

# 1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



# WATERLINES

AGM 2000

*Easter Edition*

## *Chairman's Report*

### *SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP IS THE BEST*

When ever we compete in regattas we are always second to Lymington. Well Lymington have a right to be in the lead - they have better facilities, better boats, better equipment all round. There is every reason to see why they are in that envied position.

So why is Sandleheath also the best? For some time now we have demonstrated how with that extra effort we can be ahead of the game in everything we do. We attend Marchwood regatta on the Solent in waters unfamiliar to us and we come second to Lymington. We hear other groups saying: "It's no good trying to catch Lymington, it's easier to catch Sandleheath - they are our best bet". This is now the aim of many groups in the area, catch Sandleheath and you are among the best. Well done to all those who took part

in our regattas your effort was well fulfilled, keep up your efforts you now are reaping rewards.

The Venture Unit goes from strength to strength, this year saw them doing a great deal of work in the community fund-raising to get enough money together to go to Kandersteg in Switzerland on 'Hamshire Extreme Venture'. The first Queen's Scout Award to be awarded to a girl was completed by a presentation from the Assistant County Commissioner Adam Jollons and the County Commissioner Richard Merryfield to Claire Ritchie. The final part was a trip to Windsor.

As was mentioned earlier we attended several regattas, where the scouts did very well. Many evenings of canoeing and sailing were enjoyed by all. There were lots of other activities, night hikes (S.A.L.L.I.E.), bag-packs, agricultural shows, etc.

The Cubs had a varied program with a camp or two thrown in for good measure. The numbers here again are at maximum. A few more leaders would ease the burden on the good team we have at the moment.

The Beaver colony is flourishing with again maximum numbers being met.

The leaders in all sections from Ros our G.S.L. to the newest leader. Without you all we would not have opportunities greatly appreciated by our many members of all age group.

Thank you to the New HQ team you are about to make history with this lottery application. We are all waiting



The Scouts assemble for Remembrance Day Parade

with trepidation, on the positive outcome for our new building.

The fund raising team are the unsung heroes. They will certainly help us meet our target for the new building.

To the Executive Committee and the Waterlines Editors: keep at it, we are very proud of you and all that you do for our children. Thank you to all the other people who get involved, a big thank you goes to those who have helped occasionally - we still need to see you as we are getting busier with more demands on the team.

If I have missed anyone let me know and I will thank them personally.

Colin Ritchie - Group Chairman

## Scouts on the Pat Cross Trophy Day Hike Competition



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## G.S.L.'s Report

Every year my annual report starts with an update on the condition of the HQ. Well it is now in such a poor state that it has been more or less abandoned for regular meetings. The Cubs are using Fordingbridge HQ, Scouts are at Spinnaker until October, Ventures are all over the place and Beavers will be meeting mainly in the field for the summer, whilst deciding where to meet next autumn.

Matthew Collings has been doing a tremendous job putting together our lottery application, for New HQ Funds, with help from Krysia Chambers. We should know by the end of the summer if our application has been successful. It is probable that even if it is we will have to find some money to top up any grant, so be prepared to help in some major fund raising please. Welcome to Jo Young, Hester Hammond, Sue Chase and Claire Ritchie as Warranted Leaders. Thanks to the old faithful - Nigel Hall, Jon Crouter, and Steve Wilfort for their superb efforts in running their sections and also to Stephen White and John Douce for the many hours they put into helping the Group in various ways. We also have a number of section helpers, without whom we could not manage: special thanks to Helen Young, Debbie Beer, Ian Jacobs, Sam Bennett, James Hunt and Krysia Chambers.

Unfortunately Steve Young had to stand down as Scout Leader due to ill health, but we hope he will be back again before too long.

Once again the sections are fully subscribed and

running well. Progressive training and activity awards are going well. Special congratulations to Claire Ritchie on obtaining her Queen's Scout Award. We look forward to about 6 Scouts gaining their Chief Scout's award later this year.

Once again a number of Scouts and Venture Scouts achieved canoeing and sailing awards. We were second in both the Solent Scout Spring Sailing Regatta at Blashford (where James Hunt and Ian Jacobs won the Venture sailing) and at the Marchwood Regatta in September.

Beavers and Cubs have also had the opportunity to have a go at Water Activities, as have scouts and cubs from other Groups.

Thanks to James Bennett, Graham Bland, David Chadwick, Katherine Chambers, Sue Chase, John Douce, Roger Marsh, Hywel Morris, Paul Toynton and Stephen White for their invaluable help with Water Activities.

