

CAMP UNIT VISITS RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE

Scouts enjoy the high life

Myles **BUCHANAN**

IT WAS a momentous occasion for Blessington Scouts, as Russborough House opened their gates for their annual group camp last weekend.

The total scout group, made up of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts arrived last Saturday to pitch their tents, in the walled garden on the grounds of this great Irish house. It was also a great day for parents as they were invited to visit the camp, take a tour of the house and maze and stop for lunch in the Garden cafe.

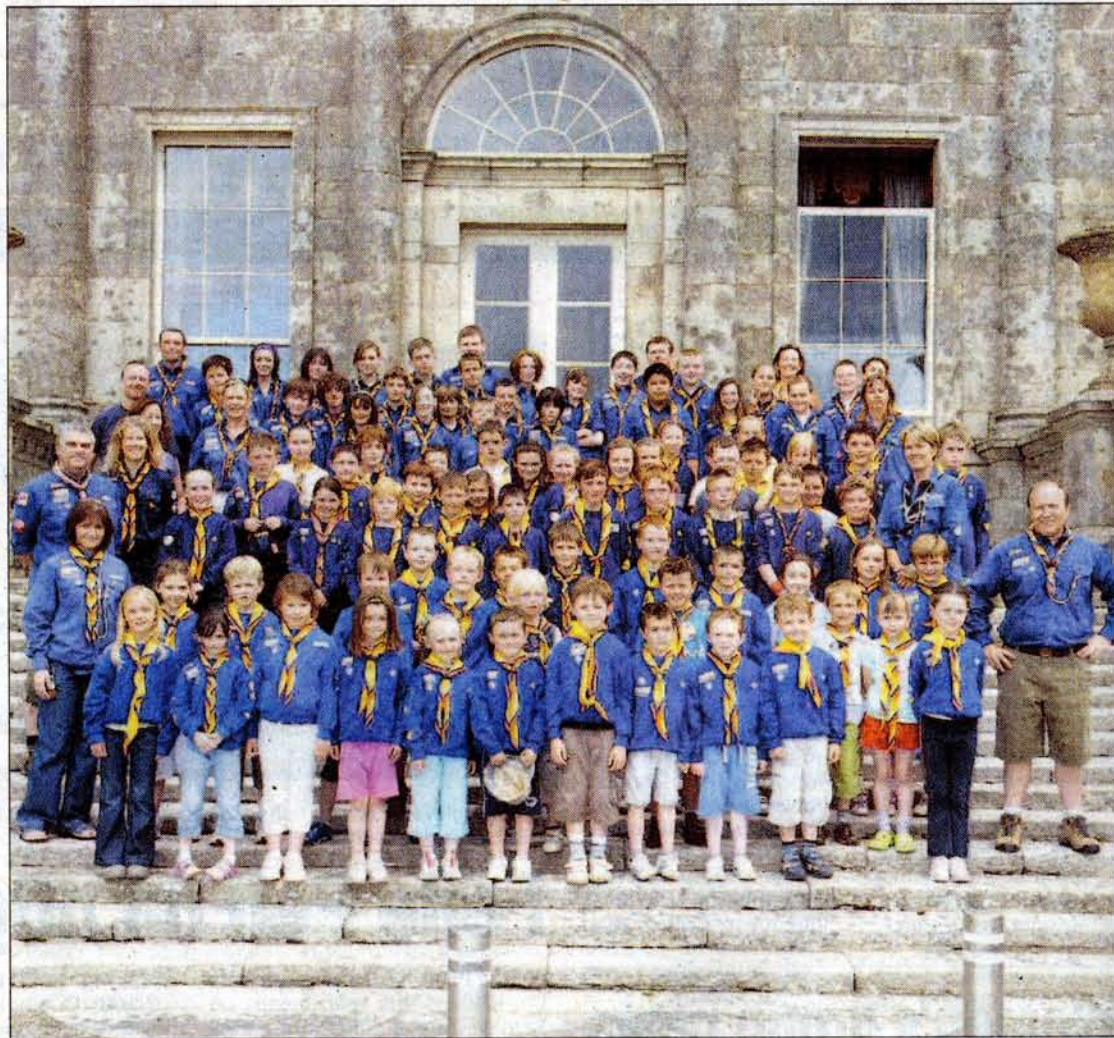
The weather kept fine for the occasion, leaders were busy organising activities, while staff at the house pulled out all the stops, to insure that it was a camp to remember. Scouts were put through their paces, as a range of scouting activities were organised to test their abilities. That evening, the grounds of Russborough was filled with the sound of camp fire singing. The next morning scouts had breakfast in the old equestrian arena

before they packed up to their gear and headed off to take their spot in the hillbilly run later that day.

Group Leader, Les Broderick commented, 'We are delighted that we got this opportunity to camp in these wonderful surroundings. It was a historical event as it is the first time that scouts have camped on the grounds. The staff in Russborough House could not do enough for us. It was a weekend that will be talked about for years to come.'

This year, the group camp supported the efforts of the Children's Miracle network which funds medical care, research and education for children with serious illness.

The 8th Wicklow Blessington Scout Group has just over 100 members, ranging in age from 6-14 years. The group is made up of Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and 15 adult volunteer leaders. The Scout group was formed in 2007 and has grown rapidly since its inception. This year the group went on its first international trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre.



■ Members of Blessington's Scout Unit arrive at the magnificent Russborough House for their annual camp.