

## Scouts Night at the Museum

30 Scouts from 6th Ashton-Under-Lyne (Christ Church) and 2nd/1st Hurst got the chance to spend a night at Catalyst Science Centre & Museum, in Widnes, for their Christmas sleepover. We arrived at 19:00 and were shown where we would be spending the night. Then we were taken into the museum, given a drink and told what the night had in store for everyone. From 7:30 till 23:00 we had the run of the museum, and with lots of hands-on stuff everyone was kept happy. There was a break part way through where the staff provided supper for everyone and also a short film presentation.

At 23:00 we were shown up to the observation room on the top floor, this had large glass panels all round giving a fantastic panoramic view of Widnes, made all the better because it had snowed during the evening. The Scouts and Explorers laid out their sleeping bags and got into their pj's whilst the leaders set up a projector so they could watch a film. You have to guess what film they watched, actually they watched the sequel as well. Some of the leaders then decided to go to a small room downstairs to leave the Scouts and Explorers with some time to themselves. At 03:00 some of them were still awake and a few decided not to sleep at all, The leaders had their fun in the morning, getting the Scouts and Explorers up at 07:00!!

After everyone had got washed and packed their kit away we were all given breakfast. Then we watched a 3D interactive film that was enjoyed by all, including the leaders. After this the Staff at the Museum put on 4 workshops for everyone where we were able to make shampoo, shower gel, bath bombs and key rings from mouldable plastic. Everyone left with lots of goodies they had made themselves.

We said our thank-you's and goodbyes and set off in the snow, but not many of the Scouts and Explorers saw much as they slept all the way home. They all said how much they enjoyed it and hoped they could do it again.

The overnight stay at the museum was well organised by the staff and the workshops were good fun even though the scouts wanted to sleep by this time, I would recommend this to any other scout Group or youth organisation (and for other museums too) as the evening was fantastic with fun had by all.

Many thanks to all the staff involved with our stay at the Museum either with the planning or the actual overnight stay.

Mark Fish

Scout Leader 6th Ashton-Under-Lyne

***See photographs below***









