

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

May 2011

AGM Edition

G.S.L.'s Report

We have more young people than ever in the group, and longer waiting lists. Scouting is popular, the only thing which stops us offering the opportunity of scouting to more young people is that we need more Leaders for them.

We are fortunate though. All sections have excellent leadership and good support. The Beaver Colony is thriving under Natalie's guidance. She has lots of help, but now we need some of the helpers to take the next step and become Leaders. Richard and David run a wonderful active Cub pack, but would love more regular help and ideally another Leader. Gordon has decided to give in and become a warranted leader in the Scout section. Explorers are now in the charge of Dave Coatham, but with Andy Brooks still around to help him. This means that we can offer top quality Scouting to all sections. However, we can not compromise that quality by increasing numbers without more Leaders.

We have received more grants this year. The major items we have purchased being another mess tent and 2 new Picos, to replace our oldest 2 (purchased in 2002). Well done Mandie. We are now looking to do something about the acoustics in the main hall.

The Spring Clean was the best yet – lots of industry both indoors and out. It all looked superb. The Scout Centre will be 10 years old next year, so we now have rather more maintenance jobs than in the past.

It is a special year for 3 of our members: Richard, Josh and Chloe. They are all going to the World Jamboree this summer. They and their families have put a tremendous amount of effort into fund raising to enable them to go. All three families are a fabulous example of what is best in Scouting.

A special year too for Poppy Cleall who has achieved her D. of E. gold award.

Once again, thank you to all leaders, instructors, committee and helpers for your continued support.

Ros White – Group Scout Leader



Explorer archery evening with Matt Whittle at Fordingbridge Scout HQ, January 24th

Explorer Report

There are between 20 and 25 Explorers taking advantage of the water activities on Monday evenings from May until September. Most participated in the BCU and RYA training schemes, and gained awards thanks to the help and dedication of the instructors and Leaders helping out. Many attended and took part in the Solent regattas, winning prizes and high placing in their categories. Our instructors have also organised many opportunities for training and activity days for sailing, kayaking, canoeing, caving etc. which have been well supported.

From October we reverted to a land based program meeting on Monday. This has included activities and task evenings out on the forest,

Scout Report



Explorer Scouts camped at Burley during a D. of E. expedition in the New Forest

cooking competitions, Scrapheap challenge, archery, air rifle shooting and other sport and social evenings. Attendance has been excellent.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which meets on the first Monday in the month, is run by Pat Savage, Ros and David and is proving more popular than ever before – with all the Explorers working towards gaining their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and Scout awards.

Some of the Explorers helped out with the Moto Guzzi weekend, which is a good public relations and fund raising opportunity for us. We provided a banquet dinner, cream teas and a guided walk which they enjoyed. The motorcycle enthusiasts, who love visiting Fordingbridge and appreciate what we do for them, have now supported us for a fifth year. This will go towards helping our representatives take part in the 22nd World Scout Jamboree, which is to take place in Rinkaby, Kristianstad, Scania in southern Sweden from 27 July to 7 August 2011.

I propose special thanks to the team of instructors and parents that help out, and an even bigger thanks to the Explorers that as Young Leaders assist and provide invaluable help and support to Leaders and instructors at Explorer, Scout, Cub and Beaver meetings.

Andy Brooks
& Dave Coatham
– District Explorer Scout
Leaders

We've had another excellent year with a good Solent sailing regatta result (which I felt somehow didn't quite reflect just how good our Scouts really are) and an outstanding canoeing & pulling regatta showing our place in the core Sea Scout activities. Ros & Dave have taken groups caving and Stephen White led another popular hill walking weekend

in the Brecon Beacons, proving we are as good as any ashore as well. Once again we were invited to take a mixed Scout and Explorer team to represent the New Forest in canoeing at the Hampshire & IOW Youth Games.

The Wye canoe and kayak trip (organised by Richard, with Ros, Dave C and myself) again saw



Above: Explorers Jake and Raffie enjoy trying jet-skiing as part of a group of Scouts and Explorers on 22nd April

Below: Scouts and Explorers with their trophies at the Solent (Testwood) Regatta in September



perfect weather, but unfortunately Ros was very ill and confined to camp. Leaders on the water were Richard and myself, however we are seeing the emergence of strong leaders within the Scouts. At the Symonds Yat, the highlight of the weekend, we needed more than two leaders to safely run the rapid, but given the outstanding level of responsibility and technical skill, tasked Lee and Harris to control paddlers waiting at the top and set them off on the correct route, then Tom M to supervise the eddy at the finish and bring paddlers ashore. This was a great river team, making a very relaxed weekend.