The Scouts had a joint camp with Barton Sea Scouts at Burnbake, Purbeck. We canoed, climbed, walked, did high and low ropes courses, had wide games and generally got into mischief (Scouts not Leaders)!! Once again it was a great success. Thanks to the Barton Leaders and helpers for all their hard work. This year we are on our own at Brendon, North Devon. Our Scouts have showed that they are real Scouts by coming third and fourth in the New Forest South Night Hike behind two Leaders teams (best scout teams, even beating a Leaders team) and then first and third in the New Forest West Day Hike competition. Special congratulations to Nick Mowbray, Paul Pickering and Edward Morris who

were in both winning teams.

As well as water activities, hiking and camping, the scouts have also been caving and climbing.

The Venture Unit had an adventurous, tiring but very successful camp at Kandersteg in Switzerland, where Stephen's Form M was put to good use.

Our Leaders are doing well too. John Douce is now a Power Boat Instructor and Graham Bland is a Senior Instructor for Canoeing. Congratulations to both.

Thanks to the Executive Committee. At last we have a full compliment of Secretary (Nick Bunt), Minutes Secretary (Kryisia Chambers), Treasurer (Jim

Mowbray) and Assistant Treasurer (Sue Jacobs). There has also been a lot of time put in by the New HQ Committee, the water activities crew and of course the Fund Raising Committee (again ably led by Caroline Morris).

As I have visited the sections it is clear that the young people really enjoy their Scouting. They are great fun to be with and that is why I think the Leaders enjoy Scouting too.

Keep up the good work everyone. I hope next year we will be looking forward to using our new HQ.

Ros White - Group Scout Leader

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## Beaver Report

What a year we have had! So many new friends and a new warranted leader! Rowan (Jo Young) has proved to be a fantastic addition to the Beavers. Despite being a busy mum and having no lads in Beavers herself, she has found time to share with our 20 or so youngsters since last September. This has been especially useful because I have not always been able to be at the start of every meeting. Thanks also go to Helen Young who has joined her mum and I at virtually every meeting. Our thanks also go to those fantastic parents who have been able to spend one or two Tuesdays at Beavers as an extra pair of hands (and eyes!). Special thanks to Vaughan Bradbury for heading the league table of most regular helpers!

And what a great colony of Beavers we have! They are so good at joining in all the activities we plan for

them and we always try to plan a balanced programme of activities not just games! They do love a bit of rough an' tumble (Wolf Cub Game) going absolutely mad (snowballs) or having a laugh (Captains on Board). They have also enjoyed crafts (making treasure islands), art (autumn collages) visits (Methodist Church) and quizzes.

Whilst they never complain about the state of the hut they do always look forward to playing in the field or on Sandleheath Common, sailing down at Spinnaker Lake or having outings to Moors Valley.

There is of course so much more we could do and we are sure you will have some good ideas for future meetings. Feel free to make suggestions we don't always insist that you then have to lead the meeting! Or perhaps you would just like to come along and help one evening? You don't have to be a Beaver parent. Just let Rowan or I know and we can arrange it - and you will enjoy it - just as we do!

Nigel Hall - Sandy

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## Cub Report

Jon Crouter is leaving Cubs due to work commitments - but is going to help Venture Section with Steve Wilfort. Hester Hammond will be taking over as Cub Leader helped by Debbie Beer, Steve Wilfort, Ian, James and Sam. Thanks to all who have helped - although we could still do with another warranted leader.

The Cubs have had an active programme a sleep over, 10 pin bowling, Laser quest, Bows & Arrows, District Football Tournament. In District Mastermind our team of Henry Hall, Sam Murphy

and Thomas Crouter were 2nd, losing by only 1 point, while our other Sandleheath team came 3rd.

The Cubs can now look forward to the Millennium Camp, then Summer Camp and the exciting programme planned for the summer - including water activities.

Ros White - G.S.L.

A very special thank you should go to Jon (Akela) for his work as leader. I know the cubs appreciate him and I am sure their parents do as well, so on their behalf thank you Jon.

Ian Jacobs - Cub Helper

# Scout Report

I don't really feel qualified to write this report, but Ros said, "You've been here since the beginning of last summer", so here goes.

I joined Scouts as they began the summer at Spinnaker last May. Since then I seem to have taken part in more activities than you could throw a stick at!

The water activity evenings went well through the summer, with most Scouts gaining new skills and qualifications in sailing and canoeing. We had our own regatta, and took part in the Sailing Regattas at Blashford and Marchwood in which our Scouts did well. Summer camp was an experience to be remembered, with perfect weather, good company and an excellent program of activities.

