

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

Oct 2004

Autumn Edition

D. of E. News

As we mentioned in the last Waterlines report, the first Gold expedition for members of our Award group has taken place and Jane Esmond and Stephen White successfully completed the challenge on Dartmoor. Jane has now finished her Award completely and is waiting with baited breath to find out when her trip to the Palace takes place for the official presentation. Well done Jane - many congratulations to you.

Two other teams did their Expedition at Bronze Level in mid September and so we have another eight young people who have "ticked off" this part of the Award. They learnt many important lessons about team work, map reading, keeping dry in pouring rain etc, so when the time comes for them to undertake their Expedition at Silver level no doubt they will draw on their experiences and know what it is essential to pack in those rucksacks!

At our October meeting we had a live guitar gig from those who have been learning the guitar for their Skills section of the Award. All of them, apart from James Hall, were newcomers to the instrument and over the six months during which they studied, practised and were taught by Kevin Dew and his son Lyle, they all became very proficient indeed. The group consisted of Andy Bland, James Hall and Sarah Bland on electric guitar and Josh Cleall and Jo Brown on acoustic. They played some fantastic pieces and really deserved our applause.

The gig was made up of the whole group playing "House of the rising sun" (the Animals), the boys gave us a rendition of "Californication" (the Red Hot Chili Peppers) and "The man who sold the world" (Nirvana) and Jo and Sarah gave us "The girl all the bad boys want" (Bowling for Soup). The finale was a solo by James "Stairway to Heaven" (Led Zeppelin).

This just goes to prove what a talented bunch of young people we have in our Award Group. Their determination and "stickability" is amazing and they are all a great credit to themselves and 1st Sandleheath

Sea Scouts. Many thanks again to Kevin and Lyle for volunteering to teach the group and for kindling that spark in them all.

Our next meeting is a video evening on Friday 12 November from 7pm to 9pm at the Scout HQ. So if you have any videos on surfing, snowboarding, skiing, extreme ironing etc then bring them along with some crisps and drink. The final meeting of 2004 on Friday 3 December from 7pm to 8pm will be a "Quiz with a difference"; this will not be like any quiz you have been to before - so come along and join the fun!

Our programme has been very varied but we are always interested to hear suggestions of what can be included at our monthly meetings, which are generally held at Scout HQ on the first Friday of each month from 7-8pm. We especially want suggestions for our 2005 programme.

If you want more information please contact me on 01725 510397, email at pat.savage at vodafone.net or visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 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



Members of the D. of E. group demonstrating their guitar skills at the Scout Centre.

Gold D. of E. Expedition

At the end of May, Jane Esmond, Kerry Bosworth and I undertook our gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. To make up the numbers we were accompanied by two of my friends from University, David Ball (who now runs a Scout Troop in Harpenden) and Tristram Fenton-May.

The 'purpose' for our investigation was "Investigating Dartmoor Letterboxing". Letterboxes consist of some form of waterproof container (normally plastic), containing a visitors book and a stamp, hidden somewhere on the moor. A clue, of varying quality, is provided to their location and the challenge is to find as many as possible. Once a box has been located visitors record the find in their record book, using the stamp from the box to prove the authenticity of the record.

Prior to the expedition we had obtained clues regarding the locations of many other letterboxes on Dartmoor, both from the internet and by purchasing a copy of the "Dartmoor Catalogue of Letterboxes" book from the Dartmoor Letterboxes 100 Club. We planned our route to pass close to many letterbox sites, and allowed time to search for them.

Monday 31st May

We had spent the night at 'The Bottleneck Inn', just outside Dartmoor. Food there was good, although often a little slow in coming – but we weren't going to miss out on the last 'proper' meal for 4 days. Despite this, we managed to arrive at the park gate in time for a parting photograph before setting off on time at the start of the Expedition.

Initially the weather was a bit wet, attempting to damp our spirits right at the beginning. We were expecting this though, and made good time during the morning (which stuck largely to the well-made military tracks). Making good time annoyingly meant spending time waiting at checkpoints, but fortunately we were able to spend some of this time hunting for letterboxes. We found 3 boxes during the day, which was a relief as I had visions of managing to do the entire expedition without finding a single one!

