

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

May 2006

AGM Edition

Chairman's Brief

Another great team effort from the Executive Committee in support of 1st Sandleheath this year. The contribution made by all helps make the administrative running of the Group go smoothly. We are also blessed with having a GSL and band of Leaders who are exceptionally talented, enabling youth in the local community to benefit from their knowledge and experience.

I am conscious that some members of the Executive Committee have been in their roles for a number of years now, and having been through a number of transition periods in the past believe that it is important that we have a "succession plan". This is essential if we are to ensure the continued success of 1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group. Our GSL and Leaders more than deserve the administrative back-up needed to run a Group like ours so please give this some thought and let me know if you would be willing to take up a position.

P.S. A big thank you to all of those who took part in our first ever Spring Clean. It was greatly appreciated.

Nick Bunt – Chairman



Scouts climbing at Q.E. Leisure Centre



Sailing at last year's Group regatta

Chick Law Trophy

The annual Chick Law Trophy is a district competition based around a Scouting theme. Past events have included a first aid competition and a pioneering competition. This year was a quiz, with rounds including general knowledge, knots, nature, first aid, navigation, caving and climbing, memory and codes. It was held at Sandleheath Scout Centre on Saturday, 3rd December.

The competition was won by Poppy, Bryony, Jamie and Katrina from 1st Sandleheath, with 97.5 points. In second place were 3rd Ringwood, with 86 points, just beating 1st Fordingbridge, who were third with 85.5 points. A second team from 3rd Ringwood were fourth with 70.5 points. Well done Sandleheath!

GSL's Report

Scouting is a world-wide movement – the family of Scouts. Perhaps we should take a little time to reflect on our part in that family.

As a Group we support each other. This we are very good at. Within our Group the Scouts and Explorers help the younger sections. We also have a considerable number of young people who have come up through scouting at Sandleheath and are still with our Group as Warranted Leaders or Skills Instructors. This is something we should be very proud of, having enjoyed scouting themselves they want to help others have the same opportunities. We are also fortunate to have so many parents who are happy to help play their part in running the Group, supporting the sections, proving transport, being on the Committees or fund-raising.

We are also quite good at working with other Groups in the District. We do our bit by providing canoeing for Cubs and Scouts from other groups, supporting District events, District camps and doing joint activities with the other groups in the District. I think we could do a bit more here however, by more active support of District events and especially meetings (for this we have a poor reputation!).

At County level (yes look at the badges we wear – Group, District, County and World badges, we are part of them all) we do lots for Scout regattas (helping to run them as well as taking part), help with caving for Scouts from all over Hampshire and do support County events such as the County Winter Camp – but inevitably the involvements gets thinner as we get further from our base.

At National and International level we do little. We have, in the past, sent Scouts to World Jamborees, had various expeditions abroad, helped Chernobyl children canoeing and done our “international” bits in the section programmes. Well, not too bad really, but there is scope for so much more!

Achievements are recognised at all these levels too – from badges presented within the Group to those which are recognised at County or national level. The highlight this year was that Stephen went to St James's Palace to receive his D. of E. Gold award from Prince Philip.

Now we have got our house in order, a marvellous HQ, well equipped, leaders in all sections, good and varied programmes for all sections and most com-

mittee posts filled, we have the opportunity to play a full part in the world-wide family of scouts. I'm sure you've got lots of ideas about how we can do that. Pass your ideas on to a section leader to make part of their programme and let's make the next year a memorable Scouting year.

Ros White – Group Scout Leader

Scouts on District Camp at the end of April



My D. of E. Gold Award presentation at St. James's Palace. I did parts of the award with St. John Ambulance and wore their uniform for the presentation.

Fund-Raising

The next fund-raising event is, of course, the A.G.M. and hog roast. After that will be running a cake stall at the Fordingbridge flower festival in St Mary's church grounds, and we would be very grateful for anyone with culinary expertise to bake a cake. Alternatively – assistance running the stall on the day, Saturday 1st July from about 10am, would be appreciated. If anyone can help then please contact me on 01425 657256.

Judy Osborne - Fund-raising Coordinator

Avon Valley Explorers

The last year has seen the unit grow with between 8 and 17 Explorers taking part in a land based program of activities on Monday evenings from either Sandleheath Scout Centre or Fordingbridge Scout HQ. Activities have included: night hikes, international cooking, shooting, ten pin bowling, scrapheap challenge, dry slope skiing, air rifle shooting, off road cycling and more.

In October we held a “Fellowship Dinner”, we invited fellowship members along to hear a number of presentations about our scouting activities and achievements in the group, the evening was enjoyed by all who attended and was a great success!

