

Skipper

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to Fred Reeve and his wife Joyce as they leave Dolton to be nearer their daughter in Shropshire.

To many people, Fred is known by another name – “Skipper”. It is a name often given to Scout leaders, but to us, there is only one Skipper, and it is a title bestowed on him nearly 70 years ago.

In 1942, as a 14 year old Scout, Fred set up his own troop called the Rattlesnake lone Patrol which later became the 3rd Collier Row in Romford, Essex; a group that is still going strong today. After many continuous years of scrapes, exploits and adventure, Skip left Essex in 1994 after nearly 50 years of official service and arrived in Dolton. A year later, he joined the 1st Dolton Scout Group and since that time he has seen it go from strength to strength. With Skipper at the helm, “coercing” people to join as leaders, a new Cub pack began in 2008 and just last year, a satellite Beaver colony started up in Winkleigh.

Skipper has been involved with the Scouting Movement in one capacity or another for 70 years and in recognition of his outstanding achievement, was given the Silver Wolf Award in 2008 for service of a most exceptional nature.

So Skip; on behalf of the many young people who have benefited from your wisdom, dedication and enduring enthusiasm over the years, and from the adults who have worked alongside you in a voluntary position, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for tirelessly giving up your time, passing on your wealth of knowledge and experience, and for your valued support and commitment. You will be greatly missed by us all.

As Robert Baden-Powell said “There is no teaching to compare with example” and Skipper; you have always set the very highest of examples.