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# WATERLINES

## 1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group



### Chairman's Report

As another AGM is with us I am happy to be able to report another very active year for the group. It has provided many young people from the age of 6 to 20 with a wide range of interesting and exciting Scouting activities. These are only made possible by the commitment of the uniformed leaders and helpers who give of their time so freely and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Particularly thanks must also go to our G.S.L., Ros White who abounds in energy and enthusiasm. The group owes much to her leadership.

Besides those people involved directly in Scouting, our group would not be successful without the small "army" of plain clothes workers. Our helpers are vital, the Group needs YOU.

The Executive Committee has met regularly throughout the year enabling the smooth running of the Group. My thanks for their hard work and support over the last 12 months. On the financial side, the Fund Raising Committee has been busy throughout the year with the Flea Market being the highlight. I would like to ex-



press my thanks to Catriona Tiller who recently retired from organising the Fund Raising Committee and who has given much of her time to the group in one capacity or another.

Finally thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Clark for their continuing generosity in allowing us to use their field which has been such a valuable asset to the group.

Sue Jacobs

ANNUAL REPORT 1993/4

## G.S.L's Report

After almost a year of homelessness, we moved back into our old HQ on the Ings land adjacent to Courtwood Farm, Damerham Road, Sandleheath in September. We are still getting organised there. In true scouting tradition nothing is quite finished or working properly! Robin Brand has put in a lot of time to make the HQ habitable again, ably assisted by a few (but not enough!) parents. Despite the difficulties it is good to have our own base again. Thanks to Peter Ings for his help and co-operation.

smuts firefighting and cooking. Our Cubs are very lucky to have so many opportunities open to them. Unfortunately we are having to run down the numbers in the Cub pack until we find more Leaders or helpers.

The Troop is now rather large - about 30. As usual they have had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including pioneering, climbing, abseiling, caving, expeditions, canoeing and sailing. We had an excellent summer camp in Wales, near Beddgelert with lots of walking and canoeing or sailing on the Menai Straits. The troop took part in the Solent Sea Scout Sailing Regatta at Blashford and two of our boys won the Mirror Class. Once again a Sandleheath Patrol, Falcons, won the District Camp-



Members of the Sandleheath Group cross the Avon in Fordingbridge as part of the Remembrance Day parade

Our Beavers are now under the care of Tony Dossitt and Tina Coles with the welcome assistance of Jan Elkins. Thanks to Julie Gaston, who is taking a well-earned rest after running Beavers for a number of years.

The Cub Pack! - what can I say about our Cubs that we dare print? Are all Cubs noisy, scruffy, undisciplined, hyperactive and over-enthusiastic - or is it something we do to them? (Or as one Mum said after helping one evening - "they should all be on Valium!"). Robin Brand has been sharing the task of taming the Cub Pack with me. Despite the shortage of leaders the cub progressive training and badge work has gone well. The Cubs certainly made their presence heard at the District Camp at Ferny Crofts! They also had a good weekend at Burley and had the opportunity to try sailing and canoeing at Spinnaker. We have made good use of our own field spending a number of evenings amid smoke and

ing Competition and went on to come an excellent 4th in the County Competition. A Patrol led by Stephen White won the District Patrol hiking competition and Ian Jacobs won the District Chess Competition. Our Scout leaders, Mike Giddens and Tony Beavan, are obviously doing an excellent job and the whole troop is making good progress with training awards. The quality of their scouting was rewarded when the Troop was awarded the County Commissioners Standard in April. Geoff Tiller is now helping Mike and Tony, but another helper would be most welcome. Special congratulations to Tim Gaston who achieved his Chief Scouts Award.

Our Venture Unit is busy doing all sorts of things. They had a Summer camp at Great Towers in the Lake District, but have also been away on various walking and caving weekends. They survived the Beaulieu River Raft Race, had a float in Fordingbridge Carnival, competed in both Blashford and Marchwood

Regattas and had everyone in hysterics at the Indoor Camp Fire. However their major success this year came quite recently when Robin Gibbons led a Venture team to triumph in the District Eggo Competition. Our Venture leaders are absolutely delighted with the prospect of organising Eggo again next year! Thanks to Liz and Rob for giving their expertise and enthusiasm to the Venture Unit.

Our water activities team, led by Alleyne Copestake, have been tremendous this year. The quality of canoeing and sailing has improved immeasurably. you can read a full report from Alleyne elsewhere in this edition of Waterlines.

