

Grove Scouts host distance cyclists

On Saturday 6th February, on behalf of King Alfred's District, Grove Scout Group played hosts to a team of cyclists from 37th Oxford (St. Francis) as they bid to cycle around all Oxford's Scout Districts in one day! The team of 3 (plus 2 support vehicles) set off from their hut in the Oxford Spires District at 6.30 in the morning and were due to finish up in Bicester at 9 that night after 8 stops and over 100 miles of cycling.



Brendan a CSL and David an SL were both doing the challenge as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and as part of their Queen's Scout Award Challenge. They were accompanied on the ride by Ian the GSL of 37th Oxford as moral support! This was a surprise for Paul, as he and Ian had worked together many years before, but not realised each other's involvement in Scouting! Grove was the 4th stop after the day and they arrived with us at 12.45 coming across from Didcot before the long drag up to Abingdon. Given the timings we were a suitable lunch break and packed lunches were enjoyed by all as well as a well earned break for the cyclists. The leaders were collecting badges from all the Districts they passed through and we were happy to exchange King Alfred District Badges and Grove Scout name tapes with them. Brendan very kindly provided us with a 37th Oxford Necker to add to the collection in Grove Scout Hut. 3 leaders and some young people from Grove Scout Group came down to enjoy the event and we wished them good luck with the rest of the cycle ride around 1.30. The overcast weather conditions had not gotten much better by this time and we were glad we were staying behind!



As a footnote, the cycle ride ended successfully with all districts visited so many congratulations to Brenda, David and Ian and well done for doing such a challenge.