

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

Jan 2006

New Year Edition

White Water Canoeing

12th November 2005: A hard quest was to be overcome by 5 scouts and 4 leaders (David Miller, Ros White, Graham Bland and Tim Stevens, Bryony & Poppy Cleall, Jacob & Ben Collings and Katrina Miller). Leaving bright and early at 8:00, leaving snoring adults behind, we travelled down to Speitsbury. We arrived and took a quick tour of the challenges ahead. We watched four Bournemouth canoeists ride the waves very professionally. We then unpacked and changed into our very professional looking gear, which did not reflect any of our canoeing skills (Tim). We then had to carry them down to the river walking through what seemed to be people's back gardens. This tired you out before you even started canoeing.

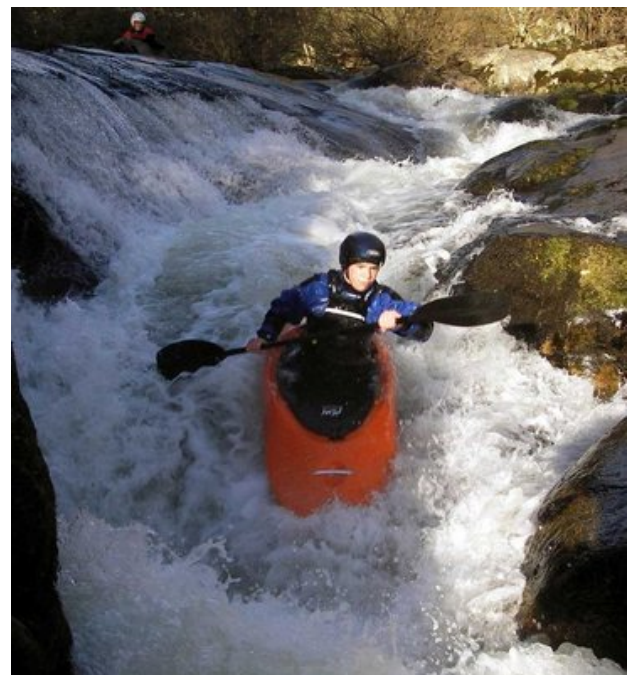
Ben and Jacob went straight into the deep end, fearless of nothing, while Tim and Bryony took the easy route in! Graham and David then taught us how to cross the current by ferrying, breaking in and out and the 's' turn. Again Jacob and Ben were in there doing the maximum while Katrina gracefully paddled across. Tim went for his glory, which was short-lived when he was the first to go over (someone had to be first): he says he was being kind! We then were taught how to surf the waves; yet again the Collings had no fear and were going all out eating up the waves. Poppy, Katrina and Bryony gathered their confidence and eventually conquered the waves, although Poppy was unlucky to spin around and end up upside down floating down the current. I feel that Jacob was the dare-devil of the day with Ben not far behind! We finally packed up and had a snack.

We all had a great day out. Thank You to Ros for organising it, and to Graham and David for doing a great job teaching us, and not to forget Tim and his wonderful canoeing skills!

Bryony & Poppy Cleall
Photographs from Graham Bland



At Speitsbury: Bryony (above) and Poppy (below)



Something to aspire to: Antony Farrington (Explorer Scout) on the Upper Dart (a Grade 4 river) on Dec. 18 – not for the faint hearted or any canoeist without considerable talent!

Habitat For Humanity

Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

In August of this year I visited Kenya, as many of you know, with the international charity Habitat For Humanity to help build a home for a local family. The trip was a great success and our team of ten built a house from start to finish with the aid of some local skilled builders. The house was for a gentleman called Fred, his wife Mary and their four young children; it is a vast improvement to their mud-brick construction they dwelled in before. The village we went to was called Myanga and is situated on the Western fringe of Kenya, 15 kilometres from the Ugandan border.

