very much appreciated - as in many cases are your partners for supporting you to make this possible! Thank you and please keep up the great work.

Despite a successful focus on attracting new adult volunteers over the last year, the District remains critically short of adult volunteers (particularly Scout and Explorer Leaders and Group Executive Members). We will therefore have to remain focussed on attracting more adults into Scouting to enable us to continue to deliver an excellent Scouting

programme, but also to support weaker Groups, Sections & Units. Scouting is in real demand in The Malverns and nothing gives me more pleasure than seeing young people really benefitting from experiencing it.

The developments at the District Camp Site at Warren Oak are nearing completion thanks to our dedicated team at the Site – to whom our enduring thanks are due.

The District is currently transitioning to the new Appointments process and we now have a new District Appointments Advisory Committee and Appointments Secretary lined up. I would like to remind all Leaders of the importance of completing their training as soon as possible and to thank our Training Teams (District and County) for their continued support.

Please also see more details in the Trustees Report.
Great Work! Thank You.



Section Reports:



Beaver Scout Section

This year has once again been a busy year for the Beaver Section in The Malverns. Two of the eight colonies,

Upton and Cradley, have successfully recruited new leaders and we welcome them and look forward to the colonies going from strength to strength.

The year started with the Mini O's run by the Cub Section and our thanks go to them for a really fun afternoon. Our main event of the year was the Ice Time sleepover where the Beavers became elves for the weekend and slept in igloos. This proved to be very successful.

We are looking forward to another busy year with an invite from the Cub section to join their sports afternoon and the District Harry Potter Sleepover in October.

Our main focus this year will be around recruiting into the Beaver Scout Sections as we have found that the waiting lists for this section have dramatically reduced in the last six months

Thank you to all the Beaver leaders and their helpers for their continued support.

Maureen Puffett
ADC Beaver Scouts

Cub Scout Section

Over the past year we have held 7 Cub Scout events; the attendance on the whole has been good with several Packs taking part in all events.

Sports Day was held again at Colwall, Swimming Gala at Lower Wick Pool, Mini Olympics, at 1st Malvern Link HQ - jointly with the Beaver Scouts - 88 members taking part, the B.P. Guild paid for the Medals (shared by Cubs and Beavers) and for which we are very grateful.

One of the most popular events was the Quiz and Chips, at 2nd Malvern's new HQ, with all Packs taking part. It is uncertain whether Cub Scouts attend for the Quiz or the Chips! The Fellowship kindly organised our Orienteering Competition, a super morning, sadly with few parents accepting the invitation to join in. All Packs took part in St George's Day Parade.

1st Leigh won the George Knight shield, with 1st Colwall coming second.

The pack at 1st Wells re-opened in February with three newly recruited leaders.

Plans next year include a 'Sixer and Seconders' weekend camp at Warren

Oak and Sports Day, celebrating 60 years of Cubs Sports.

We have held Cub Scout Leaders meeting throughout the year and this has help with the planning of events and I hope to do this again next year.

I have been ADC (Cub scouts) for the last ten years and I feel that, having 'done my bit' it is the time to hand over to someone else. I am giving twelve months notice of my intention of stepping down as ADC, so that a smooth transition can be made with my successor.

My thanks go to Pete Ashcroft and the Fellowship for their support, to all the District Cub Scout Leaders for their support and their effort in running their Packs and to my husband, Paul, for all his support as always.

June Etheridge
ADC Cub Scouts

Scout Section

The Scout Section has had a good year; we have seen Scouts re open at Ledbury; generally all groups are up or steady in numbers. (We must be doing something right).

Everyone in the District had the opportunity to camp last year, most more than once. This is right, as this is our core strength; young people of Scout age are discovering for themselves the delights of camp, the teamwork, and the fellowship that comes with working towards a common goal.

We Scout leaders extend this to our competitions. Yes, it is about taking part but it's also about achieving and dealing with not being the best and determination to do better; all in the right spirit. We have had our swimming, football and quiz competitions, archery and shooting, all showing the same competitive spirit but with a fellowship

that spreads between Troops. More than once I have heard two Scouts say to each other "I didn't know you were in Scouts", only then to go off together and compete in an activity, inspiring each other.

I firmly hope my successor, as ADC Scouts, will have the support for these same competitions as I have enjoyed, I thank my peers for their support and understanding.