Paul Toynton gave us an enthusiastic evening presentation about conservation work on Salisbury Salisbury Plain, and some of us helped out with our own conservation project clearing rubbish and bramble from Bishops Pond in Fordingbridge. As part of a summer project we will be trapping and recording the variety of moths using a “Skinner” moth trap at Spinnaker Sailing Club.

From May to October we are on the water for sailing, canoeing and rowing at Spinnaker Sailing Club on Thursday evenings, where Explorers have the opportunity to improve their skills most attaining recognised Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Certification and British Canoeing Union (BCU) certification, this allows them to assist leaders in providing water activities to other Scout group sections in the District. In June we have the Solent Regatta, at which we aim to do well!

Those that have become “Young Leaders” are praised for the help and assistance they give to other sections at Sandleheath and Fordingbridge. An increasing number of our Explorer’s have joined the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, with which they are working towards gaining their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

Many thanks to Mark Davison who is now a warranted leader without whose help we would have struggled to meet every Monday and special thanks to Adrian Maul and Steve Bailey who have been able to help when needed.

Andy Brooks – Explorer Scout Leader

Scout Summer Camp

Scout camp was held at Maesbury Castle, near Oakhill, Wells, Mendip. If this did not put you off camping for life then nothing would – as the weather was terrible, torrential rain, gusting wind and a mist which sometimes didn’t seem to lift at all. Being on top of a hill didn’t help, but apart from that we had a fantastic time. And when the mist did clear we had beautiful views of the Mendips from our campsite.

During the week we visited Burrington Combe and Swildons Hole for caving and Goatchurch Cavern and Spilt Rock for climbing, Wookey Hole to visit the caves, canoeing on the Kennet and Avon Canal and for some who couldn’t stand the thought of being wet and cold again a visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum where we steamed off nicely. To finish off the week we had a visit to Wells and the cathedral and Cheddar. We of course had plenty of other activities in the evening, talks, wide games and German Spotlight to keep us occupied. So although the weather was atrocious and brought back memories of a scout camp in Wales, we had a great camp, but this year we are hoping for sunshine on the Isle of Wight. Fingers crossed, if not I would recommend that no one take their summer holidays during the last week of July when we are at camp.

The Clealls



There was fun to be had on camp, despite the wind and rain

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is 50 years old this year and at 1st Sandleheath Sea Scouts it is more popular than ever. We now have 27 young people registered with another two starting in June.

Jane Esmond and Stephen White were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards at official presentations in London last year and at least three of our current participants are on the final leg towards gaining their Gold Awards. Very successful Gold and Silver assessed expeditions were held in April this year in Snowdonia and the Purbecks.

We now have Explorer Scouts from Fordingbridge joining our Award group and often members of other groups get together for expedition training, planning etc. Quite a large group are joining together for Canoe building and maintenance sessions under the supervision of Andy Brooks and Graham Bland and this will count towards the Skills section of the Award.

Tim Skelley and David Ward have been invited to the County Presentation evening on 5 May at Ringwood School to receive their Bronze level certificates and we are very proud that they have achieved this first milestone. Tim has now moved to Poulner Duke of Edinburgh's Award group but is continuing in his

quest to gain both Silver and Gold levels. David has almost finished his Silver level and is already working hard towards achieving his Gold.

There is a special offer on joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at present and to register at Bronze or Silver level costs only £5.50 and at Gold level only £8.25. You only have to be at least 14 years old to start at Bronze level and you have until your 25th birthday to complete the sections you wish to attempt so don't delay, contact me today!

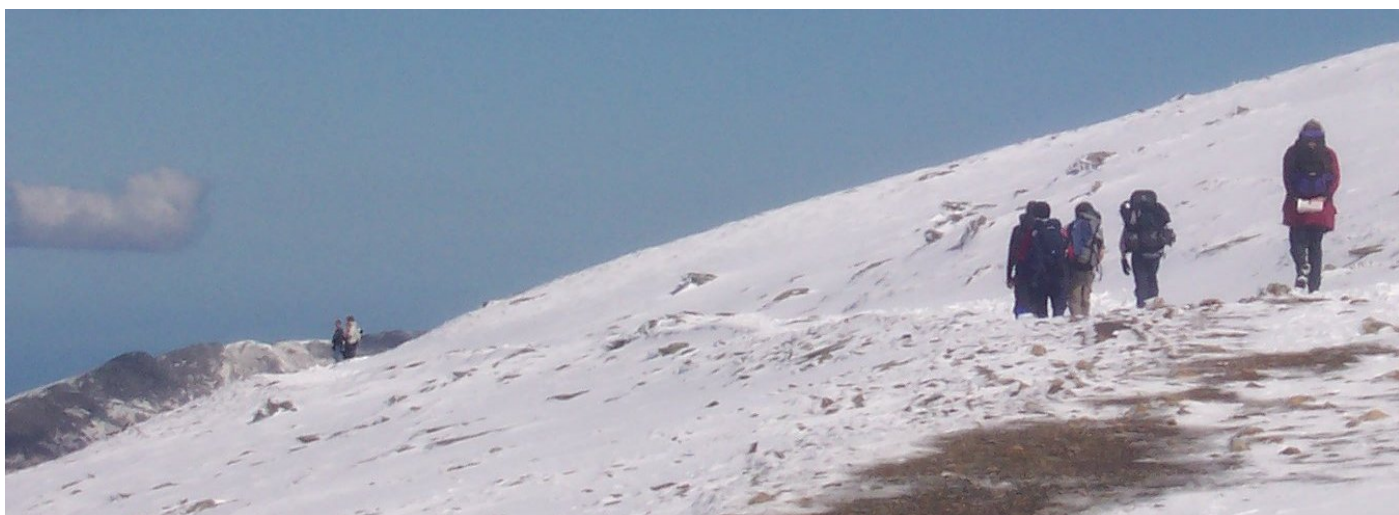
We are planning dates for more practice and assessed expeditions this year so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved with training etc and we can offer lots of help and advice. Most of you will already be undertaking activities that would count towards the Award so it does not mean a lot of extra work on top of what you are already doing.