When the winter term started a whole new side of scouting was revealed, with wide games and hikes in

**Pioneering: constructing a monkey bridge in the field.**



the forest and bonfires and barbecues (Scouts seem happiest when allowed to set fire to things and eat the results!). We have had a cycle ride, caving trips, swimming sessions and an indoor climbing session.

The patrol leaders have had a leadership training afternoon, and much badge work has been completed, with six scouts ready to gain their chief scouts award.

During the course of the year Steve Young and James Bennett left us, thank you to them for all their hard work and commitment, and to everyone else who has been involved in Scouts this year. I hope my second year with Scouts will be as varied and as much fun as my first.

Sue Chase - Assistant Scout Leader

## **Bog walking on the Pat Cross Trophy Incident Hike**



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# Water Activities

This last year has been one of our most successful for many reasons. The canoeists improved, benefitting from some superb instruction from Graham Bland,

Paul Toynton, James Bennett and Ros.

As well as regular training at Spinnaker, other venues have been the Avon at Fordingbridge, the Stour at Christchurch and Mudeford. I believe that some Scouts have been to adventurous places with other organizations.

Sue Chase helped and encouraged the paddlers from her kayak and supported the sailors by becoming qualified safety boat driver.

Although the Scouts did not win at either Blashford or Marchwood, all ages competed in all sections and scored enough points for us to be runners-up.

Over the season sailing went from strength. Our older Scouts improved their technical skills; some of them taking part in events at Cowes and Poole. One July Saturday a few Scouts were able to sail from Hythe Sailing Club; we will try to repeat that exercise again this year because, I feel, that it is important to give Scouts the opportunity to sail on tidal conditions that are so different from the usual Troop nights at Spinnaker. However it does take a great deal of organizing - instructors (Brian Akerman) safety boat (borrowed from County organization) safety boat driver (Roger Marsh) and all on a day when the tides are suitable.

Roger Marsh and Hywel Morris were a great support during the season and with both intending to be more

involved this coming year, we should be able to cover more aspects of seamanship.

Our thanks to all mentioned so far and to Katherine Chambers and David Chadwick, who helped with sailing, as did Stephen White. We have been very grateful for that Alleyne Copestake spent so much time on boat maintenance for us.

This season will be quite a challenge because we have lost many of our older experts to Ventures and many of the younger Scouts are new to sailing. We will be pleased to receive help and assistance from any parents or relatives who wish to be involved.”

John Douce - Sailing Instructor

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## Q.S.A.

Claire Ritchie became the first female in the District to be awarded the Queen's Scout Award, the Scout Movement's top Award for personal achievement. On Sunday 30 April she joined 650 other Queen's Scouts for their Annual Parade. This was followed by the National Scout Service in St. George's Chapel. The honour of holding the event within the Castle walls was granted to the Scout Movement in 1934 by His Majesty King George V. It has continued ever since, interrupted only during the war years.

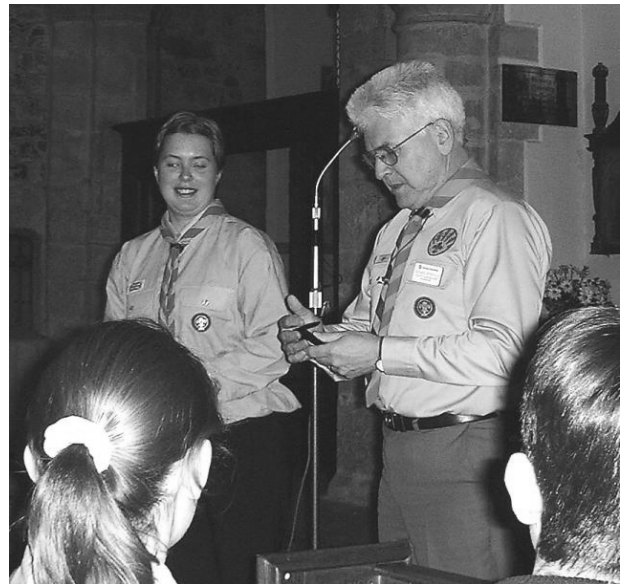
At the request of H.M. The Queen, The Hon. Mrs Betty Clay reviewed the Queen's Scouts. Betty Clay, who was born in 1917, is the only surviving child of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the World Scout Movement.

During the review she was escorted by Hamish Stout, National Commissioner for Venture Scouts, and the Chief Scout George Purdy. At the end of the Review, the Hon. Mrs Clay was introduced to a group of young people from all Sections of Scouting specially invited to Windsor in recognition for their having gained Scout Awards for Gallantry.