Why am I going? I need to reduce my workload for my health and well-being. I will still be around with the 7th Scout Troop if I am needed.

Brock
ADC Scouts (retired)

Scouts Recycled
(Fellowship) have enjoyed another busy year providing support to Scouting in The Malvern's District, as well as at County



level. Within the District we have organised the Cub orienteering competition and archery and shooting competitions for the Scouts. In the County, we have assisted with Operation Bald Eagle, a large event involving two counties and later this year we will be helping at the 21st Century Challenge Camp. We have assisted with some of the work at Warren Oak on the new barn.

We also have a number of social events throughout the year these include a cycle ride around the cider trail in Hereford, an evening of climbing at Martley sports centre, a weekend in Wales and walk on the Malvern Hills.

If you would like help with running an event, or if you would like to help with

Scouting but are unable to make a regular commitment then please contact Mike Sneath
On 07785 926337 or EMAIL
mdsneath@googlemail.com.

Appointments Sub-committee

The Committee met nine times and has interviewed 15 Scouters renewing their warrants and has appointed 19 new leaders (10 Beaver Scout, 6 Cub Scout and 3 Scout)

77 Criminal Records Bureau forms have been processed, with more to come as the check only covers 5 years. There are still some helpers and administrators who have yet to be checked. Everyone involved with young members and Group Treasurers needs to be CRB checked.

Geraldine Shaw
District Appointments Sub-committee
Secretary

Warren Oak Camp Site

This year we have had a good number of bookings from a wide selection of sources; from universities, schools, private businesses and of course scout and guide groups. It was nice to see many familiar faces from the District visit the site.

We continue with our regular maintenance of the site, mowing, strimming, cutting back hedges and trees and keeping the buildings in a good clean condition. We hope that from the positive comments we receive that we must be getting most of it right.

We have once again harvested and graded the willow from the pond system, which has brought in funds that will cover petrol and diesel costs for a years mowing and cutting.

Our main effort over the autumn and winter has been the construction of a new storage barn. Construction commenced in August following a successful planning application with outside firms used to prepare the base and services and erect and clad the building, this was completed in September. The camp crew, with many others helping, have since fitted out the inside of the barn with storage rooms on two floors, installed power and shelving. This is now virtually complete but the start of the camping season has slowed progress. We hope to complete in a couple of months.

This project was only made possible by generous donations from many national companies and many hundreds of hours given freely by many skilled people. Our greatest thanks to all concerned.

Looking forward, we have a very healthy set of bookings for the summer ahead and hope that this year the weather improves to make people's summer camps pleasurable. Ahead, we have garages to empty and demolish to comply with our planning permission and there is an intention by an interested group of leaders to construct an air rifle range at the site.

Anyone interested in joining our small but happy team, please speak to Les or Pete (contact details on the District website).

Pete Ashcroft

BP Guild

Guild members in Malvern feel proud and honoured that in the past year their good relationship with the local Scout District has continued and they have been able to do much to help and support Scouting in Malvern.

They were extremely sad to lose their long term President, Ralph Storer at the start of this year when he was "Called to Higher Service" and have offered the

District a donation towards an item in his memory for Warren Oak Camp Site.

Members have very much enjoyed their visits to local Scout Groups to see the results of the many donations they have made in the past year, including the presentation of 3 framed pictures of Baden-Powell to:

Cradley, Leigh and Ledbury Groups. This is an ongoing project and the offer is still open to any other Scout Group who would like one for their HQ.

Donations of money to local Scouting have totalled **£412** over the past year, with awards being made to:

- 7th Malvern Beavers
- 7th Malvern Scouts
- Sam Coates – Explorer
- 2nd Malvern
- Mini 'O's
- Leigh Explorers – who also took the opportunity of raising £80 with a Tombola at a Guild Coffee Morning

In addition to this, donations of £295 have been made to local Guides for International trips.

The Guild has been pleased to support the District by attending the Adult Recruitment Meetings and providing Stewards for the St. Georges Day Service. It is grateful for the recognition and support given by the District Commissioner, Derek Barnes and his invitation to participate in the District Executive. We hope that this will continue and the Executive can be assured of the Guilds support for Scouting in the Malverns District.

Allan Page – May 2009

The Baden Powell Guild of Great Britain, Malvern Branch.