Summer camp was at Wimbleball Lake in Somerset, with sailing and canoeing on site, plus walking, climbing, swimming and other activities. Late September found us at the Basingstoke Canal Challenge canoe race, and again showed we are a group to watch out for. It's impossible to keep us inside all winter with evenings on the Forest and Graham's white water kayak trips.

Throughout this year there has been a recurring comment from leaders - "aren't the Scouts good". It's hard to believe sometimes, they are particularly enthusiastic, well behaved, helpful, work well together and generally a pleasure to be with. So thank-you to all our Scouts, who are after all, the reason we are here.

An important part of this must be the number of Leaders, parents and others who regularly give their time and enthusiasm to help deliver our program. Explorers Suzie and Chloe have been an indispensable part of the team, always enthusiastic and happy to do whatever is needed. Vicky has become part of the regular Thursday team "because it's not worth driving back to Burley", though her enthusiasm suggests that may not be the only reason. Thanks especially to the parents and others, including Alex who help to provide a wide range of activities and expertise.

At the lake, Gordon, Neil and Chris have issued equipment, canoes and kayaks so our Scouts can start their activities quickly, and at the end put everything away, loaded racks etc. Our sailing instructors, Jimbo, Les, Dave C, Richard and others were joined by Amelia who passed her RYA Dinghy Instructor during the Spring and our Assistant Instructors (Explorers Jacob, Joe L, Bryn, Jack) to provide an impressive sailing programme. Let's not forget our canoeists: Graham, Ross, Paul, Sharon, Ros, and of course Jake Deakin.

The Assistant Instructors have been popular with the Scouts, a number of whom now aspire to becoming Assistant Instructors themselves. This has come about, in no small part due to Jimbo's enthusiasm to involve Explorers in the running of everything from summer camp, to evenings on the

water, and now seems so normal that it's hard to remember that it hasn't always been this way.

Finally, thanks to all the parents who support us, do their parent helper duties and turn out whenever we need extra adults for night walks and the like.

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging summer, with plans for Clubmark accreditation (the canoeing equivalent of the RYA 'On Board' approval). Dave Chadwick is doing his Senior Dinghy Instructor award, and we plan to start some of Scouts and Explorers on the path to becoming BCU canoe and kayak coaches while offering new opportunities to everyone else.

Dave Miller – Scout Leader



Scouts Tom, Lee & Joe on Pen y Fan last June

Cub Report

We have increased capacity and have been running just under 30 cub members all year, allowing us to bring in 3 from the waiting list. However the waiting list is still in double figures. Regular leadership and help has again been provided by Bagheera – David Albury, Kaa – Ann Ringrose, Baloo – Pete Doherty, Chil – Sarah Farr. Sincere thanks to them all. A number of parents have also provided valuable assistance throughout the year and thanks to you too!

Summer term saw us preparing camping skills for our summer camp together with some bicycle maintenance followed by a family bike ride from Abbotswell to Fritham along Hampton Ridge in the New Forest National Park. Many cubs also earned their Community Challenge, Global Challenge and Outdoor Challenge in this term.

Our annual Cub Camp, this time held at Ferny Crofts, was blessed with fine weather and a

professional camera man to capture the occasion for history (enjoy the film at the AGM meeting). The theme was South Africa with “big five” tent names, African songs around the camp-fire and warrior mask making. We enjoyed some of Ferny Crofts' excellent facilities including air rifle shooting, crate stacking and frisbee golf. A couple of new ideas for spiritual reflection were successfully tried at quiet time before lights out and on Sunday morning, focussed around thanking others and mother nature.

Autumn term focussed on the Creative Challenge with kites, flaming ballista (look it up), pizzas and a magical reverse film entitled “Akela's Christmas Tree” being made. The latter was distributed as a DVD for potential family Christmas gifts. We also went outside in the dark on a “glow stick trail” and a fascinating bat walk at Blashford Lakes. We were very lucky to both see and hear 3 different species of bat!

