

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

May 2003

AGM Edition

GSL's Report

This year has been a year of change. Last summer we finally moved into our new "Scout Centre" whilst at the same time the age ranges of the sections for those aged 10+ changed and all sections started on new training programmes. We all look forward to new challenges (we don't have problems in Scouting!) with the knowledge that we now have one of the best Scout headquarters in the country.

The Leaders have enjoyed presenting the new programmes to the young people in a spacious, warm and clean environment. After years of not buying equipment because there was nowhere to store it we have delighted in gradually gathering together the bits and pieces that make running an exciting programme easier.

The boat workshop has enabled us to work on the boats and we now have a fleet of dinghies and canoes to be proud of. We still lack pulling (rowing) boats, but hope to put that right later this year.

Needless to say with our superb new base, an improving collection of equipment and our ever increasing group of dedicated and experienced leaders, fired with new enthusiasm, we have more young people than ever wanting to join us. We have already increased numbers significantly, but still have long waiting lists. Hopefully some more of you will step forward to join our team of leaders and helpers to enable us to open a second Beaver Colony and Cub Pack.

Our young people have continued to be a great credit to us, having represented us across the world and gained many awards to be proud of. We had four members at the World Jamboree in Thailand who have shared the experiences of their adventure with the Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. (We discovered that Waterlines is read on the internet by a family in Japan!) We have had four Scouts achieve their Chief



Scouts Award, a team of our Network Scouts won the S.A.L.L.I.E. night hike and the Scouts and Venture Scouts won many races at the Solent Regattas. More recently Richard Ward achieved his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, James Hall has just completed his Bronze Award and Stephen White his Silver.

Perhaps our real success should not be measured in these achievements but by how much our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts enjoy and learn from their regular weekly meetings. To see that, you will have to go along and help for a few sessions and see how much they benefit for yourself.

Sandleheath is one of the very few Groups in the country where numbers are increasing significantly. This is possible because we have a large and very hard-working team. Our thanks to Matthew Collings, Krysia Chambers and Colin Ritchie for making our new building possible, to all the Leaders and helpers for everything they do for our young people and to the Executive Committee and other helpers for their wonderful support.

Once again we look forward to an even better year next year and hope that you will all continue to be involved with Scouting in Sandleheath.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Another year has flown by and we now have 13 Scouts, Explorers and Network Scouts registered for the Award. As you may remember, anyone between the ages of 14 and 25 can register for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award so, if any Scouts, Explorers or Network Scouts who have not already signed up, want to get involved with the Award just let me know and join in with the fun!

The good news is that Richard Ward has now completed his Bronze Award and his certificate was presented to him on Friday 9 May at the New Forest West Duke of Edinburgh's Award presentation. Those Award participants in the area who had successfully completed a level of the Award during the last 12 months were invited along with parents, Award Leaders etc. Well done Richard.

We also have several others nearing completion of their first level of the Award so 2003 should see quite a number following in Richard's footsteps.

The Bronze Expedition took place in October 2002 and an intrepid group map read and walked their way across the New Forest. Their overnight camp at Buck-hill was a particular success as they managed to find the exact map location of a clearing in the middle of the New Forest, which is otherwise unmarked, by good map reading. Even our assessor, David Chadwick, thought his GPS instrument was trying to trick him when it told him the actual site was right in the middle of their tents! Well done to you all.

Since the new HQ has been in use we have held an African drumming workshop at which everyone who attended made wonderful sounds with instruments which were new to all of them and we have also had a guitar workshop to show how you can play along to the latest chart sounds. We would love to hold more workshops of this type and if anyone can help us out please let me know.

