



“THE COOT”



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ALREADY OVER A MONTH SINCE XMAS BUT...

Didn't we have a good time! Cubs and Beavers joined together for their Christmas party. Their age difference didn't seem to interfere with their ability to enjoy a game, drinks and nibbles.



Best of all Santa turned up with his sack of goodies. It was very interesting for Santa to hear what each individual wished for as a gift at Christmas.



It is very lucky that Santa is magical because the technology in some of the choices completely passes over the leaders heads but sure enough he knew exactly what they were talking about.

Pictures from Hathi

GROUP SUPPORT HOSPITAL IN AFRICA

At the annual Christmas “Bash” held in the Wheatsheaf this year, leaders and other friends collected £125.00 for the Victoria hospital in Gambia. Gambia is the smallest country in Africa and the only natural resource is listed as “fish”. It is a poor country. The former British Colony is struggling to develop a tourist industry but still the simplest commodities are difficult to get and often very expensive. But most difficult is money.

Richard Llewellyn and his second son Benjamin (ex Cub, Scout, Assistant Cub Master) took the cash with them on the Plymouth to Banjul Motor Rally and delivered it to Tim Conduit in Banjul, the capital of Gambia. Tim is a VSO assigned to the hospital to run fund raising. See attached letter of thanks.



Richard gives donation to Tim Conduit in Banjul, Gambia.

A DIFFERENT CAMPING TRIP

As if Ben Llewellyn had not had enough of camping as a Scout, he decided that participating in the Plymouth to Banjul Motor Rally (poor man's Paris – Dakar, but further) and camping on the way through France, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal was a good idea. He asked his father to

accompany him and as neither was struck dead, both assumed that being absent over the entire Christmas and New Year period was OK with the rest of the family including Ben's wife, significantly pregnant expecting their second child! Nothing was further from the truth and penance will be exacted for years to come.

In any case, "Team Charlie Brown" (1986 Renault 4GTL) drove the 4,268 miles to Banjul and arrived fourth out of the 50 cars that started. They departed the U.K. on the 17th of December and arrived in Banjul at the finishing point at 08:20 on the 5th of January.



Ben and the car, camped in the Desert



The Ferry into Gambia (spot our car!)

were purchased by the local church has provided drivers and given the cars over to local teachers and nurses so that they can reach the small villages.

MYTCHETT CENTRE MANAGER RETIRES

It was with great pleasure that the leaders and Group Committee presented Mike Tilston with a silver "Thank You" badge and certificate of appreciation at their Christmas "bash" in gratitude for his support.



Mike receives his badge from GSM

It was lovely to have Mike join us and he was left in no doubt of the Group's appreciation.



Cilla says it for everyone!

Mike Tilston, a Scout himself in earlier years, has been manager of the Mytchett Centre for many years and was responsible for providing the first home to our Scout Group.



Mike explains the 'older days'

FUND RAISING TEAM RESIGNS

Both Angela Hoodless and Barbara Trueman have resigned after leading the Group fund raising efforts for two years. Both their families have supported the Group to our significant benefit.

Barbara Trueman was at the Christmas "Bash", accompanied by her husband Richard, and was presented with flowers, a silver "Thank you" badge and a certificate of appreciation.



Barbara receives flowers

Again, it was the Trusler family that expressed the true feelings of the Group with Bobby getting in on the act this time to let Barbara know that her help and support were really appreciated.



Bobby says thank you for all of us!

Both Angela and Barbara have participated in activities such as the Tanners Marathon, driving the minibus and manning check points over several years as well as running fund raising events. If you are willing to step into their shoes, we badly need people to organise and run fund raising for the Group.

ADVERTISEMENT COTTAGES TO LET

Set in tranquil countryside in the South of France. This Scottish couple retired from military service and now live in a small farm in the French countryside and let out several cottages in hamlets nearby. They are also hosting Pioneer Troop's summer camp this year! Contact:

Craig & Mary McColville,
Le Grand Chalais, Pressignac,
16150 Chabanais, France
Tel. +33 545 893350

ROUND & ABOUT THE HUT

Garage

Johnson Wax has made a generous donation of £500 to cover the cost of repairs to our garage store that has been vandalised necessitating the replacement of the roof and doors. Martin Aldrich has organised replacement steel doors. If you are willing to help replace the roof – we have the money for materials - please contact Richard on 01252 836127.

SITUATIONS VACANT



The families and friends of those in the Group run our Group. Like our Association, all are volunteers. If you can help and participate in running the Group to keep our flag flying in any way please step forward.

At the moment we need:

- **Fund Raising Chairman**
- **Group Committee Chairman**
- **Hut Maintenance Coordinator**
- **Small minibus manager**
- **Large minibus manager**

USEFUL NUMBERS

Membership - Margaret Young 01252 835014

Treasurer – John Lewis 01252 650066

Q'master – Gerry McGeehan 01252 679244

Uniform – Michele Llewellyn 01252 836127

GSM – Richard Llewellyn 01252 83612