Venture Scouts, aged between 16 and 20, are members of the U.K's half a million strong Scout Movement. The Queen's Scout Award can only be gained by those who have shown the highest level of personal commitment. It requires extremely high standards of self-discipline and achievement in activity, interests and community service.

The Colour Party was formed by Venture Scouts from Scotland. The Parade was accompanied by two

### Claire being presented with her award at a special service at St. Marys Church, Fordingbridge



bands. The Hallesowen Scout Band, augmented by a Drum Corps of the City of York Scout Band and The Band of the Grenadier Guards.

The National Scout Service was planned by Venture Scouts themselves with personal guidance and help from the Dean of Windsor, The Right Reverend David Conner. The Address was given by Mr Brian Thornton, Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

The Service and final dispersal came at the end of a very long day. It started at Victoria Barracks where a full rehearsal of the Parade and some marching practice was carried out with expert tuition from Drill Instructors of the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards.

# Venture Unit

Finally as my time as chairman is coming to an end I would like to thank everyone who has been involved

with ventures over the last year; whether it was just providing transport or giving us assistance with our fund-raising. I would especially like to thank Steve for his continuing support to the venture unit. I would like to say to the unit and those interested: It is the members in the unit that create it, not the leader or the committee. I have enjoyed my time as chairman, even though sometime have been hard or unsuccessful, but that is what ventures is all about. Good luck to the future Chairperson and thank-you to the committee for their support.

Ian Jacobs - Venture Unit Chairman



**Jo Bailey is invested into the Venture Unit in the middle of a “Bridge”. I think the Scouts ought to teach the Ventures something about pioneering!**

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## “New HQ” Sub-Committee

The “New HQ” sub-committee has gained considerable momentum in the last six months and we are now close to submitting an application to the National Lottery Charities Board. The process has been somewhat like climbing a mountain; getting close to what appeared to be the summit only to find another peak beyond! However the application has now been fully drafted and was sent to the Scout Association lottery team and the local county development officer for comment just before Easter. Subject to the comments received we intend to submit the application in May2000.

If our lottery application is successful, construction of the new HQ could start before the end of the year! The next phase of the committee’s activities is to start pursuing other sources of funding to complement any lottery funding we do receive. We now have plenty of material to support other funding applications and are seeking advice at county level as the best potential sources. We would welcome the help of anyone who

could spare some time to assist the committee in preparing further grant applications using the material that is already available.

The “New HQ” committee are able to do the leg work in pursuing funding and progressing the planning and design of the new building. However, to be successful in securing funding, it is essential that the overall venture involves the whole Group and is seen to be more than just constructing a new building but is about securing the future of the 1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group and providing the basis for expanding the range and quality of activities we can offer and the number of young people we can accommodate.

Details of the proposed new Head Quarters will be on display at the AGM and the agenda includes a short presentation on what is planned and how we intend to get there, so please come along to find out more!

Matthew Collings - Chairman, “New HQ”  
Sub-Committee

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# Group Programme

## May

Wednesday, 3rd	District G.S.L.s meeting
Thursday, 4th	Scouts - start on the water, meetings 6:30 at Spinnaker
Monday, 8th	Group AGM, all Leaders and Parents. St. Aldhelms Church, Sandleheath
Saturday, 13th	
Monday, 15th	Scouts - Bag pack at Co-op
Friday, 26th - Sunday, 29th	District Millennium Camp, Crow

## June

Monday, 5th	Group Exec. Meeting, 'The Roost' 7:45pm
Saturday, 10th	Group Regatta & Barbecue, Spinnaker
Tuesday, 13th	District AGM, Poulner
Saturday, 17th	<b>Blashford Regatta</b>
Saturday, 17th	District Beavers Legoloand visit
Saturday, 24th	District Cub Day at Gilwell
Wednesday, 28th	Regatta Meeting - Southampton 7:30pm

## July

Sunday, 9th	Sandleheath Millennium Picnic, Sandleheath Common
Saturday, 29th - August 5th	Scout Camp, Devon

# Editorial

Well another year has passed all too quickly and we find that it's A.G.M. Time of year again. Thank you to all those who submitted reports, even if several of them were late. Reports can be submitted to me at any time, preferably by email ([stephen@earth.li](mailto:stephen@earth.li)) or on floppy disk - I tend to lose files less often than pieces of paper. My thanks also go to Caroline Morris who supplied the photograph used on the front cover.

The next edition of Waterlines will be the Autumn version, so I'd like write-ups and photos of all the activities that take place over the summer in mid-September, with a deadline of Sunday 24th September so that it can be printed before I return to Oxford.

Stephen White - Waterlines Editor

## Waterlines, AGM 2000

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