The only real navigational challenges were finding the location of the 'Chinese Walk on Dartmoor' letter-

boxes (which actually proved quite easy due to several features on the map) and the final descent into Teignhead farm (where the mist meant making sure we did everything right, although there were some good features to catch us if we didn't).

Dinner was very welcome, even if I did make the custard for dessert a little thin.



**Yes Tor, the highest point on Dartmoor.
The view? Mist and rain.**

Tuesday 1st June

The weather started overcast, but dry, which was nice. Not wet and not too hot. We walked past some stone circles early in the day which were good – it's nice to have some varied scenery in the route.

Despite being the first time we resorted to use of the GPS we failed to find the letterbox we searched for in the morning, but did find another one in the area so the searching wasn't wasted.

The weather warmed up during the afternoon, giving us a taste of the sun that was to come on the rest of the expedition. Unfortunately there was also a bit of a breeze, and Nun's Cross didn't provide much shelter for the tents (or the stoves, which blew out if you tried to turn them down even slightly).

The evening letterboxing (after dinner) gave us the time and opportunity to successfully find another letterbox. We were also fairly certain we'd found the split rock described in the clue for another one of them, but couldn't find the box that was supposed to be there.



Jane takes to the water

Wednesday 2nd June

Although shorter than the first two days (measuring a 'mere' 19.8km) this had the potential to be a hard day, with a long initial cross country section. Our first letterbox was at Duck's Pool, one of the very early boxes on Dartmoor this is now an easy box to find – situated beneath an obvious plaque on a rock. The fine weather made navigation easy, and the bogs were surprisingly, well, non-boggy. We arrived on Ryder's Hill without having had any real danger of getting wet feet, and the rest of the route was comparatively easy going.

The last leg of the day's route was a long and exhausting section following a dismantled tramway, and it seemed to go on forever. Unfortunately we failed to find the letterbox we were looking for during the evening, however we had found two earlier in the day, so keeping our average up.

Thursday 3rd June

The route started with a river crossing (we had an alternate route planned in case the river was high), but having checked the state of the Erme the night before we were happy that we could cross it. The crossing went fine, although we should have allowed time on the route card for the procedure.

The day was hot and while Jane and I searched for some of the letterboxes David and Kerry headed for shade, for there is little escape from the sun on the open moor.

Our final letterboxing time was spent near the end of our expedition, around Leather Tor and Peek Hill. We had less time here than we intended, but still allowed ourselves 20 minutes foraging and successfully found the last letterbox of the expedition.

Stephen White



Our assessor checks our plans (and our washing up)

Goodbye Alleyne

Alleyne Copestake who has voluntarily organised our workshop and maintained our dinghys for many years has recently moved to France with his wife Pauline and dog Ben, He will be greatly missed and our thanks and appreciation for all his hard work go with our best wishes. 1st Sandleheath Sea Scouts presented Alleyne with a book on Brittany and one on the New Forest.

Mandie Dawson

Gas & Electrics

Do we have any readers who are Corgi registered, or can do PAT electrical testing? If anyone is available who could offer their services to help at the Scout Centre please ring Ros on 01425 654025.

Scout Camp

Friday 23rd July

An advance contingent of leaders arrived to unload and set up the Mess tent, store tent and their own tents. It being a clear, fine evening with not a cloud in the sky, we then set out the kit ready for when the scouts arrived on Saturday morning.

Saturday 24th July

The Scouts were thrown straight into activities – as well as setting up camp, they went canoeing on the River Piddle and also had an archery session. Nick demonstrated unknown canoeing skills going down the little weir at the start sideways! After dinner we had a camp meeting discussing organisation and rules.

Stephen and Richard then gave a talk on Tilley lamps, followed by a wide game – German Spotlight (which was very popular). Once the scouts had gone to bed the Leaders played Giant Jenga, possibly one of the more hazardous activities on camp!

Sunday 25th July

Climbing on the sea cliffs at Hedbury Quarry (near Dancing Ledges) with walk to Worth Matravers either before or after (fastest walking award – Lydia, closely followed by Bryn). Scorching hot day, but magnificent scenery, captured here in watercolours by our own camp artist Laura.



There was lots of climbing and abseiling on the cliffs down to the sea. Some especially good climbing by Ellie Coatham, Amelia, Becky and Bryony and the usual gymnastics from Peter.