We stayed in Libolina School for the physically handicapped and ate our dinner each evening with a very hospitable local family. Whilst we were out there we met some British nuns, through who we hope to send further help and assistance to make the many children and villagers lives easier (the digging of two water bore-holes is next on the wish list). I would like to say Thank You very much to all those people who supported me in my fund-raising efforts and I'm sure Fred, Mary and their four children are very grateful for all of your donations, without the support of local people and businesses the trip could not have gone ahead. Thank you again.

Josh Cleall – Explorer Scout

This summer saw two practice expeditions, one at Silver level and one at Gold. Both went extremely well. Well done to all of you who took part. If any of you want to do your expedition and cannot fit in with the dates we have organised then let me know and I can let you have details of the County training scheme that may suit you.

After much discussion it has been decided to move D. of E. meetings to Mondays before Explorers in the hope that more people attend. We have a lot of people registered for the Award but they are not turning up for the meetings.

GOOD NEWS – HALF PRICE ENTRY TO THE D. OF E. AWARD! Hampshire Explorer and Network Scouts can now enter the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme for half price. Award record books can be obtained from me at the following discounted prices: Bronze £5.25, Silver £5.25, Gold £7.87.

This special promotion has been made possible by the receipt of a grant and may only last for a limited time (exactly how long depends on factors such as the success of the discount in promoting the Award and the success of other grant applications) but it will remain in place at least until the end of December 2005. Apply now. This is a fantastic offer and is open to both newcomers and those who wish to register at the next level up.

Let's hope the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Sandleheath will continue to go from strength to strength and remember, just let me know if you are interested and want to join. Those of you already registered, we look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Pat Savage – D. of E. Coordinator
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pat.savage@ ~~REMOVED~~



Intrepid Explorers

The Avon Valley Explorer Scout Unit held a beach party to celebrate the formation of the new combined land and water based activities unit and have since been off road cycling, night forest nature trailing and had a good wide game evening at Abbotswell.

We meet on Monday evenings starting at 7:30 and finishing at 9:30 outdoor and activities include canoeing, sailing, climbing, caving, shooting, dry slope skiing, incident night hike and off road cycling, with other outdoor pursuits planned for New Year.

Evenings indoors include badge work, scrapheap challenge, cooking, and game and quiz nights. Most of our group are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and Scouting's own award scheme which enable people to develop their personal skills and awareness of the community.

Many thanks to Jane Esmond who is helping to run the unit with me, and Mark Davidson who is helping and working towards becoming a warranted leader with us.

Andy Brooks – District Explorer Scout Leader



New Zealand

Jane Esmond and James Bennett are leaving for New Zealand on 14th January. We wish them well in their move, hope all goes well for them 'down under'. Thank you to both of them for the time they have put into both Fordingbridge and Sandleheath Scout Groups (and don't forget that Scouting exists in New Zealand too!). There will be a 'send off' evening for them at Fordingbridge H.Q., complete with light refreshments, after Cubs on Tuesday 10th January.

Competition!

Andy Brooks has said that he will give £5 to the (first) person that recognises him in the photograph below (taken during the 1976 Trans-Atlantic Tallships Race, on-board Great Britain II) *and* can name the skipper who sailed the boat around the world to set a new world record.



Answers should be sent directly to Andy, andy.brooks @ ~~REMOVED~~ (or see the back of this newsletter). If you want a better re-production of the photograph please see:

<http://trillian.randomstuff.org.uk/~stephen/scouts/AndyPhotoCompJan2006/>

For bonus kudos, but no prize, see if you can recognise Andy in this photograph too.



Hall Floor

There has been a complaint about the state of the hall floor. Please could all sections make sure the floor is left clean after their meetings.

Solent Regattas

Here are the results from the 2005 Solent Regatta, held at Testwood Lakes on Saturday 17th September. Well done to everyone who contributed to the success of the Sandleheath teams, and many thanks to the many helpers from Sandleheath without whom the Regatta could not have run.