We have raised almost £200 towards training costs by selling tickets for the annual Duke of Edinburgh's National Raffle. Although none of our ticket purchasers won the first prize, 1st Sandleheath sold the second highest number of tickets in the area and so we were awarded 95% of the value of the amount sold by us for use in the purchase of training and equip-

ment for the group. This year's National Raffle tickets will be available shortly so please help to support our group by buying a ticket, or more if you want more chances to win prizes which include:

- Audi A2 car
- All expenses paid weekend for 2 at Skibo Castle
- £1000 of clothing vouchers from NEXT
- Herend China, value £1500
- DFS Sofa
- Tent, sleeping bag and stove
- Masterclass for two with chef Michel Roux followed by dinner at Le Gavroche
- 2 night break for 2 in the Lake District

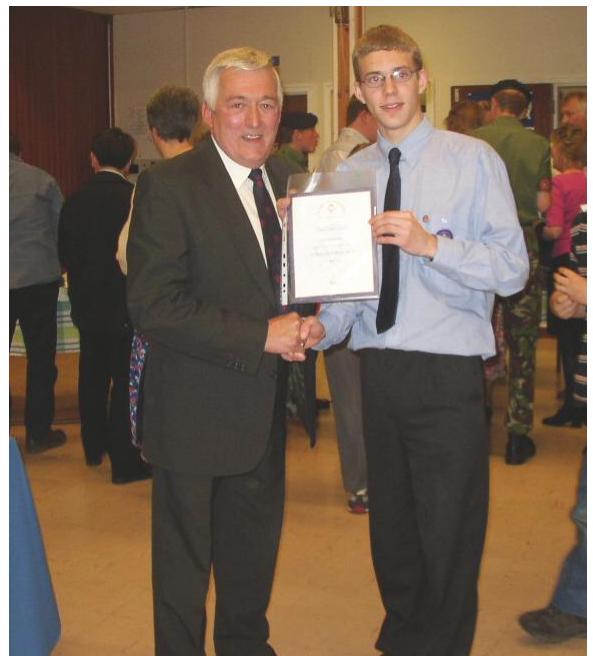
There are various other wonderful prizes as well so please get buying!

It is great to see our young people achieving so much through the Award and also developing not only their practical skills but improving their self-confidence and belief in themselves and others.

If you want more information please contact me on 01725 510397, email pat.savage@vodafone.net or visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award new website at www.theaward.org and remember if you, or anyone else you know has been a participant in the Award please let me know as we would love to hear about your experiences.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Savage - D. of E. Coordinator



Richard Ward receiving his Bronze Award

Our New Home

July 2002 saw us take possession of our fabulous new Scout Headquarters.

All sections started meeting regularly in the building in September and October saw us celebrate our achievement after many years with a fantastic Opening Ceremony. Mr and Mrs Clarke, the owners of the field officially opened the building and all sections contributed in their own style. A fabulous Hog Roast was consumed, a bar drunk dry and the evening finished with a beautiful firework display.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make the Opening so memorable, it really was a case of many hands making light work!

And how is the building performing now we have been in it for a while? Well, there are still some construction issues to be finalised, the alarm systems and cleaning rota have not worked as well as hoped but gradually these teething problems will be sorted out. One big sigh of relief is that the running costs of the building appear to be reasonable (many thanks to our architects for providing such an energy efficient building). A recycling strategy is also now in place.

The field is still causing us problems. It should have been rolled and reseeded to remove all the ruts last autumn but wet weather meant that this could not happen. It is hoped that this will be resolved in the next few months to make the area a safe one for all the sections to enjoy.

Avon Valley Nursery School are using the building on four mornings a week and are really enjoying the space and facilities. Other hirers have come forward on a casual basis for children's parties, meetings and a play-scheme at Christmas. However, to ensure we keep the building looking good we need to get a lot more bookings to bring in money. The hall is not used at all in the afternoons, is available on some evenings after 7pm and at weekends. If you would like to run a club, do keep fit, or have a party or meeting please contact Jacqui on 01725 517379. You can also check availability of the building and even request a booking online at <http://bookings.randomstuff.org.uk/> (also linked from the Scout Group homepage).

Krysia Chambers



Mr & Mrs Clarke open the new building

Beaver Report

It has been a great year with many exciting new developments. The biggest of these has been our move into the new Scout Centre. The Beavers have enjoyed the large, safe hall in which to run around and play lots of games and make things; the quiet carpeted side rooms in which to chat, sing, work in groups and listen to stories; the clean kitchen in which to make drinks, the hygienic toilets in which to ... well you know; the covered outside area in which to plant bulbs and runner beans and the field in which to run around and explore. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the Centre possible. It is fantastic for the Beavers and makes life much easier for the Leaders.