David made use of a cannon which was lying around for a belay point. Josh made use of the same cannon to have a rest at lunch-time!



Nigel and Nick, our fantastic washing-up team, still arguing about how many times it is reasonable to send a cheese-grater back to be re-washed! Scouts now well-bored by this discussion.

In the evening Stephen and David gave a talk on Knife, Axe and Saw. Each patrol then set off at intervals to explore the Blindfold Trail set up in the woods. This involved following a rope – which went through Rhododendron thickets (Bryony thought she was on the rugby pitch and just charged through and flattened them), a clump of Holly (which got the better of Bryony) and a hole in the roots of a fallen tree. It took about 40 minutes to complete the trail and the scouts emerged exhausted (and dirty!).

Monday 26th July

The scouts walked in patrols to Studland Beach where they played on the beach, ate sweets and ice-cream, swam, ate sweets and ice-cream, laughed at Josh in his wellies and ate more sweets and ice-cream!

Back at camp dinner was cooked on wood fires backwoods cooking style – kebabs, garlic bread, marshmallows and bananas with lots of charcoal and smoke! The evening finished with each patrol having a go on

the Ropes Course which David and Stephen had set up in the woods. This was 20 minutes of gymnastics – with amazing acrobatic feats performed by Peter.

Tuesday 27th July

The practice on David's Ropes Course was put to good use as everyone had a go on the Low Ropes Course at Brenscombe. The emphasis was on teamwork and innovation. The scouts were apparently much better at the latter than the former. Once again Nick showed unknown skill in performing a double back somersault with pike & twist – or something like that!



In the afternoon there was a choice of activity – canoeing, archery or climbing. The climbers went to Cattletroughs (near Swanage) where they did climbs of difficulty up to Severe standard (Inspiration). The canoeists went down the Piddle again but this time went right down to Poole Harbour on a wonderful, tranquil journey. Everyone assembled again in the Swimming Pool at Wareham, where a good soak removed much of the acquired tan! Back at camp it was another excellent talk by Stephen – this time it was topical and relevant First Aid. There was much interest in the talks on Burns and Choking. The Scouts demanded to play German Spotlight again (James won) before retiring to bed.

Wednesday 28th July

Walk from Durdle Dor to Lulworth Cove over the cliffs. There was some exploration of rock pools and caves and one group walked up the cliff at the far side of the cove to the Fossil Forest.

Once again there was an amazing consumption of sweets and ice-cream (supersonic ice-cream carrying award to Rebecca Osborne).

At tea-time we had a barbecue on the beach – hot dogs and burgers. On return to Burnbake the scouts constructed bivvies in the woods whilst Stephen coaxed a camp fire to life. Everyone sat round the camp fire eating biscuits and marshmallows singing various camp fire songs in and out of tune with correct and not correct words! (awards for the best camp-fire singing – Matthew and Liam). The scouts retired to their bivvies, somewhat excited to be sleeping "in the open" in the woods, and even managed to be asleep by 12-30!

Thursday 29th July

Break camp (pack everything) then on the train to Swanage. Here was an opportunity for the world at large to admire the hairstyles of Matthew and Peter, complete with colourful hair bands!

Any remaining money was spent in arcades and sweet shops. Bryn spent the whole day with a HUGE gob-stopper in his mouth (and all over his face and jumper!). Everyone got together at lunch-time for fish and chips (or sausage and chips) then had another hour or so before catching the train back to Norden Station, where parents awaited to collect their grubby scouts and dirty washing!

Summing up

The scouts all did well at cooking, each patrol doing their own food (award for the worst food concoction – Will Hall – orange juice on hot chocolate dregs!) and kept the site amazingly tidy [some prompting was required - Ed.] (especially the patrols led by Ellie Stacey and Rachel Bunt). They were all so good we decided it was unfair to run a patrol competition – they were all winners. Thanks to our water fetching hero, Bryn, who could not be restrained from continually fetching barrels of water for the camp.

Other awards: Most smiles on camp – shared by: Bryn, Lydia, Charlie and James. Quietest Scout – Fin. Noisiest Scout – Becky. Most determined Scout – Poppy. Best young Scout – Sam Hinton.

Thanks to all scouts and leaders for making it one of the best summer camps ever for Sandleheath and certainly the scouts were the best I have had on any camp.