Small Groups Trophy (Scouts)

Place	Group	Points
1	6 th Hamble	104
2	1 st Sandleheath	102
3	1 st Barton	101
4	9 th Lymington	77
5	Milford & Keyhaven	69
6	4 th Hythe	51
7	4 th Eling	49
8	13 th Southampton	43

Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	1 st Sandleheath	166
2	9 th Lymington	160
3	6 th Hamble	120
4	1 st Barton	102
5	13 th Southampton	90
6	Milford & Keyhaven	78
7	4 th Eling	53
8	4 th Hythe	52

Explorer Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	Hamble	132
2	Milford & Keyhaven	98
3	Hythe	97
4	Fareham	88
5	Lymington	87
6	Sandleheath	79
7	Southampton West	62
8	Barton	51



Above: A Sandleheath crew competing in the Solent Regatta at Testwood

Network Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	Hamble	90
2	Sandleheath	59
3	Hythe	8

Earlier in the year was the Solent Sailing Regatta, held in June at Blashford Lake. Again Sandleheath crews did very well, and Sandleheath leaders and helpers helped with every aspect of the event – including car parking, starting races and providing safety boat cover. The results were:

Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	9 th Lymington	0
2	1 st Sandleheath	11.7
3	6 th Hamble	19.7

Explorer Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	1 st Sandleheath	6
2	6 th Hamble	13.7
3	Christchurch	17.4

Network Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	1 st Sandleheath	3

Below: The Sandleheath competitors from the Solent Sailing Regatta



Bag Pack

The annual bag pack was held at the Co-op on the morning of the 17th December, and raised £204. Well done to everyone that helped on the day, and thank you to the Co-op for letting us have the opportunity to raise this money.



Scout Camp

Summer camp this year was held in July at Maesbury Castle, near Oakhill, Wells, Mendip.

Friday 22: Ros travelled to camp to welcome the toilets! Having seen them safely installed, the afternoon was spent putting up the leader's tents.

There was a wonderful view over Mendip from the site: Glastonbury Tor, the Severn Bridge and estuary, etc... Sue and Phil arrived in the evening and we watched as the sun went down. A peaceful scene – to be appreciated this evening, we knew the peace would not last!

Saturday 23: The Scouts and Explorer Scouts met at the Scout Centre at 9am, were bundled into the transport and arrived safely at camp at 11am. They set up camp straight away and had lunch. At 2pm everyone went to Burrington Combe, for caving in Goatchurch Cavern and climbing behind the car park (the climbs that David set up in no way challenged Ellie Coatham, but were good fun for most of the others taking part). Those not caving or climbing went for a scramble up to a vantage point where they could do some art work under the expert eye of Laura. When hunger set in we all returned to Maesbury.

Back at camp, David, Phil and Stephen erected a Flag-pole (Stephen would like to disclaim all responsibility for the lashings), which it was decided had to be more crooked than last years – and it was!

After a dinner of pasta bolognese, (spiced up by insect repellent by one patrol) we had a camp meeting under the flag-pole. After going through organisation and rules there was an excellent talk by James on the history of Maesbury Castle (an Iron-age Hill fort). Josh told us about a German plane which crashed into

the castle in WW2. The scouts were then allowed to choose what they wanted to do – so there was a game of German Spotlight in the woods (in the dark) before supper.

That night we had torrential rain and gusting wind. Hill forts and wind go quite well together, so we experienced the weather at close quarters.

Sunday 24: We awoke to more torrential rain, the wind having abated slightly. Not a day for the climbing we had planned. The Scouts all went to Wookey Hole for the day – the first of many re-organisations of the programme for the week. On their return they made fun of the silly names given to the formations there: Leaning Tower of Pisa, Elephant, Wedding Cake etc... The rain had cleared so David, Geoffrey and others set up a Blindfold trail in the woods, going through anything likely to make progress difficult – the usual David-style trail.