Speaking of Leaders, we now have another great helper - Bev Deacon. I'm sure it won't be long before someone steps up to volunteer to set up the second Beaver Colony. Maybe it's you? I guarantee that you won't find many more rewarding jobs than leading a Beaver Colony.

With another Colony we could see the end to our waiting list, consider bringing in girls, plan for two Colonies at the same time, make even greater use of the Scout Centre, share resources and ideas and have joint activities. All we need is a Leader. As a parent you already have many of the qualities needed in a Leader. The support and training you may need is set up and waiting. Come along to a Beaver meeting and just see what's involved.

This year also saw the introduction of the new programme of activities for all sections and some changes in uniform. The new Beaver uniform is much better than the old grey one, harder wearing and a more exciting colour. The changes also saw the introduction of new badges, the first of which will be awarded after Easter. The Beaver programme has always ensured that the Beavers have a range of varied activities to join in with an emphasis on having fun and making friends.

So what kind of things have the Beavers been getting up to? Well they've been singing, acting, rowing, canoeing, litter picking, planting, chatting, praying, racing and eating. They've worked in a variety of groups, raised money on a sponsored evening, made camps for Action Man, visited Fordingbridge Library, made autumn art and played lots and lots of games.

This year also saw the introduction of the Group's new 'Moving Up' evening. The Beavers were fortunate to be given the opportunity to organise the first of these evenings where members from all sections of the Group - from Beavers upwards - were invited to come along to a special Beaver meeting. It not only gave us a great opportunity to strengthen links between the sections but also made moving up from one section of the group to the next a more high profile and special occasion.

So it only leaves me to say a huge thank you to the team of adults who make the Beaver Colony possible and give of their time so generously - Jo Young, Assistant Beaver Leader and helpers, Philippa Morris and Bev Deacon.

Nigel Hall - Beaver Leader

Cub Report

The past two terms at Cubs at Sandleheath have been very successful, albeit hectic. The Cubs have completed many badges, and are now well on their way to finishing Global, Caring and Outdoor challenges.

We have just come back from a District Cub Camp. It was really good to see so many Cubs from different areas of the District coming together to enjoy a really exciting weekend. There were many exhilarating activities on camp including climbing, tracking, fire lighting, bivouacking, orienteering and blindfold trail. There were a total of 87 Cubs of which 19 were from Sandleheath. Not much

sleep was had with some early mornings and late nights. I do have some lost property so if people could come to see me please. I took some photos over the weekend and they can be seen at: <http://compsoc.net/~swhite/scouts/CubCamp2003/>. I must say a huge thank you to Paul Murphy and Josh Cleall for helping over the whole weekend and to Claire Waine, Jacqui and Joe Haugh and to Ros White for helping to move equipment around, set up tents and be of great help, without them it wouldn't have happened!

On 26 March, Jacqui and I received our Cub Leader warrants. Now we have to go through progressive training and when training is complete we will receive our Wood badges.

On 14 May we will have 4 new Beavers swimming up to Cubs. We hope that they will enjoy their time in the Cub section.

In September I will be moving away to university which will leave a vacancy in the Cub section for another Leader/Helper. If you would be interested in this role then please speak to either Jacqui or myself about what is involved.

This term we are hoping for a really exciting time as we are out of the Scout HQ a lot all over the forest on Night Hikes and other various activities. We will also be taking part in water activities on 3 June at Spinnaker Sailing Club.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Claire Waine, Jacqui Haugh, Katie Morris and Ros White for helping with Cubs every week. I couldn't do it without you.

