

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

Jan. 2003

New Year Edition

D. of E. Report

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to our three new Bronze level entrants, Joanna Brown, Michael Chase and Josh Cleall. Richard Ward has now successfully completed his Bronze Award and is keen to get started on Silver.

Things are still moving along well with all those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and if anyone else is interested in joining please give me a ring or e-mail me and I will let you have the necessary information.

Our monthly meetings are on the first Friday of each month from 7pm to 8pm (floods permitting!) at the Scout headquarters and we are hoping to set up some training and fun workshops but we do need to know what you want - so get your thinking caps on. We are already considering holding a drumming workshop - don't forget your earplugs!

The expedition season starts again in April so no doubt those wanting to get either the Bronze or Silver Expedition under their belts will be busy thinking about what they would like to do so the necessary planning and practice expeditions can take place. It doesn't have to be a hiking expedition, it can be on horseback, cycle, canoe or boat and with an Exploration you don't even have to cover so many miles each day.

Finally a note to parents. It is strange, but it doesn't appear that any of you were involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award yourselves when you were younger! Surely there must be someone out there who can give a brief talk to our group about their experi-



ences - either good or bad - with the Award. We'd love to hear from you.

Pat Savage

Explorer Scout Caving

In September Ed Morris, Michael Chase and myself went with Ros and David to the Mendips on a Explorer Scout Caving Trip.

We arrived at the Village not far from the cave [Swildons Hole] where we changed in to Wetsuits, overalls, helmets and head lamps, before walking over the fields to the cave entrance. The Entrance was a small cylindrical hut with a hole in the base, we slipped down in to the hole and made our way down the cold rocky passage going over rocks and through cracks following the cave downwards. We entered several cav-

erns and a few places where the cave split into other passages. Ros and David knew where they were going and kept leading us down further and further through cracks and fissures in the rocks. We reached the half way down point in the cave descent where there is a 5 meter ladder drop to the floor below, down the side of a waterfall. We passed that easily down into plunge pools and smaller waterfalls until we reached the end of the cave where the roof lowered into a puddle of water, this is called a sump, where you have to duck and swim under the rock face fully submerged in the icy cold water, pulling yourself along a rope fixed to the two sides. On the other side of the sump the cave was much different, it was lower and followed an underground stream, it was so low you had to crawl and swim. We went on like this until we arrived at the next sump where you need to wear weights to keep yourself from floating into the gap between the two sides of the sump. This is where we stopped and turned around going back through sump 1 and up a different route to the surface where we happily undressed from our wet cold clothes into warm clothes and had our lunch before driving home, exhausted but what an experience.

Josh Cleall - Explorer Scout

Chick Law Trophy

The 2002 Chick Law Trophy was a Pioneering competition, in keeping with the idea the the trophy should reflect the best in "traditional Scouting", but breaking from the First Aid theme that is has followed for the last couple of years.

The competition was extremely close, the difference between the winning team (from 1st Fording-bridge) and the last placed team being just a couple of points. Had Burley's team not made a silly mistake that destroyed their egg they would have run away with the trophy.

Everyone enjoyed the day, and it was a great excuse to show the District our new facilities immediately prior to the official opening that evening.

Stephen White - A.S.L.

Subscriptions

The January Subscriptions will be sent home with your child shortly [actually, they probably already have been. This was the only report that made it to me on time so it was written quite a while ago - Ed]. Many thanks to all the parents who paid the subscriptions promptly, it makes the accounts so much easier. Thank you again for completing the gift aid forms, and can I ask you to complete the form again for this term if you did not complete it for the year previously. Gift aid for last year was just under £1,000.00 for the Scout Group. It is really worthwhile for us to just simply complete a form and apply for the gift aid.

Wishing you a Happy New Year

Mandie Dawson - Subscription Secretary

Fund Raising

A very short report this time, the opening ceremony was a huge success and we made a good profit, I cant remember the precise amount but in excess of £500, Well done everyone who helped make it such a success.

Happy New Year

Caroline Morris



Above: competing in the Chick Law Trophy

Beaver Report

At last we have been able to use our new Scout Centre - and it has been fantastic! Many, many thanks to all those involved in getting our Group such a wonderful facility. A lot of people have been working very hard to get us where we are and the Beavers are really grateful! The new building has enabled us to play more games, make more food, work with smaller groups of Beavers in the quiet side-rooms and give the Beavers a drink part way through the evening.

The autumn term also saw us organising a duty lodge rota system whereby each lodge takes a turn at getting the drinks ready and serving them, collecting up and washing up the empties and performing the closing ceremony.

We have found it fairly easy to incorporate the new national, Beaver programme into our existing programme. As before, the emphasis is on providing a balanced range of activities. The new programme provides opportunities for the Beavers who participate in the range of planned activities to get badges. These will start to be issued to Beavers in the spring term.

So what did we get up to during the autumn term? Well, the Beavers went canoeing and rowing, visited Fordingbridge Library, planted some spring bulbs, made cakes, went on a moonlit walk, made autumn leaf collages and firework pictures, played games and listened to stories, had an opportunity to take part in the autumn Beaver Day, and finished with a fantastic fancy dress Christmas party! What a great term it has been. And of course this is due in no small part to assistant Beaver Leader Jo Young, and regular helpers Philippa Morris and Bev Deakin.

Nigel Hall - Beaver Leader

Thanks ...

On behalf of everyone in the Group I would like to thank John Douce for all the work he has put into helping the Group over many years. John is moving to London shortly, and will be greatly missed (though we hope he will come and visit us at Spinnaker) [and you never did get him down a cave - Ed].

Ros White - Group Scout Leader

January	Friday, 31st	Jamboree Presentation, Winchester
February	Sunday, 2nd Monday, 3rd Sat, 15 - Sun 16 Saturday, 22nd	Explorer Canoeing (Barle) Explorer Kayak Sea Proficiency Explorer Canoeing (Tamar, Lynher, Tavy) S.A.L.L.I.E.
March	Sunday, 2nd Sunday, 9th Saturday, 29th	Scout/Explorer Caving Day, Mendip Explorer Canoeing (Frome) Explorer Canoeing (Barle)
April	Fri, 11 - Sun, 13 Tuesday, 22nd Sunday, April 27th	Scout/Explorer Camp at Sandleheath Explorer Canoeing (Spetisbury) Pat Cross Trophy
May	Thursday, 1st	Water Activities start, Spinnaker 6:30
June	Monday, 2nd Saturday, 7th Tuesday, 10th Fri, 13 - Sun 15 Saturday, 21st Saturday, 21st	Group A.G.M., Scout Center 7:30 Group Regatta (provisional) District A.G.M, Poulner Explorer Camp/Hike District Beaver Day (provisional) Solent Regatta
July	Friday, 25th Sunday, 27th - August 2nd	Scout Camp starts (Explorers) Scout Camp (Scout Wales)

Waterlines, Jan 2003

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Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

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