For the first time the Cubs were invited to the Remembrance Day service at St James' in Alderholt, including a flag party representing Sandleheath Group (see photo). All the cubs who attended showed exemplary behaviour and were a credit to the group. Well done. Excellent relations were forged with the newly started Alderholt Cub pack and it is planned to do some joint activities in the future.

Of course over the summer and autumn terms the Cubs had their usual chance of getting onto the water at Spinnaker with many thanks to Ros and a merry band of Scouts, Explorers, parents and helpers.

RSPB's birdwatch week fell perfectly for one of our Spring term activities, bird box making (see photos to right). Although these (all 25 of them!) took 3 weeks to complete, excellent use of the Scout Centre workshop facilities were made, including the Cubs drilling their own holes with the on site pillar drill. Recent news is that at least 2 of the boxes have blue tits nesting in them already. Let me know of any more!

A number of challenges also took place with Sixers leading their six in competition with the others. This meant that three of the Sixers completed all the requirements of their Chief Scout's Silver Award (the most we have ever presented at one time) so it was appropriate for the whole pack to have a Presentation Party on the last meeting of the term before Easter.

Another excellent year and we are all looking forward to the next one.

Richard Farr – Akela



Above: Cub bird box construction included use of the workshop and pillar drill



Left: more hard work constructing bird boxes



Left: making pancakes

Below: Cubs with their flag at the Remembrance day service in Alderholt



Beaver Report

We have covered a fair amount of ground in the last few months. One special highlight is of course going sailing, and we all look forward to summer and autumn to be able to enjoy the water.

District day, held at Sandleheath in January, was a great success. We had a good turnout of Sandleheath Beavers and the District worked towards the Global Challenge badge. We made silver junk models celebrating 25 years of Beavers, musical instruments, completed a flags quiz, tasted fair trade food and enjoyed a camp fire.

Many of the colony are coming to the next District day at Braggers wood, and have expressed their excitement at being able to join in at such an event.

We have been on a couple of visits recently, one to St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge, where we had a Beaver wedding ceremony and the other to the local fire station. Both of the trips were a success and I plan for them to be repeated next year. The volunteers who gave up their time on these evenings really brought these visits to life and the Beavers really enjoyed squirting the water hoses, many of them splashing in the enormous puddle afterwards



Left: Beavers moving an "injured" member of their colony during a visit by St John Ambulance

Below: Beavers in another emergency vehicle, this time during a visit to Fordingbridge Fire Station



and getting absolutely soaked!

As part of the Emergency aid badge, we had a visit from Stephen White in an ambulance and he took time to show the Beavers on board and strapped one onto a stretcher. Unfortunately he was released again as I would have been happy for this particular boy to remain restrained (my son!).

Next term, we are completing work towards the remaining challenge badges in order that the older Beavers will be able to get their Chief Scouts Bronze award before moving on to Cubs.

I think Beavers is going from strength to strength and we have good support from parent helpers who help on a weekly basis and have also assisted in planning next term's programme. I'm thoroughly enjoying it and I reckon the Beavers are too.

Natalie Berjaoui – Beaver Leader

Left: making models from junk at the District Beaver day in January

D. of E. Report

More Awards gained – 1 Gold and 5 Bronze!

Again, wonderful achievements have been made this year by our young people. Many congratulations especially to Poppy Cleall, who has joined her brother Josh in becoming a Gold Award holder. Two Gold DofE award holders in one family! Raffi Gracie, Chloe Hinton, Katrina Miller, Pippa Radford and Harley Waine have all gained their Bronze – well done to you all. The County DofE presentation will take place on 7 July 2011 at Noadswood School in Dibden Purlieu, so all the Bronze achievers will have their official certificates presented to them there. Poppy will be invited to a County presentation and the National presentation at one of the Royal Palaces to receive her gold certificate.

There has been a vast array of activities covered by our latest Award holders and they included Poppy's Gold expedition in the Annapurna foothills of Nepal – an event to be remembered as it was such a fantastic achievement – well done Poppy. She also included learning to drive for her skill, Rugby Union for her physical recreation, helping with a youth group for her volunteering and her residential project was carried out in preparation for the Nepal Primary School project she was involved in whilst in Nepal. At Bronze level, skills included playing the cello, photography, drawing, painting and design, textiles and cycle maintenance and volunteering included helping at Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Sports Leadership. Physical recreation included snowboarding, rugby, badminton, sailing and hockey, so the participants were very busy indeed. Expeditions were hiking based, mainly in the New Forest, but this year we have a Silver group hoping to complete an assessed cycling expedition too (more difficult than you might think) alongside rivers and canals from east of Henley on Thames to the finish near Bath. The time-scale for this expedition is 3 days and 2 nights so we trust they have done lots of cycling practice to prepare their bodies for the task ahead!

