

Peter Freeman

Peter and his wife Lyn moved from London to Mendlesham Green in July 1985.

Peter started his scouting career on the 6th Nov 1989 which will be 35 years later this year, so quite an achievement.

Having joined 1st Mendlesham Scout Group, Peter became the ACL for 3 years. He then changed role to SL for 15 years. He organised many events and camps including several at Runcton Holme, Norfolk, running Scout and Group camps.

Peter organised various pioneering projects, that's making huge constructions out of large pine poles and ropes.

Peter's forte is camp fires. He will don his camp blanket emblazoned with loads of badges to lead the camp fire with the famous Ging Gang Gooley to many more scouting traditional songs with a blazing fire behind him.

Peter is a great cook, I remember at a camp, he was making a curry using authentic basic ingredients, with the finished dish, nearly blowing my head off. (I do have a delicate palette). For the scout camps he did the 'Pete Special', which is a massive Chinese meal including large billies of Chinese curry, egg fried rice and noodles. The Scouts loved it.

During his time as the SL, Peter was also the Explorer Leader for 3 years. He ran these sections practically on his own for most of the time.

In 2010, the then GSL stepped down, so Peter took the helm to be the new GSL. This entailed managing all the Leaders and the GE, which he did with great passion and resilience. Being a manager with BT, he used his skills to ensure that 1st Mendlesham was running efficiently and following the rules of TSA. Whilst Peter was carrying out this role, the Beaver Leader decided to leave and as he was unable to recruit a replacement. He ran the Beavers for 6 years with the support of Emma (his future daughter in law). He also utilised the Young Leaders to facilitate the programmes, which the Beavers loved. He had organised a two year rolling programme, so that it gave the Beavers new skills and to make life easier that the parents were aware of what was in the programme. It came to a head when Peter felt he could not continue running Beavers with all his other Group commitments, so to ensure that the Colony continued, the SL & ASL took on the running of the Colony and luckily a new BL & ABL were recruited, both of which used to be members of the Group many years beforehand.

Peter's entertaining talents has involved him in many of the Stowmarket and Ipswich Scout Districts Gang Shows. I have been to several and they are a great source of fun, laughter and song. Peter is a keen guitarist, playing base and lead and has performed on many occasions at St Mary's church, where he was also a Server for many years and also at the St Georges Day parade in Stowmarket. In fact, St Mary's was the first time I met Peter for the Remembrance day service. His scout uniform showing under his cassock. Dedication.

Peter was given the 'Award for Merit' for outstanding service to scouting in September 2014.

Peter was asked to oversee the development of Bacton Scout Group, as the Leaders had stepped down, so another role to contend with.

Peter decided to step down as the GSL after doing this role for 10 years. I had the privilege of being his AGSL and found that his direction and knowledge was extremely helpful to me in my new role.

The Group are very lucky to have Peters continued support by being our Group Administrator, which is a godsend, as he has so much knowledge and skills.

Peter has also seen that Lyn his wife, was a ACL for many years and his three sons have all gone through the group with Jonathan and Chris, now the Explorer Leaders with Emma, as mentioned before also being an Explorer Leader.

For those of you who know Peter, he is a quiet spoken person, a great listener and is passionate and a perfectionist with anything he puts his hands too.

This award that is being presented to Peter is a reflection of his support to a youth organisation in Mendlesham and has seen the growth of the Group during his involvement and tenure and his involvement at St Mary's, which is so thoroughly deserved. I am sure you will agree with me that Peter is a great asset to the village and also to the Scout Group.

WELL DONE AND CONGRATULATIONS