Richard Savage - Cub Leader



Well it's either a blindfold trail or a cub that's lost his glasses

District Cub Camp

by Jamie Murphy

Friday

On Friday after School I went to Ferny Crofts Camp Site with the 1st Sandleheath Cubs. We arrived at about 6pm to arrange our kit. One of my jobs was to help erect the Mess Tent where we were to have our meals. I then sorted my own kit and arranged where I was going to sleep that night. I then prepared myself for a night hike, not forgetting my waterproof trousers and coat. I walked through a bog, puddles and mud. I had a great time. Richard is my cub leader. I like Richard because he's always nice to us. My dad helped at Cub Camp. On the night hike two people fell in the bog. I saw three of my friends from school. They were Ben F., Tom C. and Jack M. Some of the time I played with them. On the night hike I walked with Ben and Jack. When I got back to our Mess Tent we had some soup and a piece of French stick and it was very nice.

Saturday

On Saturday I woke up and we were the first tent to wake up. For breakfast I had some chocolate cheerios and a bacon sandwich and it tasted nice. After I had eaten my breakfast we had an inspection and our tent number was 103. We had three activities the first one was making a campfire. I helped to get some dry sticks. We had to have two different piles one for the fat sticks and one for the small sticks. I went on this wooden swing that was hung on a tree and it was great fun. I went to the pond and found some old tent pegs. There were barrels and long pieces of round

wood. When I got round to the barrels I found some string and tied it around the two bars so that nobody could get in. After that we got the fire started, and I started to sneeze and cough because of all the smoke. When we had finished the campfire we went back to our Mess Tent and had some chocolate biscuits and I got changed for the next activity. The second activity was tracking. The man made a track and Dane and me were in a group together and we had to find the signs for home. After that we had to make our own tracks, and it was really good fun. We made the longest track and I got lost in it. The third activity was orienteering and my dad helped with that activity. Orienteering uses map reading to find different places. At a few checkpoints my dad met me and checked where we were. We found all of the check points except one. There were 16 checkpoints to find.

Sunday

When I woke up in the morning I had a look on the sheet and saw what I was doing next. It said I was doing a blindfolded activity. We had to tie our scarves around our faces and set off on a piece of string. The first obstacle we had was going under a great big tree that had fallen down in the wind. Then we went climbing and to start with I didn't want to climb, but the Explorer Scouts helped me. Then before I climbed I did the assault course and had to get over all sorts of obstacles. After that I climbed the wall half way. When I began it was quite fun. Finally I made a den out of fir tree branches. We had a good design but it was not waterproof (as we found out!).

I really enjoyed Cub Camp 2003 and look forward to next year's.

Jamie Murphy - Cub Scout



Scout Report

This winter has been a new experience, having our own hut, and being able to safely store equipment there. No longer do we turn up on Scout night staggering under huge boxes and bags - well not every night anyway!

The Scout numbers have increased. There are now over 30 Scouts on the list, and with the Explorer section we are expecting up to 50 young people on a Thursday night now we are on the water at Blashford.

We have had extra help all through the winter, Pete has been very good, coping brilliantly whatever we have asked him to do! Richard, Les, Alan and James have also been a great help.

In January Mark and Michael, after two years of preparation and fundraising actually went to Thailand on the World Jamboree, and had a wonderful time. They came back safely, despite their mothers worst fears, full of stories and memories.

We have had some very successful caving trips in Somerset, with many Scouts experiencing caving for the first time and others extending their knowledge and experience. Some of the parents joined in and really enjoyed themselves as well!

Summer Camp last year (it seems an age away now) was spent at Caddihoе near Exeter in Devon. We managed a good range of activities including climbing, caving and hiking as well as a day on the beach. More recently a very successful weekend camp took place in our field. Ros said she didn't realise it was such a long way from the kitchen to the flag pole as she was running back and forward with food and equipment all weekend!

We are looking forward to the next year. Our summer camp is planned for South Wales at the end of July and we have a full programme of water activities to take us through the summer.

Sue Chase - Scout Leader



An incident base on the S.A.L.L.I.E. night hike

S.A.L.L.I.E.

Sandleheath teams from Scouts (Smilers), Explorer Scouts (MEJJJ) and Network (upside down Muppets) took part in the S.A.L.L.I.E. night hike at Ferny Crofts on Saturday 22nd February. They all did really well.

