



Reading Scout Volunteer notches up 80 years of service



Reading Central District Scouts celebrated 80 years of service from just one volunteer, Harry Beckett, to Scouting in Reading with a presentation of a Certificate of Merit at their Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held at the Wokingham Waterside Centre on Wednesday. In 2007, Scouting world-wide celebrates its Centenary and Harry has seen most of it! For a long time he has worked with 1st Reading Scouts, one of the oldest Scout Groups in the Country and more recently he has served as Vice-President of the District Scout Council.

The County Commissioner for Berkshire, Hamish Stout, congratulated Reading Central District Scouts for their fabulous programme of adventure, fun and friendship over the last year with over 1000 young people and adults involved in Scouting in Reading. The numbers of Explorer Scouts, a relatively new section for 14 to 18 year old young men and women, has increased by 28% and overall 20% of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts were girls.

Hamish presented Roger Flemming, District Chair, with the Medal of Merit to mark his outstanding service in supporting Scouting in Reading over the last sixteen years. The District Commissioner, Ian Kirkham presented Long Service Awards to Barry Johnson, Assistant District Commissioner for Beaver Scouts and Paul Kennerley District Beaver Scout Leader.

The Hon Mary Bayliss, the High Sheriff of Berkshire, thanked all the many adult volunteers in Reading Scouts for "the wonderful work you do and the unselfish manner in which you give of your time". She said "that the young people were lucky to be

members of such a wonderful organization as Scouting which helps develop rounded and useful citizens”

The meeting was also attended by the His Right Workshipful the Mayor of Reading Councillor Riaz Chaudhry accompanied by his wife Naeema.

The photograph shows the Mayor with his wife congratulating Harry Beckett (left) on his award.

For more information about Scouting please contact the Scouts Hotline 07092 807 586, email opportunities@berkshirescouts.org.uk or visit the website www.berkshirescouts.org.uk

Photograph – Credit Geoffrey Mitchell

Left Harry Beckett
Centre the Mayor
Right the Mayor’s wife Naeema

A high resolution version of this image 1972x1833 is available.

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For more information see Berkshire Scouts Web Site www.berkshirescouts.org.uk

Berkshire Scouts is part of the Scout Association which itself is part of the World Organisation of Scout Movements, the largest co-educational youth movement in the world and in the UK.

It contributes to the fulfilment of their potential using a progressive and enjoyable values-based programme for personal development. It provides a programme of fun, friendship and adventure for young people aged 6 to 25. There is an emphasis on outdoor adventure and helping others.

In Berkshire there are 7,7717 (2005 annual census) young people and adults enjoying a wide range of Scouting activities. Scouting is mainly provided through over 130 local Scout Groups and District-based Explorer Scout Units. Reading Central is one of 12 Scout Districts in Berkshire and includes Reading, Caversham, Shinfield, Tilehurst and Whitely Wood.