As a Group we have held a number of functions - an Indoor Camp Fire, a Founders Day Parade and Service, Litter Picks, an activities weekend in the Mendips and various Fund-Raising activities. The Fund-Raising Committee have raised over £2,000, including over £1,000 at the Annual Flea Market.

We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Clark for allowing us to use the camping field. We are very lucky to have such a useful facility on our doorstep.

Thanks also to all those who help at section meetings, on Committees, at the HQ, or for special events, Fund-Raising, the Flea Market and Eggo. Looking forward to another busy year.

Ros White

## Cubs

I'm delighted to say that it has been another busy and successful year for the Cubs. Starting in June, there were visits to Moors Valley and Ferny Crofts. These were followed by a trip to the "Hants Cub Scout Space Fun Day" at Gilwell Park, north of London, where a host of activities were enjoyed. At the end of the month we practised open air cooking in the field, on a warm and pleasant evening! In July we followed this with an evening of barbecue and games. On the 4th some of the older boys went climbing and abseiling at Ferny Crofts.

After the summer break we continued with a science session. Do you know how to stick a knitting needle into a balloon without bursting it? Just ask one of our cubs! A skittles contest at the Sports Club on Fordingbridge Recreation ground was enjoyed by all. And no, the skittles do not roll down the ball chute, they stick half way! In October we had a super night hike, lashing of mud, but the rain held off, and we all made it back to the HQ

The pack holiday took place from the 22nd to the 24th October, based at Burley HQ. This included a water activities session at Spinnaker Lake on the Saturday, where the weather smiled on us, and the boys had a fine time being introduced to canoeing and sailing, many for the first time. I had a go in a canoe too. In fact it was easier than I thought, but the cub in the front of my double canoe did seem to be working awfully hard! Many thanks to those who helped provide the water activities. In the evening we did badge work and had a camp-fire, and on the final day tried tracking, played volley and football, and had a treasure hunt. Artist and Communicator badges were achieved during the weekend.

In November we had a swimming session at Ringwood, where 9 stages 1, 9 stage 2 and 6 stage 3 swimming badges were gained. This was followed a few days later by the District Swimming Gala, which was great fun. By now our regular meetings were in the "new" HQ, using the generator as the evenings drew in. Also this month we had a visit to Shering's Museum, full of fascinating details, thank you John. December brought the Christingle service, and on the 15th we had our Christmas party at the HQ, - with the electricity connected at last!! A cause for celebration indeed, and thanks to those who gave up their time to come along and help rewire. Special thanks to Stuart Hunt for the loan of the generator, which had kept us going until then.

The New Year started with a sixers meeting, where the boys contributed to the planning of the activities programme. We have since had sessions based on various activities such as mapping, conservation, science, and music. We have also taken part in the District Football and Mastermind competitions, and had another skittles evening. We had a good turn-out for the St. Georges Day parade in March, and at the time of writing are looking forward to the District Cub Camp at Ferny Crofts.

In addition to all the above there has been a continuing programme of progressive training and badge work, with the lads working hard and achieving some good results.

Looking back on the year I am very pleased that we have achieved so much. Thank you to all those who have helped at individual activities, and to the parents who have come along on our "parents rota", without whom we could not continue. However the biggest thank you must go to Ros White who has basically organised and run the years' activities, all in addition to her main job as Group Scout Leader. As I am sure you all know, we are short of leaders and helpers for Cubs, and it would be a great shame if we were unable to continue with our programme. Please volunteer, if at all you can, and pass the word around!

Robin Brand

## Ventures

The summer of '93 saw a peak of membership for the Unit of around 25. Activities at this time included; barbecues, beach parties, float building for raft racing, and much more. The highlight, if you like, was a weeks camp in the Lake District with England's highest peaks being surmounted. Its a pity the weather wasn't more summer-like, but like the Rhinog's, the year before, the rain seemed never ending and some got to know Bowness very well indeed. Bowness had other features and gave others a different leaning experience - but perhaps those details are best left unrecorded!

September and the AGM saw a change in the Executive with Jamers Powell retiring and Mark Hoare elected to take his place. Other changes took place and more old friends disappeared off to college.

A very varied programme was put together and implemented. A greater number of developmental items along with social events lead to a number of successfully completed Venture Scout awards. 1993 ended with a Unit Christmas party which was as well attended as most events had been throughout the year.

