

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS

I just thought you might like to know what some of our youngsters have been doing in the last year out of school hours.

The Youth Club

At present we meet every Monday evening from 7.30- 9.30pm. with the intention of increasing this to a Tuesday also from the New Year. During the summer the club is not so well attended as in the Winter but we still continue to meet often having a bar-b-que just outside the Portacabin. However since the clocks changed we now have an attendance of between 15 and 20 each evening, in the summer we took 12 members to Alton Towers for the day (at their request) and we were joined by Nicky our Youth Worker. This was a really enjoyable day. Some of the members also asked if they could do a sponsored bike ride to raise some funds for the club, so this was also arranged. They cycled a 30 mile round trip raising over £300 for the club. Congratulations to those who took part. During the year we also made several trips out for the evening either ice skating or bowling, and just before Christmas we had a visit from two members of the Oxfordshire Association for Young People who entertained us for the evening.

Lisa, an ex-member of our Club who still wanted to be involved asked if she could start a Dance Club for little ones in the village with the proceeds going to Youth Club funds. We agreed and this began in early September on a Thursday evening from 6.30-7.30pm, being attended by approx. 20 little girls between the ages of 4 and 11. They absolutely loved it. We then held an open evening in December inviting parents, grand parents and some of the residents of Duffield Place to let them see the little ones perform their routines. Members of the Youth Club attended to serve our guests with refreshments. The Sports & Social Club Hall was absolutely packed and the little ones performed brilliantly. Lisa's mum had worked very hard decorating T-shirts for the girls to wear and they looked very professional all wearing the same. Congratulations to Lisa and her mum for starting this and we hope it goes from strength to strength.

So you can see from the above that we do try to keep our village children from the age of 4 through to 17 busy during the time they are not in school, and this would not be possible without all the voluntary help we get. Many, many thanks to all those volunteers. Also our Community Mini Bus is such a great asset to the village. Without the use of the Mini Bus we would not be able to take the children out and about like we do. We are so lucky to have this facility. A Very Happy New Year to all the readers of MADNews from the volunteers and children involved in our Out of School activities.

The Cub Scouts

We meet every Tuesday evening throughout the year except for a couple of weeks during the summer. This past year you will have seen us often around the village on a Tuesday evening, either tracking, collecting rubbish or chasing one another through the copse playing the most popular game of all i.e. "the mustard game". You may well ask what is that. Basically the cubs have various bases within the copse marked with a flag. The idea is to steal one another's flags, but if you are caught then your face is either covered in mustard, salad cream, ketchup or chocolate spread. By the end of the game the cubs are a real mess which is how we send them home!!! Their parents love us!!!

Last year we also had a visit to the local police station and also to the fire station. Both visits were very interesting and enjoyed by all, even the policemen and firemen! During May we had our first ever week-long camp when we took the cubs to the Isle of Wight. We were very lucky in that we must have picked the hottest week of the summer. Whilst on camp the cubs worked hard for their Naturalist Badge, by visiting Butterfly World, collecting leaves from the wood around the camp site and then trying to match them to the various trees in reference books. They also worked for their

Navigators Badge by being given a map and compass with a request from the leaders to take us on a 12 mile hike from our campsite along the coast to Alum Bay. This was really interesting. At one point the cubs had the map upside down and led us down a very narrow path where we were gradually becoming up to our necks in thorns and stinging nettles then realising that perhaps we might be going the wrong way!! However we got there eventually.

In October we held our annual Sponsored Silence. We met in the Portacabin at 6.30pm on the Saturday evening and not a word was spoken until 8.00am the following morning. This is sheer bliss for the leaders. There is nothing like having a room full of 16 young boys who can't speak. Their sign language is unique and the notes they try to write to one another is something else. However it is a very good exercise and we managed to raise over £200 for cub funds.

We finished off the year with a family evening of bowling in Eynsham. This was very well attended. We ended up with about 40 of us in all and had a very enjoyable time.

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For photos - see the cover Ed

SCHOOL NEWS

Fund Raising Focus

The children of Marcham School wanted to express their concern for the victims of the Tsunami disaster in Asia. Having discussed the issue in our first assembly, School Council met to decide what to do. They agreed to organise a fund-raising activity. Here are some comments from younger members of School Council:

We wanted to get money, so I drew things on a poster. We got hundreds of cakes and I was really pleased. *Grace Hardy, aged 5*
I brought in some plain cakes, it was yummy. We want to get food for the [Tsunami] people. *Jonathon Allison, aged 5*

The other things we thought of weren't as good as a cake sale. We were pleased we raised a lot of money, and we want it to get water or buy a house. *Sarah Tierney, aged 7*

We are delighted to report that we raised over £140, through just a half-hour of frantic fabulous cake sales. Many thanks to everyone who helped out.

Moulding Mask Magic

Morland Class are studying the Tudors this term. For this project, they are making a huge frieze that will go up on the wall at the Junior School entrance. This will show the Spanish Armada, a Tudor house and Henry VIII!!! Using Mod Roc (gauze impregnated with plaster) and newspaper, we have started to make the 3D backgrounds. Robin Butt (aged 9) volunteered to have a plaster cast made of his face for our model of Henry.

This is what he looked like:

And this is what he felt!:
 We had to put vaseline on Robin's face 'so none of my skin or hair came off!' **It was quite soft and squishy to start off with, then it felt hot and went hard. It was uncomfortable. My face felt better when the mask came off - what a relief! When I saw it, it's amazing - it really is!**

For other "moulders" see the cover

