

Highworth Guides get into Christmas spirit

On Saturday 17th November girls from all sections of guiding came together to lend a hand at the Highworth Guides Christmas Fayre. Brownies helped serve tea, mince pies and bacon butties. Guides and Rainbows manned several stalls selling Christmas gifts, biscuits and games. Father Christmas himself made a guest appearance, bringing with him lots of pressies.

The Mayor of Highworth, Richard Scotchmer, lent his support by chatting with the girls and guiders after enjoying a cup of tea and visiting each stall. Mrs. Carolyn Crawley, Brownie guider, presented Mr Scotchmer with a £60 Cheque for the cancer and leukaemia charity CALM which had been collected from a previous Brownie Concert. The mayor was very pleased with the donation and the Brownies efforts.

The Fayre raised a grand total of £467. This money



will be split between the individual units and some will be put towards the 2010 guiding centenary fund which we are currently collecting towards. Thank you to all who continue to support Guiding in Highworth.

Amanda McElroy

Scouts

Christmas Post

Thank you to all of you who supported this. We sold 5,497 stamps, which exceeded our expectations in view of the early posting date, and delivered 5,050 cards. This will benefit the group by approximately £630.

Christmas activities

The group has again been very active in the run up to Christmas. At the end of November our beavers entertained the residents of Middi Haines Court which ended their celebration of 100 years of scouting and Vorda cubs will be entertaining the residents of Parsonage Court in the New Year. Wrede cubs went carol singing in Eastrop and raised £65 for Marine Conversation, a charity decided by the best presentation of the cubs, so they are now the proud owners of two turtles. Not to be outdone by all these activities the scouts took part in the Cardboard City sleep out on a typically cold night.

Buy a brick - Centenary Appeal

The generosity of the people of Highworth never ceases to amaze us and hopefully this is also a reflection of what scouting stands for and what we offer young people. At the time of writing bricks had been bought to the value of nearly £2,800 which has exceeded our most optimistic estimates. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed. There is still time to buy a brick as this part of our appeal will run until we have raised the necessary funds. If you have lost your form please contact me David Roblin, on (01793) 763720. We have also received other pledges for the appeal so we enter 2008 with every confidence of raising the money.

Annual Quiz

Please see next month's details for details of this year's quiz.

Shape up for kids

Two new fitness programmes were launched by the Primary Care Trust last week as a way of improving the health of overweight children.

The programmes, which are part of the national MEND (Mind Exercise Nutrition Do it) initiative give children between the ages of 7 and 13 a chance to do fun physical activities such as games and swimming. Children will also have the opportunity to learn about the importance of healthy eating.

Ben Humphrey, Programme Manager for Swindon's MEND projects, commented on the sessions so far: "The kids are very enthusiastic and enjoying

themselves immensely. We have created a safe and fun environment where the kids get two extra hours of quality physical activity, while having a great time. This, along with the healthy eating education gives families the opportunity to make long-lasting healthy lifestyle changes."

The programmes are being run from the Link Centre and Dorcan sports centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm-7pm. For information go to www.mendprogramme.org. To register, call Ben Humphrey, Tel: 07815 776593 or E-mail: bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk.