

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

May 2004

AGM Edition

G.S.L.'s Report

We are now getting used to our new comfortable Scout Centre and with much help from Mr and Mrs Clark the field has been levelled and re-seeded. It is now in full use and has already had several camps based there, including, recently, the District Camp.

The new training schemes and age ranges are now well established and all sections are thriving.

After many years as Beaver Leader Nigel is stepping back and Jo and Bev will be running Beavers. I am sure they will do an excellent job and Nigel's expertise will still be there to call on when necessary.

Our Cubs have seen many changes: with Richard Savage going to university Jacqui has been at the helm, ably assisted by Claire, Anne, Josh and various parents and Explorer Scouts. We now welcome Richard Farr into the Cub team. He is a very experienced Cub Leader and will take over as Cub Leader shortly, enabling Jacqui to return to her more favoured role as Assistant Cub Leader. It is an impressive line up!

Scout have more of a problem. I have been the only Warranted Leader in there for most of the winter. My thanks to Richard and David Ward, from our ever-helpful Explorer Scout Unit. Without their help I would not have been able to run Scouts at all this winter. We need regular helpers in Scouts. Richard will be going to university this autumn and without more help I will not be able to run Scouts when we come off the Water in October. There are about 35 enthusiastic Scouts, it would be a great pity if they could not continue Scouting because no-one will help for a couple of hours a week. I am quite prepared to do the planning and organisation if necessary - it is help on a Thursday night we are desperate for.

As always our young people have been involved in many activities outside their weekly meeting, taking other Scouts for water activities, camps, community work, expeditions and competitions. Our image in the community is important if we are to continue to get

support.

If you have any ideas about how we can improve either our image or our Scouting please come along to a Committee meeting and help us. The Executive Committee has been struggling recently —with just the same few people doing all the work and administration. We do need to spread the load, and we are going to ask all parents to take on some role in the Group. If you get in early you will be able to choose what you do!

Our success has always been down to great teamwork from the Executive committee and the Leaders. It is very rewarding to be part of the team. It really is amazing to see Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts as they get older learn independence, teamwork and leadership from the activities we provide for them. To see someone you knew as a 6-year old Beaver complete a challenging expedition with confidence and pride makes all the hard work worth while.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader



Sandleheath Network Scouts Jo Bailey and Richard Savage won their class at last years Solent Sailing Regatta. We hope for more good results this year.

Beaver Report

New Cub Leader

Quietly sitting in one of the carpeted side rooms, the Beavers listen carefully to a story after having had a drink and a biscuit. A short period of relative calm before the high energy Beavers burst out into the main hall cheering for a game of 'King Ball' or 'Giants, Wizards and Elves'. We always ensure a balanced range of activities each evening over a term and this past year has been no exception. However, this year has seen the introduction of more opportunities to listen to short stories and to learn about other countries. We have enjoyed chatting about and eating food from both Italy and France.

We have also been visited by people who work in our community. Sally Hall, (aka Mrs Sandy) is an Occupational Therapist at Fordingbridge Hospital. Sally bought along a wheelchair and some walking aids. The Beavers experienced a bit of what it was like to have a visual handicap as they were led blindfolded around an obstacle course. Claire Wayne (Cub Helper) taught the children some Makaton sign language and signed a story.

Our latest visitors' caused quite a stir! Three police vehicles pulled into the car park. Local policeman Tony Hatcher and his two colleagues are not only able to deal with hardened criminals but they were also up to having twenty Beavers climbing in and out of their vehicles, sounding the siren and turning on the flashing lights. One of the highlights for the Beavers was having an opportunity to be locked up in the 'cage' in the back of the police van.

The Beavers always enjoy having visitors. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in coming along to a meeting please do contact Rowan (Jo Young).

Some of the other activities included making lavender bags for Mothers Day, constructing junk models, acting bible stories, singing and making music. We had a very successful Beaver Challenge event last autumn and two great evenings down on the lake.

Quietly waiting for our closing ceremony, as the duty lodge prepare a prayer and allocate out the tasks, the horseshoe of Beavers shuffle their feet and clear their throats. Another meeting draws to a close and as the last echoes of 'Beavers Beavers Ra! Ra! Ra!' tumble out of the ceiling, the leaders and helpers are already thinking about next week.

Sandy, Rowan and Holly.

I am delighted to be joining Jacqui, Claire, Josh the pack at Sandleheath. My wife Sarah and I moved to Fordingbridge with our 2 children Adam and Robyn in April 2003 from Hertfordshire. Previously, I had been Akela at a village cub pack for 17 years and gained a medal of merit in 2001 of which I am most proud. Along with the usual weekday activities and badge work the highlight of every year was the annual cub camp which we attempt to improve upon year on year. A topical, fun theme is chosen which links the whole weekend together and in later years have taken more than one pack away as my wife was also an Akela at another pack. Camp food has gone from good to gourmet with the introduction of a whole spit roast lamb over a wood fire in the last few years.

I have always been in Scouting since the age of 8 and in the 12 months I've had off have felt there has been something missing in my life.

I look forward to getting to know all the cubs and their parents too.

Richard Farr



Left: Richard Farr

Below: the Scout Troop during a meeting in the H.Q.



Cub Report

A very enjoyable and growing year.

The Cub section unfortunately lost Richard Savage to university and I stepped in as a caretaker leader until either Richard returned or another leader volunteered to take over.

The Cub section has grown in numbers and we now have five sixes in the pack. This I believe is a testament to the enjoyable programme drawn up by the loyal regular helpers, whose invaluable help plan and makes the evenings so pleasant.

The Cubs have concentrated on working towards various badges and challenges over the past year. This has enabled the leaders to become more conversant with the new Scouting programme.

I took a significant number of cubs to camp in April 2004, thanks to the dedicated work of Mrs Waine and the Murphy family. I can confirm that the cubs had a wonderful tiring time. I can only say that I forgot what sleep was for the weekend!

Cubs is a very enjoyable section with enthusiastic cub members.

Jacqui Haugh - Cub Leader

Scout Report

The Scouts had a good season on the water last year and did well in both the Sailing and the Main Regattas. We also had quite a few gain BCU and RYA 2 qualifications.

Summer Camp started off very wet, but the location at Swansea proved excellent and both Scouts and Explorers had an excellent active programme — with hikes, climbing, caving, archery, beach, canoeing, ropes course, camp fire, etc. Once again thanks to all those who helped with transport and at camp.

Once back in the Scout Centre things became hectic. Richard and David Ward were regular and indispensable helpers and Pete Munford and Les Radford came in to help with various activities. Even so with about 35 Scouts it was hard work and noisy!

More helpers would make it so much more enjoyable.

Once again we won the District backwoods cooking competition and the Football.

The Scouts went out onto the forest to do wide games and hikes then took part in the SALLIE incident night hike, where our teams did really well. We also provided many helpers for this event, and thanks to all those who came along to help and made it possible.

Quite a number of Scouts have also been caving this year. Yet another way to get cold, wet and dirty!

We have had one weekend camp so far this year, when our Scouts proved they could plan and complete a hike-camp. They are nearly ready for D. of E. Expeditions!

We are now looking forward to a summer of sailing, canoeing and rowing, the Group Regatta at the end of May and a summer camp on Purbeck at the end of July.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader

Explorer Scout Report

Last summer the Explorers met on Thursdays with the Scouts for the normal summer programme. We had a joint camp in Wales, which they all enjoyed.

From October the Explorers have followed their own winter programme. To start with we had 6-8 turning up regularly, then some moved up from Scouts and some joined us from Fordingbridge, so we are about 14 strong now! I have been very fortunate that the Fordingbridge Explorer Leader, Andy Brooks, has come across to help us as well, and proved himself invaluable!

We have offered a variety of indoor and outdoor activities this winter, as ever the outdoor ones more popular than the indoor ones, but the rifle shooting proved especially popular.

We are now looking forward to the summer again, with water activities at Blashford, and a summer camp planned for Derbyshire in August.

Sue Chase - Explorer Leader

Tall Ships

... continued



Saturday 26th July

We finished the race today at 11:45am. Everyone dressed up (or cross-dressed up in a few of our cases) and we held a finishing party on-board ship as we crossed the line. Our final position was 29/86 overall and 10/12 in class. We met up with The Lord Nelson, another British ship, after the race and our permanent cook, Bill went over to discuss a joint barbecue when we reached our next destination. As with the start line, the finish line was some distance from land and as we still had some time left we decided to go to Mariehamn; a small group of islands in the archipelago of islands around the port of Turku.

Everyone set about cleaning the ship in preparation for its arrival in Mariehamn as we again set sail.

Sunday 27th July

We arrived in Mariehamn at about 11:30 local time. We had to have a pilot to guide us to our berth because the many islands of the archipelago were dangerous for a ship of our size. We were moored next to a ship called Pogoria, which, although Polish had some British crew who were very friendly. That afternoon we were allowed to split up into groups and travel into Mariehamn itself. The whole area was very different from England, with its wide straight streets and houses constructed of wood. In town we managed to purchase some excellent ice-creams for only 1 euro (about 70 pence). There we had a chance to bask in

the sun and go and visit a huge old grain ship called the Pommern.

That evening we all helped carrying platters of meat, pasta, breads, salad and drinks to the shore for a barbecue jointly organised with the Lord Nelson. The barbecue was great fun and really good opportunity to meet the other crew. Before we ate we were divided into teams (regardless of crew) and participated in team events that included tugs of war and toy boat racing. Although much of the Nelson's crew were physically handicapped they still participated fully in all the events and it was a testament to the good will and the atmosphere that no one was left out.

Monday 28th July

This morning we set sail from Mariehamn with a different pilot, bound for a mooring just outside Turku. Red watch had the fortune to be furling the sails as we sailed through the archipelago towards the mooring. It was a wonderful landscape with literally hundreds of rocky island covered with trees dominating the landscape. Another bright, hot day made everything sparkle in the sunlight as the ship wove its course.

It took us until early afternoon to reach the mooring and, after a buffet lunch, we were organised into an entertaining inter-watch rowing competition whereby the two competing teams had to row simultaneously round the ship in different directions. Naturally there was much confusion and hilarity added to by those not racing drenching those in the boats with buckets of water. At the end of the session the captain remarked that in twenty years at sea he had never experienced such bad rowing. After this everyone went for a swim off the side of the ship. The water was beautifully clear and cool after the rowing but remarkably not salty at all. We had great fun; playing water polo and diving off the side of the ship, before retiring, tired out back to the ship.

That afternoon I managed to get some sleep before watching a couple of films that night with a few friends and witnessing one of the most amazing sunsets I have ever seen.

Tuesday 29th July

Today there was a lot of cleaning when we weren't on watch. We were told that once we were in Turku, the public would be shown around so consequently everything had to be spotless. In the evening we participated in an egg-dropping contest whereby each watch had to design and construct a way for an egg

to be thrown as far as possible from a platform on the fore-mast to the deck below without it breaking. Blue watch made a spectacular dragon out of coloured strips but its wings were sadly ineffectual and it flew, well, like a brick. Needless to say, their egg broke. White watch, although using a less impressive design managed to get their egg a fair distance without breaking it. The pressure was now on us as Julian, our representative, prepared to throw our egg from the mast.

We had attempted to protect our egg by sellotaping two balloons either side of the egg so as to protect it. This was done under advice given by our fellow red watch member Dave, who confidently asserted that he had done this before off a 20 foot sea wall and the egg had survived. We held our breath as Julian threw the egg off, but one of the balloons burst and it plummeted to the deck with an audible crack. Oh well, it's the taking part that matters, right?

Wednesday 30th July

Today must count as one of the most memorable days of the trip for me. Fairly early on, after a morning briefing, we set sail for the Finnish port of Turku, our final destination. Every crew member (save a couple that had qualms at the dizzying heights that we were to attain) climbed the fore-mast and stood upon the spars. It was quite a sight, the whole crew resplendent in our newly issued Cutty Sark Tall Ship Races' t-shirts, singing lustily to the accompaniment of the on board music system. Below us, a flotilla of smaller ships and yachts milled about us with their occupants clutching their cameras and smiling as they were serenaded with "three cheers".

By the time we made it into the port itself everyone was hot and tired out. The day was the hottest in a trip filled with sunshine and we still had the difficult task of mooring the ship to attend to. The Prince William had to be manoeuvred into a space only just more than her total length. Consequently it was a tricky job, involving the use of the starboard and port engines as well as a number of mooring ropes attached to winches. Eventually after twenty minutes in the brilliant sunshine we were safely moored and everyone retired below in the relative cool to flop onto their bunks.

That afternoon we were granted shore leave and set off to explore the town in small groups. I managed to contact my parents for the first time since I had left using a special tall ships phone card that every shop sold. There was a real festival atmosphere in the city, everywhere there was indications that the

tall ships were here from huge banners and the aforementioned phone cards to the complete re-layout of areas of the city and temporary ferries to get everyone from one side of the main river to the other. After we were called back to the ship later in the afternoon in order to show the public around we were allowed shore leave. I spent a great evening in the company of old friends as well as making new friends from other ships and fell straight asleep as soon as I got back, with the unsettling thought that there were only two more days left.

Thursday 31st July

Today started, if possible, even hotter than yesterday. Today was the crew parade in which every crew that entered the race paraded through the city to an award ceremony. The sun beat down as we marched along crowd lined streets lead by a naval band and dancers. Each crew was competing to be the loudest as there was a prize for the best crew on parade and so the atmosphere was terrific. We marched down one side of the river, crossed the bridge and then made our way to a gigantic sports stadium where the ceremony was to be held, presented by the chairman of the STA. We didn't win any prizes in the end but still had a great time.

Friday 1st August

In the morning after a quick breakfast, a lot of us set off for the nearby swimming pool. It was nothing like any swimming pool I'd ever been to before. It was Olympic size and was in a surrounded by tiers of concrete seats. There were three diving boards 5m, 7.5m and 10m. Naturally, some of us in a moment of macho foolishness made a bee-line for the 10m board and, of course, when we got up there we almost changed our minds. Ten metres, to put it into perspective is about one and a half times the height of my house. In the end we did do it and wasn't too bad, the worst bit was trying to keep yourself straight in the air so that you didn't hit the water too painfully.

That evening was the crew party. A large warehouse had been booked to cater for all the ship's crews and we set off for it about 9:00pm. We were issued with arm-bands for entry and told to meet back at 12:30am in order to get back to the ship and leave for the airport. The party was really good. There was a great live rock/jazz band and it was a great chance to re-meet crews that I had met before, in particular the Mexican crew were really friendly and their English was excellent.

Saturday 2nd August

Finally, it was time for us to meet outside the crew party and make our way back to the ship. We all walked and ran back to the ship, laughing and singing as we went. There was such a sense of camaraderie and team spirit that I remember being almost overcome with sadness that in just a few hours I would leave this wonderful group of people and would never see some of them again. When we got back the coaches were waiting so we hastily gathered our previously packed luggage and bundled on to the coaches with shouts of goodbye and thanks to the permanent crew.

It only took us about twenty minutes to get to the airport but about an hour to get on the flight thanks to there only being one flight desk open. I was oblivious to much of the flight home as I was catching up on a bit of sleep along with the majority of the plane (although I hope the pilot managed to keep awake). When we touched down at Heathrow I woke and we all went and collected our luggage. Then it was time to say goodbye. The air was filled with mobile phones ringing as everyone exchanged numbers and tested them. It was a weird feeling, that tomorrow I wouldn't wake up in my bunk and see my watch, but with promises to meet everyone again at the reunion in October, I made my way to the exit and went home.

My reflections on the experience

Participating in the Tall Ships race and being part of the Prince William crew was one of the best experiences I have ever had; not just because I enjoyed myself so much but because it was such a great experience that has affected me personally. There are so many things that made the trip memorable, here a few.