There was turkey stew/curry/chilli for dinner then a chance for the Explorers to try out the blindfold trail. It was declared to be good, but then more rain (torrential again) made us abandon play for the day. The Scouts all gathered in the Leader's Mess tent and Stephen gave a talk and demonstration about Tilley lights and stoves, before supper and bed.

Monday 25: After a risk assessment helmets were duly handed out to the colour party before they were allowed near the flag-pole! It was fine enough for the Scouts to do the blindfold trail, which resulted in many scratches and bruises. Times:

Barn (Will)	Tawny (Bryn)	Horseshoe (Bryony)	Pipistrelle (Poppy)
18.59 mins	19.58 mins	20.00 mins	33.08 mins

Those scouts not on the blindfold trail spent lots of time hammering tent pegs in until they disappeared (the pegs not the scouts) or playing volleyball.

It was still fine at lunch time so Nigel led a walk around the lead mining area near Charterhouse, with an interesting commentary – do you know the origin of the term “to be fired”? They then met up with the other leaders who took groups on to Velvet Bottom and through the Longwood valley. The Explorers went to the same area, but took themselves round.

The Scouts had major problems not only in cooking the food (which leaders were quite prepared to help with) but also in keeping their dining shelters vaguely hygienic (which the Leaders were not prepared to do for them), so it was decided that central cooking was a necessity. James did a wonderful job cooking huge quantities of fish fingers and fish cakes.

We then set off hurriedly, to negotiate the Wells one-way system before the swimming pool closed.

On return to camp we all huddled in the mess tent for another talk by Stephen, this time on First Aid. We learnt how to call for help on mobile phones, how to deal with bleeding and all about heart attacks and choking. Points were awarded according to the litter found in each Patrol's area.

Tuesday 26: A fine morning! Ros and Sally organised a trip to Swildons Hole for those who wanted more caving. An enthusiastic and competent group made light work getting as far as the 20' ladder pitch – so we went down it intending to go as far as the sump, however a second light failure just beyond the ladder meant that this was not really sensible, so we turned round and returned via the wet ways. Well done the cavers, especially Tom who had done very little caving before.

Better weather meant a chance to go climbing at Spilt Rock near Wells, with some climbs that may challenge Ellie (up to severe). An 80' abseil was set up for the brave. Those who did not fancy climbing or caving went for a gentle (Tim thought otherwise) walk to, and around, Ebor Gorge. Once again Laura encouraged art work from those not climbing. As usual, Ellie excelled at climbing and Peter did well but found some of the reaches a bit beyond him!

After a meal of Burgers in rolls with cheese, onion and salad (James and Josh braved the fat-laden environment of the stoves in the mess tent for burger-cooking) everyone was ready for more challenges.

As it was still fine, David set up a ropes course (with help from Stephen). The Explorers tried it out before helping to spot for the scouts, and it was declared up to David's usual standard (Tim and Andy had not seen one of these constructions before and were fascinated). Each patrol then had the opportunity to try it out and do a timed run. They are undoubtedly the highlight of Sandleheath camps! Some of the Leaders had a go on the ropes as the Scouts sat and chatted around a feeble camp-fire burning marshmallows and their tongues. Ropes course results:

Pipistrelle	Tawny	Vampires	Horseshoe	Barn
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th

The scouts insisted on a wide-game, so after gathering in the mess-tent to discuss Scout Laws, they were allowed out to hunt-the-glow-light, followed by supper.

Wednesday 27: Wet again. Ros and Stephen took a Canoe trip on the Kennet & Avon canal from

Limpley Stoke, over an aqueduct to Bradford on Avon. We had lunch there (at the Tithe Barn) and inspected the river then returned – stopping at the aqueduct on the way back to walk under the canal and have an ice-cream!

Those not canoeing went to the Fleet Air Arm Museum where they were able to keep warm and dry.

Evening – Vegetarian stew or beef curry, rice and salad. The scouts were encouraged to wash everything properly then, after inspection, hand it in for packing. This took a long time as lots of items were returned for re-washing!