We know that school work comes first but in each of the sections you are only expected to commit yourself to a minimum of an hours involvement a week so instead of sitting in front of your Xbox or playstation come and get involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award – there are fantastic opportunities for you.

There are lots of new skills you can learn with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or just improve on present skills - we can give you an idea of what is eligible so just ask.

If you want more information or registration forms please contact me on 01725 510397, email at pat.savage@REMOVED or pat@REMOVED or visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website at www.theaward.org.

Pat Savage – D. of E. Coordinator



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold expedition in Snowdonia last month

S.A.L.L.I.E

The annual Scout And Leader Lightless Incident Exercise was held at Ferny Crofts in February. Many thanks to the adults who helped. I hope you think it was worth the effort to enable Scouts and Explorers the opportunity of taking part in this event. Reports indicate the young people all enjoyed it, even those who spent a considerable time wandering about lost.

Avon Valley Explorers fielded two teams in the longer and harder Adult/Explorer category. Unfortunately they only managed 4th and 5th places, being beaten by teams from Barton and Lymington. Looking at the scores it appears to be navigation that let them down, so maybe some night navigation practise is called for before next year's event.

In the Scout category Sandleheath fared somewhat better, although there was a disappointing number of entries from other groups. Perhaps everyone can spread the word on how much fun they had and try to encourage more teams to enter in future. The Sandleheath teams came 1st, 2nd and 4th.

Cub Report

Another busy year for the cub section has seen a typically varied selection of activities from driving a Severn Class Lifeboat to breaking a World Record!

The highlight of the year (as always) was our annual summer cub camp this time at the idyllic Harry's Island. The weather was almost too good with temperatures soaring to over 30 degrees. A quick programme change solved this problem by having 2 sessions of a huge 100ft water-slide to cool us down. The boys experienced the delicious flavours of a whole spit roast lamb over a wood fire, and cooked their own lunch over fires they lit themselves. We all enjoyed a camp fire singsong with home grown entertainment from the leaders. We took part in the World's Biggest Sleepover on the Friday night and along with 33,000 other participants all over the country we were part of the record breaking attempt. See the certificate on the notice board in hall of the scout centre.

We were also very lucky to be invited to a tour of the RNLI training college in Poole where the highlights included all the cubs experiencing the wheelhouse of a Severn Class Lifeboat in an emergency at

sea, using the unique simulator. Also a trip to the training tank where force 5 storms can be recreated, inside a building!

We continued to develop our relationship with our neighbouring cub pack at Forres Sandle Manor school. We have had a barbecue, wide games evening and swimming session together.

Over the year we asked they cubs what they would like to do. Suggestions that have now been completed are a night hike, pizza making evening and the attainment of the Global Challenge Badge by the majority of the pack.

As usual I am totally indebted to the efforts of my team of leader and for those parents who have also helped out on pack nights.

The pack stays at a steady twenty or so active members with the beavers feeding us nicely and at the time of writing there is no waiting list.

Richard Farr – Cub Leader

Scout Centre

Every time I drive into the centre car park I can't help thinking how lucky we are to have such a fantastic facility. We are also fortunate that to date most of the maintenance has been of a relatively routine nature. However as the building ages, we must expect to face bigger tasks to maintain the centre and keep it safe for those using it. Therefore any offers of help will always be gratefully received, especially for those tasks beyond the normal level of DIY. Currently we need to investigate and fix leaks in the heating system and trace a leak in the roof, if you can help with these or you fancy the position of caretaker my number is on the back of Waterlines.

Paul Adams



Well done . . .