The Food. The food on board was something that before the trip I hadn't been too hopeful about. After all how could you expect good, fresh food when we were at sea for days at a time? The reality of it was that the food was excellent. The permanent cook Bill and his assistants Katie and Louise did a brilliant job. There was hot food three times a day including Bill's freshly made crumbles, soups, pies, curries and rolls (although not all at once).

Being in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race was an experience in itself. It was fantastic to be able to see all the different ships as well as to be part of the whole atmosphere of the event.

Meeting Other People. I made some great friends on the Prince William, ones that I am still keeping in contact with now and plan to see in the future. More

than that I met people not only from different areas of Britain but also from different countries and got on really well with all of them. This has taught me so much about people generally and about how little real differences there are between people of different countries.

Being Part of The Prince William Crew. Because everything; eating, sleeping, duties, were all done in the company of the other crew members, everyone had something in common. This made it really easy to get on with everyone on board and even after only a few days there was a real team spirit that made me proud to part of the crew of the Prince William.

Finally, I'd like to say thank-you to Brigadier Duckworth for nominating me and to the Armourers and Brasiers Gauntlet Trust, for making this trip possible and providing me with an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

James Hall

Subscriptions

The Gift Aid scheme has been a great help to our finances and this year we have increased our relief claimed by £240.00 on 2002/3. The total figure claimed for 2003/4 is £2368.38, as you can appreciate this amount of money helps enormously with Scouting costs.

Therefore, we do appreciate it when you take the time to tick the box and fill in the slip when returning your subscriptions.

Can I thank the parents for returning the majority of the subscriptions quickly as this does help our cash flow situation.

Mandie Dawson - Subscriptions secretary

Well done . . .

Well done to Ros White on passing her Local Cave Leader assessment. It's another qualification to add to the impressive list held by the various activity instructors at Sandleheath.



Explorer Scouts carrying out a D. of E. Award practice expedition on the River Thames near Oxford

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

The Award scheme in Sandheath is going from strength to strength and, in the past year, the number of young people who have registered for The Award, via our Award Group, has increased from 13 to 23. This just goes to show that The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is great fun and very rewarding. As you may remember, anyone between the ages of 14 and 25 can register for The Award so, if any more Scouts, Explorers or Network Scouts want to get involved with the Award just let me know. By undertaking The Award you can actually do two things in one! You can gain sections towards each level of The Award and also, in some cases, qualify for Scout badges as well.

This year the rules regarding Expeditions and Explorations have changed and, under the new rules we have just had a group complete a Silver Canoeing Expedition. They held a very successful practice Expedition in April from Oxford to Reading over 3 days with overnight camps at 22nd Oxford Sea Scouts and Benson Waterfront and part of the practice dealt with the navigation of locks etc as well as canoeing techniques. Their actual Silver assessed Expedition was held over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend on the

River Thames from Reading to Windsor over 3 days and they camped at Henley, the Swiss Farm International Camp Site, and Longridge SBC. We look forward to their presentation when they tell us all about the trials and tribulations they experienced.

Jane Esmond and Stephen White will be taking part in a Gold level Expedition with others on Dartmoor at the end of May. Their aim is to hunt out as many "letterboxes" as they can on the Moor. They will travel about 80 kilometres by foot in the process over a period of four days. Let's hope their walking boots are well worn in and the blisters will not be too bad.

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 held at Scout HQ on the first Friday of each month from 7-8pm.

One group of youngsters is currently making lots of noise and working toward their Skills section by learning to play the guitar. I never knew an electric guitar amplifier could produce so many decibels! We are very fortunate to have two skilled guitarists, father and son, who have volunteered to teach the group over a three month period how to become rock stars of the future.

In last year's National Raffle we raised £105 by selling draw tickets and some of this has been put to good use by purchasing three 60 litre rucksacks for expeditions, hikes etc.

We have a great bunch of young people undertaking The Award at present and I am sure they will agree that they are achieving things none of them would have thought possible at the beginning.