1994 has seen a continuation of a good and varied programme, but a drop off in numbers and a few programme 'failures'. The Unit Exec. has addressed this problem and has plans to improve communication, and to instigate a two tier subscription system with a clear membership/entry system. The AGM has been brought forward to July to help the changeover during the summer.

## Scouts

Once again it has been a very busy year for our Scout Troop. Most of the 27 boys in the troop at present take a full and active part in the programme, we and the Patrol Leaders Council, set out. It is always encouraging to see the high attendance levels we attain, not only on Thursday evenings but also at the many other activities, competitions and parades which take place during the year.

Last June, Sandleheath Scouts entered two patrols in the District Camping Competition, now called the Shobley Trophy. For the sixth year running, Sandleheath won this and went onto represent the District at the County Emlyn Camping Competition in September. Here our patrol of James Bennett, Ben Dobbs, Chris Douce, James Merrick, David Morris and patrol leader, Stephen White put in a really good performance. Despite the appalling weather, they finished in fourth place; far higher than any previous Sandleheath entry. Well done lads. Also last summer, Sandleheath represented the District in the County 6-a-side Football Tournament where the team gave a spirited performance, often against much older and stronger teams.

Our summer camp last year was held at Nantmoor, North Wales, where 12 scouts and 5 leaders had a really enjoyable week despite half the boys and Ed going down with a stomach bug (or should I say coming up with a stomach bug!) There's a report from Stephen White on the next page.

In June and September, the Troop entered the Blashford and Solent Regattas respectively. A report



of these two events appears under Alleyne Copestakes Water Activities report. Those who took part enjoyed themselves and the team spirit was good with plenty of cheering and encouragement.

October saw the introduction of the District Scout Day Hike Competition. Again the Sandleheath willingness to participate showed when the Troop entered no less than four patrols; as many as the rest of the District put together. A good effort was rewarded when two of our patrols came first and second. Towards the end of the year the Group held an indoor camp fire in St. Mary's Church hall. The boys not only entertained the audience with sketches, stunts and songs for their allotted time but also did much of the preparation and running of the evening including the catering. This fine event enabled 17 of them to gain their entertainers badge.

In February this year we took part in the District Swimming Gala where we came second despite winning several races. Ian Jacobs won the District Chess competition which was organised by Stephen White. Ian went onto represent the District at the County Chess competition and finished in 14th place. Good attendances have been attained at the Remembrance Day, Founders Day and St. Georges Day parades. At the District Swimathon the Troop raised a considerable sum of money. Some boys completed over 100 lengths and from the amount they raised they wanted £25.00 to go to the Richard Johnson Appeal. Other community service events attended were car parking duty at the Frogham County Fair and the annual litter pick up during the New Forest Pride Week.

Many badges and awards have been earned this year but a special mention to Tim Gaston who achieved his Chief Scout Award and Chief Scout's Challenge before leaving the Scout section to join the Venture Scout Unit. Well done Tim.

Perhaps the most pleasing achievement of the year was the recent gaining by the Troop of the County Commissioners Standard. This award is only held by a handful of the 312 Troops in Hampshire, Well done the Troop.

However, there is certainly room for improvement and the best way of achieving this would be to sometimes not always, split the Troop up into smaller groups. Of course to do this requires more leaders and helpers. As can be appreciated by the above report, it takes many hours of our time to run the Troop as it is. So if there is anyone who can offer support, they would be made very welcome. Remember, Scouting is open to all whether you wear a uniform or not. Why not find out what we really are about - who knows, a new interest may be just over the horizon.

Mike Giddens, Tony Beavan



Scouts from Sandleheath and Fordingbridge after their Challenge run in the Avon Valley

## Summer Camp

On Wednesday the 18th of August we set off to Nantmor near Beddgelert, North Wales, in a borrowed rusty mini-bus. There were 12 scouts (split into three patrols - Stags, Yetties and Ibex), 4 leaders and Sally white. On Wednesday and Thursday we set up camp and explored the local area. We went on the Festiniog railway on Friday and then walked back to the station in patrols, to where the minibus was waiting. In the evening we did backwoods cooking. On Saturday we went up Cnicht (2265 feet). That night some scouts made, and slept in, a Bivvie.

On Sunday we went canoeing at Plas Y Brenin and did orienteering. In the evening we had a wide game, which was a great success. We went to the beach on Monday, had a sandcastle competition and went swimming at Harlech. We had a campfire in the evening.