Congratulations to upside down Muppets (Paul Pickering, Richard Savage, Sally White, Nick Cutter, Fiona Ritchie and Jo Bailey) on winning the 2003 S.A.L.L.I.E. Night Hike. They have kept up Sandleheath's excellent record in this event.

MEJJJ (Mark Bailey, Ed Morris, James Hall, James Hordle and Josh Cleall) were the 2nd under 18 team (3rd overall) even though their average age is less than 15.

Smilers were a Scout team (Henry Hall, Charlotte Crump, Georgia Richards, Tom Hordle, Bryony Cleall and Poppy Cleall) who did really well to get 5th place. Thanks to Nigel Hall for escorting them.

Thanks also to Peter Cleall, Stephen White and James Bennett for running incident bases.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader



Left: Camp fire on a Scout weekend camp [I'm sorry, that's not your boat we're burning ... is it?]

Explorer Report Explorer Optimists

Explorer Scouts is a new section for those aged 14 to 18. At 18 they move on to become Network Scouts which they remain until 25.

We have 17 Explorer Scouts. We offer a range of activities and they choose which they do. Some help with other sections every week and our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts benefit greatly from this. Generally about half of them attend each organised activity.

During the winter we had talks (canoeing, caving, climbing, conservation), did cooking, boat maintenance, hikes, took part in D of E activities, first aid, planned presentations, had discussions etc. Meetings are informal and discussion is encouraged. The Explorer Scouts also had the opportunity to go climbing, caving and camping. During the summer water activities for Scouts and Explorer Scouts take place every Thursday at Spinnaker Club. The Explorers are encouraged to take BCU and RYA qualifications and gain their own water authorisation.

Summer Camp is in South Wales near Swansea and is joint with Barton Explorer Scouts. We will be caving, climbing, hiking and canoeing, as well as visiting the beach on Gower!

Ros White - Group Scout Leader

Edward Morris and Richard Bunt both represent Spinnaker Sailing Club at National Optimist Open Meetings. Last season saw Edward selected for the RYA (South) Zone Squad and Richard compete at his first ever National Event, the Volvo Musto End of Season Championships at Draycote Water. The Optimist Sailing Year centres on three main events, from which each helm is given his or her national ranking. To give you some idea as to the popularity of the Optimist Dinghy, there were 216 in the Main Fleet at the last event - quite a sight when you are watching from the shore, pretty demanding if you are in the middle of it! So what lies in store for these two Explorer Scouts this year? Edward will, I am sure, be off to the Inland Championships at Grafham Water 17/18 May, seeking to replicate his success at the Poole S.C. coached Open earlier in the year. Richard will be concentrating on getting himself fit for the British Open and National Championships during early August. Whatever the season may hold in store for these two young men the 1st Sandleheath Scout Group is extremely proud of them.

Nick Bunt - Group Secretary



Left: Some of our Explorers compete with the best in the country



White water canoeing practice at Spetisbury prior to the Frome trip

Frome Trip

On Sunday 9th February, Graham Bland and Ros White took six Explorers and one Network Scout on a white water canoeing trip on the Frome in Somerset, just east of Bath. The River Frome is a major tributary of the Wiltshire Avon and has many weirs and obstacles staged at different points along its length.

We started at the access point by Shawford Bridge, where there is a half mile paddle along the river to the first weir. This weir was about 5ft deep. We had to walk round (portage) the weir as the water level was too high causing a stopper, which is where the water goes over the weir and flows back into the drop so a canoeist would not be able to exit and would get trapped. Past this weir and on to the next, which was a small stepped easy slide.

Another mile on and we came across a very small weir to our left, which would not normally be flowing but the water levels were so high that it was. We carried on, passing this weir, until we went round the corner to a 'hole in the wall'. This is where the river passes through a small narrow space, in this case it was a bridge with closed sides. You shoot down this chute and break out of the current into the sides. This area was a brilliant play area but I decided to just watch other people get wet and sat and watched. The next weir was simple, with just a short drop so you slid through the water.