Ian Greig has just retired after many years as the Hampshire Scouts County Adviser for The Award and we would like to thank him so much for all his help and support since we set up. We hope he enjoys his "retirement". Michael Baxter of Romsey Scouts has taken his place so we are looking forward to working with him.

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 <http://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



The Sandleheath field and HQ were put to good use for the District St. George's Day camp

Photos

Photographs of many activities can be found on the group website. There are also some photos, including those of the District St. George's day camp on the New Forest West district website.

If you take any photos of Scout activities and want to see them published on the group website (or in the newsletter) then please send them to me: my email and 'snail mail' addresses are on the back pages of the newsletter.

Editorial

It's a long issue of Waterlines this time, packed with reports of activities that members of the group have been involved in over the last year. As always the group is indebted to the dedicated leaders who organise and run the events, and to the helpers without whom many of the events could not take place. The summer season is always especially busy, so I'm expecting lots of activity reports and photographs for the Autumn edition. The deadline for articles will be Saturday 2nd October —the day of the Solent Regatta— but I'm always happy to receive submissions before the deadline.

Stephen White - Waterlines Editor

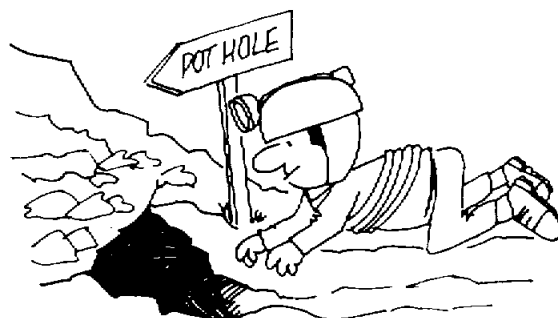
Websites

There are many useful or interesting websites related to Scouting on the internet. Leaders and helpers may be particularly interested in exploring 'Scoutbase' which has activity and programme suggestions, fact-sheets from headquarters, copies of various forms to download and print, P.O.R. and a Scouting Internet Directory. Many of the websites can be found by exploring links or by using your favourite search engine, but I've listed a few good starting points below.

- **Sandleheath**
<http://www.ox.compsoc.net/~swhite/scouts/>
or <http://come.to/sandleheath>
- **New Forest West**
<http://www.geocities.com/nfwscouts/>
- **Hampshire**
<http://www.scouts-hants.org.uk/>
- **Scoutbase**
<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/>

Wellies

If anyone has old wellies or walking boots that they no longer have a use for then please contact Ros White. Hampshire Scout Caving Club may be able to put them to good use when people turn up for caving experience days with inappropriate footwear.



Group Programme - 2004

May	Monday, 24th Saturday, 29th	Group A.G.M. (HQ, 7:30pm) Group Regatta (Spinnaker)
June	Tuesday, 8th Tuesday, 15th Tuesday, 22nd Friday, 25th Saturday, 26th Saturday, 26th	Beaver water activities (Spinnaker, 5:45pm) District A.G.M. (Poulner, 8:00pm) Cub water activities (Spinnaker, 6:00pm) Scout Cooking Competition Solent Sailing Regatta at Blashford Group Barbecue
July	Saturday, 17th - Sunday, 18th Saturday, 24th - Thursday 29th Saturday, 31st - 7th August	Fordingbridge Show (Show jumps) Scout Summer Camp on Purbeck Explorer Camp (Derbyshire)
September	Tuesday, 14th Saturday, 18th - Sunday, 19th Tuesday, 21st Saturday, 25th - Sunday, 26th	Beaver water activities (Spinnaker, 5:45pm) D. of E. bronze practice expedition (New Forest) Cub water activities (Spinnaker, 6:00pm) Caving and climbing (Mendip)
October	Friday, 1st Saturday, 2nd Saturday, 9th - Sunday 10th Saturday, 23rd - Sunday, 24th Sunday, 24th	District Scout Football Competition Solent (Main) Regatta at Blashford D. of E. bronze assessed expedition Caving Days (Mendip) Chick Law Competition (Scouts)

Waterlines, May 2004

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

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(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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