On Tuesday we walked to Bethgellert and went to the shops there. In the afternoon we started to clear up camp and did various activities in and around the camp. On Wednesday we struck camp and went home. Stags (Lead by Stephen White) won the inter-patrol competition which ran all through the camp and points were gained, and lost, for behaviour and helpfulness of members of that patrol. Thanks to Tony Beavan, Tina Coles and Ed, Ros White and Mike Giddens for organising everything.

Stephen White.



## Water Activities

This season has seen an increase in our fleet and a marked increase in the proficiency of our Scouts in both sailing and canoeing. The season started on May 6th with a fleet of 4 mirrors and the newly refitted firefly. Most Thursday evenings saw a good turn-out of Scouts with Venture Scouts also attending.

The usual problem of lack of wind meant that the evenings usually ended in the boats being towed back to the shore, so some Saturday mornings were used for race training as we then had plenty of wind. The increase in the fleet meant that we were able to have the whole troop afloat at any one time both sailing and canoeing also there was some interest in rowing. Several trips were made by the canoeists to Mudeford for some sea experience and was much enjoyed.

A safety boat course was held at Lymington Scout headquarters on May 8th and 9th and was attended by Alleyn Copestake and Hywell Morris, both gaining their safety boat certificates.

Solent Sea Scout regatta was held at Spinnaker on 26th June and our four mirrors were loaned for the mirror races. Two teams were entered, Steven White with David Morris and Matthew Peddle and Ben Dobbs. I am very pleased to report that Steven and David won the mirror class races at their first attempt.

1st Sandleheath regatta took place on 26th June with canoeing races held in the morning due to lack of wind for sailing, however, by lunchtime the wind had increased and we had some excellent races with very close results. The overall winner was Michelle Jacobs with David Manston as crew. The afternoon saw the usual fun races and the winners were the all girl team led by Michelle Jacobs. Many thanks to all who took part in what has now become an annual event and particular thanks to all the helpers.

Solent Regatta at Marchwood on 18th and 19th September proved to be a very windy event but despite this our crews did very well in both Bosuns and the open Mirror class.

Cubs day was held on 23rd October for the second year and was very well attended. The boys enjoyed some very exciting sailing (!) in the Wayfarer helmed by Germaine Copestake and in the Mirrors and Firefly whilst others canoed and rowed.

In March a trip was organised to Plymouth to sail a 37 foot Oyster sailing boat. 3 Scouts and 2 Ventures spent the weekend practising various manoeuvres and they learnt how to live and work in a very small space as a team. Despite some sea sickness the weekend was enjoyed by everyone.

# Seaman's Diary

Just before Easter 1994, 6 Scouts lead by Alley Copestake and Hywell Morris spent a weekend sailing in the English Channel. The boys were encouraged to keep diaries and on their return a competition was held to find one to publish here. The following report is the winning account of what was a very special experience for 6 young sailors.

## DIARY OF MY WEEKEND ON TANGNEYFED

**Friday:** I felt excited. I took my sleeping bag and hold all with lots of extra clothes, just in case of rough weather and of course, sea sickness tablets! We left home at about 5.15pm and got to Mr. Copestake's, we were the first there but the others soon arrived. We looked at the weather map Mr. Copestake had got from the Met. Office and chatted while we waited. The cars were soon loaded and off we set. I went with David, Ben, Matthew and Dr. Morris. We arrived in Plymouth late and loaded the boat with our gear, had supper and talked about what we were going to do.

Tangneyfed looked small from the outside but was quite big inside. Our cabin was next to the galley and had a big bed and by pulling a wooden bench out it made the sleeping area a bit bigger. I was on the side being smaller I could fit in better. The cooker was strange because it pivoted on a bar so it kept level despite the weather. All the cupboards and drawers had a hole in so you put your finger inside to reach the catch.

**Saturday:** I slept well and woke about 6am. We had breakfast and then we had our instructions about fitting and wearing the harness when outside. We set sail and started our man-over board drill. This was good. Unfortunately, David dropped my sunglasses overboard, we shouted glasses overboard but we couldn't find them.

We sailed on to Salcombe. It was a lovely day, sunny, and the wind just right for a good speed. I enjoyed helming very much. I could even eat my sandwiches and helm at the same time, tricky. William then helmed. The weather then started to get rough. After lots of attempts we eventually moored. We took the rubber dingy from the stern and used the electric pump to blow it up.