The next obstacle was a Zoom Flume, which is a water measuring station, it is a V-shaped man made concrete slope. You shoot down it and go straight

through an enormous standing wave that really takes your breath away because of the icy cold water. It was like just waking up and being dunked in a barrel of freezing water. Very refreshing! We stopped and played in this for a while, Graham having great fun saying it was the best water he had ever played on in the UK.

The last weir before we exited the river was very fast flowing and immediately afterwards had an S bend around trees. In this fast flowing stretch of riverbank [really? - Ed] we found out that trees were the number one biggest danger to canoeists as we could get pushed into them and turned upside down stuck in the branches underwater. The first canoeist got pinned on a tree and wasn't able to get off so while Ros, David and Graham were helping her we were told to find an eddy and wait. Then another canoeist went over. He had held on to a overhanging branch and got flipped. Andrew Bland tried to keep him up but the river also effortlessly flipped him over. He dropped his paddle but managed to roll himself back up with a hand roll. The other two canoeists got out of their canoes and pulled themselves onto the bank, where they emptied them, and finished the last half mile stretch to Iford Bridge where we got out.

It is a Grade 1 river but can be dangerous in places as we found out. It took us approximately 4-5 hours and was about 5 miles long. Overall we all enjoyed this river and I have done it again since.

Josh Cleall - Explorer Scout



Graham surfing a standing wave

Editorial

Well, this is another long issue - as is traditional for the AGM edition. Thanks to Richard Savage for many of the photos in this edition, it is especially nice to have some pictures of the Cubs for a change. Now if someone could take a camera to a Beaver activity or two ...

Stephen White - Waterlines Editor

A Reminder

There is a cleaning rota for all parents in all sections. You will be asked to come and clean part of the building in turn. The rota is on the noticeboard in the foyer, please tick yourself off when you have completed your turn. It is very important to keep the building in tip-top condition. The children also see that it takes work to keep a building nice and will treat it with respect too.

The rota has been a little sporadic since Christmas. Please check when you are due to clean, and if you are away that week arrange a swap with another parent on the rota yourself.

An hour once a year is probably all that will be asked of you. To employ a regular cleaner will be expensive and their wages would have to come out of your subscriptions (in other words they would go up!).

Krysia Chambers

H.Q. Phone

In an emergency it is now possible to phone the Scout Headquarters on (01425) 656331. Even if there are people in and around the building, e.g. during a meeting, it is possible they won't hear the phone - so don't rely on using this as a means of getting in touch with people. General enquiries about sections or meetings should still go to the person responsible (please see the list on the back of this issue).

June	Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Saturday, 7th Tuesday, 10th Tuesday, 10th Fri, 13th - Sun 15th Saturday, 21st Friday, 27th Saturday, 28th	Group AGM, Scout Centre 7:30pm Cubs on water, Spinnaker 7:00pm Group Regatta & Barbecue, Spinnaker Beavers on water, Spinnaker 5:45pm District AGM, Poulner D. of E. Hike District Beaver Day (provisional) District Scout Cooking Competition, Harry's Island Solent Sailing Regatta, Spinnaker
July	Sunday, 6th Fri, 18th - Sat 19th Friday, 25th Sunday, 27th - August 2nd	Scout/Explorer caving (provisional) Fordingbridge Show (Scouts & Explorers helping with jumps) Scout Camp starts (Explorers) Scout Camp (Scout Wales)
September	Tuesday, 9th Saturday, 13th Sunday, 14th Tuesday, 16th Friday, 26th	Cubs on water, Spinnaker 6:00pm Solent (main) Regatta Waterlines deadline, October 2003 edition Beavers on water, Spinnaker 5:45pm Water activities season ends
November	Sunday, 9th	Remembrance Day parade & service

Waterlines, AGM 2003

Editor: Stephen White, <stephen-scoutsweb@earth.li> Produced using L^AT_EX on RedHat Linux.

(email: scouts@the-roost.freeserve.co.uk URL: <http://www.ox.compsoc.net/~swhite/scouts/>)

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Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

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