



# Friends of the 22nd Wimbledon NEWSLETTER



Friends Newsletter No. 29

Winter 2008/2009

A packed to overflowing Holy Cross Church resounded to young people's voices at the annual celebration of Christmas in early December. This traditional event, led by Rev Rachel, and one of the highlights of our year is always well supported by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, their Leaders, Parents and Supporters. All the main readings and prayers were led by young people themselves, many of which the children had created on themes dear to their hearts. This year, our Beaver Colony delightfully entertained the congregation with a rousing rendition of two popular Christmas songs which they had specially rehearsed for the occasion

During the service we were able to present Chief Scout Bronze Awards to seven Beavers, seven Cub Scouts were invested, Group Thanks Badges were presented to Simon Shute and Paul Sadler, 5 and 10 year service certificates were awarded to Elizabeth Maloney and James Hannam and Wood Badges were presented to Graham Fairclough, Tim Kerridge and Peter Weekes.

We were honoured this year to be joined by some very special visitors. Our District Commissioner, District President and Assistant Commissioners with responsibility for Beavers and Scouts were with former Cub Scout and Scout Stephen Vause, a young soldier seriously injured in Iraq when he was only 19 years of age. Stephen is now 21. In Stephen's honour a substantial collection was taken and has been donated to Help for Heroes.

Our Sections leadership teams are already actively putting into place the plans for the next term. As always, even in the middle of winter, the outdoors plays an important part. At the end of January the Scouts will be away in "camp" (albeit indoors!) and they will be followed quite quickly by the Cubs and the Beavers who are also going to be holding residential events in the Spring.

100 Club winners in recent months have been: Jim Milner- Jose, S Powell and John Constantine in November: D Dickson, Michael Howard and Penny Price in December with Kim Stanley winning the special Standing order draw in December. Tickets for 2009 are still on sale from our Treasurer, Andy Pearson. An application/renewal form is attached to this newsletter for those who receive it in hard copy.

To provide interest we would like to include brief details of past members so you are invited to contribute items for inclusion in newsletters. We would like to hear about interesting places where you may live, your family, job, etc and any reminiscences of past experiences with the Group. Contacts with past members may also be established. Send your thoughts to Robert ([friends22wim@aol.com](mailto:friends22wim@aol.com)) who will edit and help you write this if necessary.

**We would also remind you that the Friends Reunion in 2009 takes place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June (not 29<sup>th</sup> as shown in the previous newsletter). Further details will be in the next newsletter. Please note the date in your 2009 diary now as we look forward to seeing a good crowd there.**

We all take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2009.