Mr. Copestake took us in two groups over to Salcombe and we had a look around. We looked for some sunglasses and found a super pair and I bought a strap so I couldn't lose them overboard. We then went back and had some tea, chips, mushy peas, and mushroom pie, it was all very good. I felt quite tired but had a great time.

We then got into our wet weather gear and prepared to sail through the night. Unfortunately it got quite rough and some felt sick. I was fine and stood with Ben whilst he was helming. We then got to Plymouth and moored up for the rest of the night.

**Sunday:** Set off in quite rough weather, cloudy, quite windy and cold. We sailed round to the next bay and had lunch. It was extremely rough and I was helming some of way. I sat on the side after helming with my feet dangling over the side and the boat went up with a wave and then came down into another and completely soaked me. So I had to completely change my clothes, even my shoes were soaking wet.

We eventually got back to Plymouth after quite a sail. We changed into clean clothes and started to unpack the boat and load everything in the cars. We then finished off all the food. We waited for Dr. Morris and Mr. Copestake to check the boat and off we set.

We arrived home at about 9.30pm. I had really enjoyed it and would love to go again. When I get older I would like to get a big boat like that.

Jonathan Shepley



All at sea in the English Channel, William Westwood (left) and Jonathan Shepley at the helm of the 37 foot yacht Tangneyfed.



Not the new H.Q. but a field 'somewhere in North Wales' during last summer.

## H.Q. Report

At the AGM this time last year, I gave a presentation on the situation with the Scout HQ, and what work needed doing to get it into a usable condition. This report is to let you know how we have done, and where we now stand.

One of the main problems to be tackled was the fact that the electrical wiring had been ripped out, and indeed there was no longer any power supply to the building! Accordingly a series of working parties were started, and began by wiring fluorescent light fittings on the ceiling of the main hall.

Work continued over the next few months installing more lights and power sockets, and working on the fuse box., The loan of a generator allowed a temporary supply to be used. Meanwhile, a trench was dug to the nearest electricity supply pole, ready for the mains to be installed.

In the background, details regarding the lease of the land on which the HQ stood were sorted out, and a five year agreement was signed at the beginning of November. We were now able to use the HQ for our regular meetings.

The huge pile of logs was removed from the car park area. (remember those!). Thank you to the lngs. Inside carpentry repair work continued and a fine new store with shelving was built to hold tents etc. After some delays regarding granting of wayleaves etc., the big day arrived, and the electricity supply was finally connected. This was in the middle of

December, just in time for the Cub's Christmas party. It was wonderful not to have to worry about the generator running out of petrol or stalling!

Looking back on the progress so far, it can be realised how much we have done, all at minimal cost and with (mostly!) voluntary labour. Thank you to all those who have given their time to come along and help, and to the Fordingbridge Carnival Committee, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions, who have provided valuable help.

Looking forward now, we need a final push to complete the refurbishment. Repair and decorating parties are now being organised. Please volunteer your services when the call goes out. It's warmer, and the sun quite often shines! The Ventures are refurbishing the HQ sign. Inside the wiring needs completing, and outside the car parking areas need sorting out. Your help is still needed!

Robin Brand

## Beavers

This is my last AGM report and the Beaver Scouts have been as busy as they always are. They have continued to enjoy all the variety of activities that have been set before them. We have managed to visit the police station in Ringwood, the fire station in Fordingbridge, we have taken part in the District Beaver Day at the Educational Centre at Beaulieu and some of the older Beaver Scouts have completed the Beaver Scout Challenge.

St. Georges Day Parade was a milestone in the colony's history when our new colony flag was Blessed by the Reverend John Turpin at the service in Ringwood Parish Church. We also took part in the District Carol Service organised by Dee Corlett our ADC Cub Scouts, and we look forward to this years. The colony took to the streets of Sandleheath when they attended the Founders Day Parade and Church Service in February.

By the time you read this the colony will be back with the rest of the group holding their meetings at the New/Old Headquarters. We are extremely fortunate to have gained the help of Tony Dossitt (Hawkeye) who has come to help Tina Coles (TicTac) with the running of the colony, my very best wishes go to them, and to Mrs. Elkins (Bubbles) who has joined as an unwarranted parent helper.

I would ask that you give them as much help and support as I was fortunate to receive over the five years I ran the colony.

Julie Gaston (Keeo)