We got together in the mess tent to talk about plans for Thursday and everyone was encouraged to say how they had kept the Scout Laws in the last day or so, they were then rewarded with sweets if we thought they deserved it!

Thursday 28: Scouts packed all their personal kit and put it into the covered trailer. Final flag down – the flag-pole had survived camp despite everything the weather threw at it. We decided the leaders would take down the canvas (scouts would have lost it in the strengthening wind) – so David and Stephen stayed behind to get on with this task. The Scouts were taken to Wells for a brief shopping trip and a fish and chip lunch. Some visited the cathedral and saw the famous clock with knights who, on the quarter hour, knock other knights off their horses. After lunch everyone went on to Cheddar where, after a sightseeing tour of the gorge, they had another chance to shop for souvenirs, buy sweets and visit the Sweet factory. The Scouts then went home, via the camp site to collect the trailer of kit, arriving back at the Scout Centre at exactly 6pm – as planned!

Ros, Stephen, Geoffrey, Laura and James were left to finish clearing the site – but even that didn't take too long (with scouts out of the way).

Scout Patrol points totals:

Barn	Horseshoe	Pipistrelle	Tawny
1 st (27)	2 nd (24)	3 rd (23)	4 th (15)

Ros White – G.S.L.

The full text of Ros' camp report, along with the accounts and a greater number of photographs can be found on the Scout group website at

<http://trillian.randomstuff.org.uk/~stephen/scouts/scamp2005/>

Co-op Card

The Scout Group now has a Co-op dividend card. As well as our getting our own discounts this means that parents (or anyone else) can donate their dividends (or part of them) to the Group. To donate your dividends ring the Co-op on 0845 0901 456, with your dividend card number to hand, and quote "Sandleheath Sea Scout Group" (number 633174 0211111 73997). We will then receive vouchers that we can spend in-store (camp food!), or exchange for cash.

Subs

If any parent has difficulty finding the money to pay subs please let us know. We can try and make special arrangements, and there is a Salisbury based charity (<http://www.childrenschance.co.uk>) that we can apply to to help you with the cost.

Annual reports for all sections, to go in the A.G.M. Edition of Waterlines, should be sent to the editor by Monday 1st May.

Group Programme — 2006

January	Monday, 16th Monday, 30th	Talk by Paul Toynton on Conservation (Scout Centre, 7:30pm) District Meeting for Cub and Scout Leaders (3rd Ringwood, 8pm)
February	Saturday, 25th Sunday, 26th	S.A.L.L.I.E. Night Hike (Scouts/Explorers/Leaders) District Cub Football (2 - 4pm)
March	Friday, 3rd - Sunday, 5th Saturday, 4th Saturday, 18th & Sunday, 19th	County Winter Camp (PLs & Explorers, Ferny Crofts) Scout Centre spring clean followed by quiz & curry evening H.S.C.C. caving days (Mendip)
April	Friday, 28th - Sunday, 30th	District St. George's camp (Moyles Court)
May	Thursday, 4th Saturday, 13th & Sunday, 14th Saturday, 20th	First week of water activities at Spinnaker (6:30pm) H.S.C.C. caving & climbing days (Mendip) (Cup Final day) Group AGM & presentations (5pm)
June	Friday, 16th - Sunday, 18th Saturday, 24th	Cub camp (Venue T.B.C.) Cub day at Gilwell
July	Saturday, 8th & Sunday, 9th Tuesday, 25th - Sunday, 30th	H.S.C.C. caving & climbing days (Mendip) Scout Camp (hopefully on the Isle of Wight)
August		
September	Saturday, 23rd Thursday, 28th	Solent Regatta at Testwood Lakes Last week of water activities at Spinnaker
October	Saturday, 7th & Sunday, 8th	H.S.C.C. caving days (Mendip)



1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group

Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

Page not available online.

Waterlines, Jan 2006

Editor: Stephen White, <stephen-scoutsweb@earth.li>

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