More camp photos can be found online at <http://www.ox.compsoc.net/~swhite/scouts/scamp2004/>
Watercolour paintings by Laura Dawes.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader



Scouts at Spinnaker on a Thursday evening

Solent Regatta

Unfortunately the main Solent Regatta had to be cancelled this year, as the date it had been planned for clashed with another event attended by the RN recognised Sea Scout Troops. Without these there were not enough boats or helpers to run the regatta, and there would have been a much reduced entry.

The sailing regatta, however, did take place earlier this year. Sandleheath fielded an excellent team who did very well. Class by class results are listed here.

Pico Under 14

Place	Group/Crew	Points
1	6th Hamble B. Halligan & A Cunningham	0
2	1st Sandleheath Rachel Bunt & B. Collings	6
3=	4th Eling L. Mutter & F. Wright	8
3=	1st Sandleheath M. Hales & H. Osman	8
5	1st Sandleheath I. Quicke & E. Stacey	9
6	1st Sandleheath R. Quicke & W. Hall	11.4

Topper Under 14

Place	Group/Crew	Points
1	9th Lymington G. Moore	0
2	1st Sandleheath T. Skelley	6
4	6th Hamble A. Lomer	8.7

Bosun Under 18

Place	Group/Crew	Points
1	1st Sandleheath M. Bailey & A. Bland	0
2	9th Lymington J. Husband & A. Gales	8.7
3	10th Mudeford B. Hulbert & J. Roach	11.4
4	1st Sandleheath R. Wards & J. Hall	11.7

Topper Under 18

Place	Group/Crew	Points
1	10th Mudeford C. Rusden	8.7
2=	6th Hamble T. Arkle	11.7
2=	1st Sandleheath M. Chase	11.7
4	1st Sandleheath Richard Bunt	13

Bosun Under 25

Place	Group/Crew	Points
1	1st Sandleheath S. Chambers & S. White	8
2	1st Sandleheath A. Marsh & J. Marsh	13.7
3	6th Hamble W. Swales, K. Lewry	14

Editorial

The programme and reports highlight the excellent work going on as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Combining many of the themes that have been present for a long time in the Scout Association's progressive training awards, and finishing with an award that is recognised by employers throughout the country, it's great to see so many of the Scouts working towards the various levels. Hopefully they have time to enjoy what they're doing as well!

In case you thought you'd escaped, I can't finish without saying that next edition is the 'New Year' edition. The important content will be the programme for the upcoming year, so please send me any relevant dates for inclusion as well and all the normal reports and articles. As usual the deadline for submissions is Christmas.

Stephen White - Waterlines Editor

Group Programme - 2004

November	Friday, 12th Sunday, 14th Sunday, 28th	D. of E. Group meeting (Scout HQ) Remembrance Day parade (Fordingbridge) Canoeing on the River Frome (Explorers)
December	Friday, 3rd Sunday, 5th Monday, 6th Wednesday, 8th	D. of E. Group meeting (Scout HQ) Stour Descent (Explorers) District Carol Service (Harry's Island, Burley) Going up ceremony (Scout HQ, 6pm)
January	Tuesday, 18th	Water Activities meeting (Leaders and Helpers, Scout HQ, 7:30pm)
February	Saturday, 5th - Sunday, 6th	Canoeing on the Dart (Explorers)
March		
April	Friday, 8th - Sunday 10th Saturday, 30th - Sunday, 1st	D. of E. silver practice expedition District camp (Moyles Court)
May	Thursday, 8th	Start of water activities
June	Friday, 3rd - Sunday 5th Saturday, 18th - Sunday 19th Saturday, 25th	D. of E. silver assessed expedition Cub camp (Harry's Island) Solent Sailing regatta (Blashford)
July	Saturday, 2nd - Tuesday, 5th Saturday, 23rd - Thursday 28th	D. of E. gold practice expedition Scout Camp (venue to be decided)
August	Monday, 1st - Saturday, 6th	D. of E. gold assessed expedition
September	Saturday, 3rd - Sunday, 4th Saturday, 17th Thursday, 22nd	D. of E. bronze practice expedition Solent main regatta (Testwood Lake) Last night of water activities (provisional)
October	Monday, 24th - Sunday 25th	D. of E. bronze assessed expedition

Waterlines, Oct 2004

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