

# **1<sup>st</sup> Great Amwell Scout Group**

## **Group Scout Leaders Report 2007/08**

The Great Amwell Scout Group has enjoyed another successful year with all 3 sections enjoying strong support, despite what was a very disruptive year due to extensive building works in respect of the construction of the Groups new HQ.

At this years census the group had 64 young people invested (down 9) 12 warranted leaders, 1 sectional assistant and 6 young leaders.

All 3 sections participated in a full range of district competitions. The beavers won the annual Handy Craft competition and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fiercely contested Tug O War. The beavers also joined the cub pack in the annual Ware Carnival where they came 1<sup>st</sup> place and best in show. The scouts had a fantastic year winning the Heavy Weight camping competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Nocturnal and a truly brilliant 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 113 in the county Green Beret competition, winning best place in the district.



The main event of the year however was work starting on our new HQ. In early summer 2007, after a few months delay the old HQ was demolished in 13 minutes and work began on building our fantastic new HQ. Building works carried on for the rest of the year and as a result all 3 sections had to make alternative arrangements. During the summer term an outdoor programme was followed. Come the autumn and winter months we had to make alternative arrangements for the beavers who relocated to District HQ. The cubs and scouts however braved the

elements and took advantage of a marquee erected in the field. Dry but cold!

All 3 sections returned to the warm in January and the new Nigel Copping HQ was officially opened on 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2008 with some 200 people in attendance.

On behalf of the Great Amwell Scout Group, a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this fantastic facility which will be used by young people for many more years to come.

I would like to give my personal thanks to all the leaders, committee members, helpers and supporters of the group for your continued hard work and dedication during what was a difficult and challenging year, but I hope well worth the disruption!

**Colin Haywood**  
**Group Scout Leader**

## Beavers 2007/08

Whenever I put together this page I start off by thinking what am I going to include. Then I go through the timetables and it all comes flooding back. Well this year, once again we have had more fun filled frolics and as time goes on we continue to grow both in numbers and thankfully experience. During the year in beavers we have had nights of bugs, a trip to the police station, campfires, a Roald Dahl evening, flying, fire safety, night hikes, St Francis of Assisi, healthy eating, fireworks, football, chocolate, St Andrews Day, St George, a craft evening, circus skills, space, pancake making, Robin Hood, Fairtrade, making bivvies in the woods and we even had a night all about scouting.

On top of the usual weekly meetings we have also been busy with our district activities and once again we came home with another trophy for the cabinet. Yes we're very proud of our creative beavers who once again pulled out all the stops and won the handicraft competition, well done guys. We also did extremely well in the tug of war coming second. Other events include the carnival which we did with the cubs and another first prize for best in show, largely down to the creative talents of Akela (he must have been a beaver at some stage!). Then there was the Easter eggstravaganza, St Georges Day Parade, the District Sleepover and not forgetting our day out in London at Live 07 at the O2 Arena. Another highlight of the year was the 100% Challenge Day where the beavers enjoyed rope making, climbing, compass skills, sewing, crossbow, knots, blindfold lego models, puzzles and a spot of target practice. These activities helped many of our beavers earn the highest possible recognition the beaver scout bronze award. Well done to those beavers



To go with our new HQ, we have also seen the opening of our second beaver colony so we now have a Bears colony and a new Wolves colony. This has only been made possible with the additional volunteers that have come forward to whom we owe a big thank you. But once again I can't sign off without mentioning all of the hard work put in by everyone at beavers, we have a wonderful team who all deserve a big cheer. Thank you for all your support and encouragement and here's to another year of extremely organised chaos!!

**Badger**  
**Beaver Scout Leader**

## CUB REPORT 2007/08

The Otter pack is still very strong with a full compliment of cubs, with a regular attendance of 25+ cubs on a Thursday evening.

It is becoming important to find additional adult warranted leaders for the otter pack as job changes for both Akela and Rama over the past year or so have resulted in neither of us having sufficient time to always plan the activities fully, but we 'do our best'.

We currently have three young leaders, (Mowgli, Hathi and Kaa) who do an absolutely fantastic job for us and without them we would not tackled a lot of the events during the last year.

Summer and Winter Terms last year were particularly tough as we did not have an HQ, but we refused to be defeated and ran all our activities outside or on visits.

Some highlights from the last year were:-

A visit from Batman and the Terminator. (Lots of cockroaches and bed bugs being handed round for inspection!)

Trip to the Armoury at our local Police headquarters

A couple of true night hikes, which challenged the parents to find us, and the cubs, discovered what it may have been like in the trenches



at the Somme. (And can I apologise again to some of the new parents as they had to take some very muddy cubs back in their cars.) A stealth night in the woods which scared me... (25 Cubs in the woods and you could hear a pin drop!)

In September we all enjoyed a very successful cub camp at Phasels Wood where the cubs tried their hand at rifle shooting, archery and abseiling. A Bingo night, with all your favourite bingo calls. (Clickity Click ..... 27!)

And to finish the term off 2007 we had two Santa nights collecting for the East Herts air ambulance and our group, where we raised

in excess of £300.

Around the world activities, where our young leaders took the lead and ran evenings visiting Japan, Holland and Australia just to name a few. (Must work on their map reading skills as it was a very strange route around the world.)

**Akela**  
**Cub Leader**

## Scouts Report 2007/08

There are currently 26 Scouts on the books with an average attendance of 22 each session.

2007 was a year of great achievement and with accommodation restrictions, the leaders have run an outdoor programme with much emphasis on preparing for the annual district competitions.

Lightweight Camping competition 2<sup>nd</sup> place. May 2007.

Swimming Gala July 2007.

Raft Race July 2007.

The Heavyweight Camping competition and Nocturnal Challenge were held on the same weekend in October. We initially had two teams of four for both competitions, but had one team member drop out due to illness on the journey over, so we entered the usual team of four and risked entering the other team as a threesome for the heavyweight. Due to safety reasons we had to enter all seven as one team for the nocturnal. We achieved second place in the nocturnal challenge being beaten by 3rd Ware.

In the heavyweight our team of four came second out of the scouts (fourth overall) and the team of three won the scout trophy coming in second overall to an explorer team. This competition had been dominated by 2nd and 3rd Ware for over 20 years and is the first time Great Amwell has won it.



The Green Beret Challenge took place in November with us entering one team. The competition consists of an assault course, orienteering course and day and night bases. There were 113 teams entered and the team did a fantastic job finishing in 10th place overall.

With this being the highest placing from our district we won the district trophy.

**Bob Johnson**  
**Scout Leader**