Well done to David Chadwick, who recently passed his Local Cave Leader II assessment. A thank you must go to the Scouts that went along to form the party that he was assessed leading, because of the rope work involved in the assessment a certain amount of standing around waiting was required and everyone behaved very well.

Grants

We have had a mixed year when it has come to Grants. We have applied to the New Forest Council, Co-op Group Scheme, Ringwood Carnival, Portman Building Society but unfortunately we were not successful but on a more positive note we also applied to the lottery Awards for all and were lucky enough to receive £2255.00 for the purchase of a Laser Pico Plus which we are very grateful for. Persistence does pay off. If you know of any grants, which we could apply for, please do let me know as we find buying new equipment is beyond our means and grants are the only way we can afford to purchase them.

Mandie Dawson – Subscription Treasurer

Subscriptions and Gift Aid

A big thank you to the parents who pay their subscriptions quickly as this makes the financial issues of running our scout group that much easier. If you have any difficulty with regards to paying the subscriptions please do let us know as there is a Salisbury based charity that we can apply to help with the cost.

Gift Aid again is a great help towards our costs and this year we have applied for £2363.00, slightly down on last year but a fantastic amount. Again please do complete the gift aid form so we can continue to receive such a worthwhile amount.

Mandie Dawson – Subscription Treasurer

Water Activity Qualifications

We have an exceptional team of Leaders and Skills Instructors to lead our water activities programme.

On the canoeing side Graham Bland and David Miller are BCU level 3 Kayak Coaches, and David Miller is also a BCU level 3 Canoeing Coach. Ros White and Paul Toynton are BCU level 2 Kayak Coaches, and Ross Macildowie is a Trainee level 2 Kayak Coach. In addition Andrew Bland, Andy Brooks, Sue Chase and Tim Stevens have done their Canoe Safety Test. Andrew Bland, David Chadwick, Sue Chase and Geoffrey White have BCU 3*. Finally BCU 2*, the lowest level required for a Scout Authorisation, is held by Pete Munford, Richard Savage, Sally White and Stephen White.

On the sailing side we have help from James Davies who is an RYA Senior and Advanced Instructor, and also an Advanced Powerboat and Safety Boat Instructor. David Chadwick and Richard Savage are both RYA Dingy Instructors. Stephen White has RYA Level 5, Sally White RYA Level 3, and Les Radford RYA Level 2. Andy Brookes, Nick Bunt, David Chadwick, Sue Chase, Les Radford, Richard Savage, Tim Stevens and Stephen White all hold the RYA Safety Boat qualification and Richard Farr RYA has Powerboat Level 2.

In preparation for summer camp some of the leaders will be spending a Sunday getting a tidal endorsement for the RYA Powerboat/RYA Safety boat qualifications.

In addition to this list, all of the Leaders and Skills Instructors hold a First Aid qualification.

Quite a list!



Kayaking at last year's Group regatta

Editorial

As is evident from the reports you have read, the Group has been busy over the last year. I'm sure this year will be no different. Remember to take a pen and your camera to some of the events so you can let others know what your section has been up to! You might also be able to count your report towards a badge, for example the Scout Administrator badge.

The fleet of boats has just passed its annual inspec-

tion, and the assessor was impressed with the general standard of equipment he found. This is a testament to both the maintenance work that goes on and to the fund-raising team that enables new boats to be bought. As a result of such efforts we have just added a third Laser Pico to the fleet, enabling us to put more boats on the water each week. Having three fairly well matched boats should also help with the racing practise in the lead up to this year's regatta.

Stephen White – Editor

Group Programme — 2006

<i>May</i>	Saturday, 20th	(Cup Final day) Group AGM & presentations (5pm)
<i>June</i>	Tuesday, 6h Friday, 16th - Sunday, 18th Wednesday, 21st Saturday, 24th Saturday, 24th	Beavers at Spinnaker (5:45pm) Cub camp (Venue T.B.C.) Fordingbridge Cubs on R. Avon (7pm) Cub day at Gilwell Solent Scout Sailing Regatta at Spinnaker
<i>July</i>	Tuesday, 4th Saturday, 8th & Sunday, 9th Sunday, 23rd Tuesday, 25th - Sunday, 30th	Fordingbridge Scouts on R. Avon (7pm) H.S.C.C. caving & climbing days (Mendip) Moving boats to Isle of Wight for camp Scout/Explorer Summer Camp (Isle of Wight)
<i>August</i>		
<i>September</i>	Saturday, 2nd Saturday, 23rd Thursday, 28th	Dragon Boats at Longridge Solent Regatta at Testwood Lakes Last week of water activities at Spinnaker
<i>October</i>	Saturday, 7th & Sunday, 8th Sunday, 15th	H.S.C.C. caving days (Mendip) District Pat Cross Trophy (Scouts)

Waterlines, May 2006

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Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

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