We have had lots of new participants registering during this past year and everyone registering now goes onto the new eDofE system. This is web based, so participants can upload pictures, presentations, assessors' reports, etc... direct to their own secure page on the website as well as keeping a note in their new style record packs. As usual, David Chadwick and Ros White have been very busy training the participants and organising lots of practice and assessed expeditions for all levels of the

Award and supervising them so, hopefully, by this time next year we will have an even greater number of young people having gained the next level of the Award. Ros White and Stephen White have also been very busy as Expedition Assessors, not just for 1st Sandleheath but for lots of other DofE groups as well. Richard Savage has been supervising expeditions too, and hopes to become an Expedition Assessor in due course. Thanks to David, Ros, Stephen and Richard for their continuing commitment to DofE and this is very much appreciated. We would encourage any Gold DofE award holders to become involved in helping with DofE, as they have so much experience to offer the young people, and if any parents in the group are able to offer their services to help our group in any way please let me know.

We are very proud of our very active DofE Group for those between 14 and 25 years of age so, if you want more information or registration forms please contact me on 01725 510397, email at pat @ REMOVED or pat @ REMOVE and visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website at www.dofe.org. We normally meet once a month so get in touch – we'll look forward to welcoming you!

Pat Savage – D. of E. Award Group Leader



Pippa, Raffie, Chloe and Jake undertaking their D. of E. Bronze expedition in the New Forest during September

D. of E. Expeditions

Another good year for DofE expeditions. We had a successful gold in mid Wales looking at trees, a bronze practice (New Forest) and a pair of bronzes in the New Forest looking at wildlife.

By the time you read this we will have had a bronze practice in the New Forest, a silver practice in Purbeck and hopefully a silver cycling qualifying expedition looking at the uses of the River Thames and the Kennet and Avon Canal.

David Chadwick

Treasurer's Report

Year End 31st March 2011

The accounts continue in a healthy state with the balance at the end of the financial year slightly less than last year at £20,321. This includes £13,867 in a savings account, which is the reserve of one year's operating costs, with the remainder split between the 100 Club fund raising account (£3,072), and the Current Account (£3,382).

Income of £34,000 was slightly lower than expenditure of £34,500, with both being £13,000 less than last year due to the volume of grants obtained then, which included the nature area. One of the grants we had for equipment this year required us to match the funds given to us, which has contributed to the higher expenditure.

However, this should be recovered next year with the sale of the old equipment that is being replaced.

The cost of running the hall was very similar to last year, despite slightly higher heating costs with the extended cold spell this winter.

The expenditure on activities includes our membership cost of £1,450 to Spinnaker Club, with the majority of the remainder being self-funded camp, weekends and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

John Broderick – Treasurer

Fund-raising

Thank you again to all the parents who, when applicable, take the time to complete the Gift Aid Form. This year we hope to receive £2382.50, which makes a huge difference towards the running costs of the hall and purchasing new equipment. So please do continue to complete the Gift Aid form at the bottom of the subscription letter.

We are still awaiting to hear with regards to a number of grants we have applied for this year, but have our fingers crossed for help with the purchase of two Sibs (safety inflatable boats) and sound proofing for the Scout centre. We have just recently been awarded £2000 towards the cost of two new Picos and trailer from The RYA. We also received £500 from Bramshaw Golf Club, £50 from The Rotary and £500 from the RYA for training purposes. Also £800 for a new Mess tent from our local councillor, Mr Heron, which we have recently

purchased and is ready for this year's summer camp. We are very grateful to the above for all their support.

We have been fund-raising over the last year to help three of our group to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. We have been bag packing, ran a cake and plant stall, tombola and recently a quiz evening which has helped enormously with the costs of attending. We are keen to continue some of these events this summer to support the local community and raise funds for the Group, but need a parent to take this on. The Rotary club organise Fordingbridge Show in July, and we usually run a cake stall there, and at St Mary's flower festival we usually have a tombola stall. If anyone would be prepared to organise these events please do not hesitate to contact Mandie Dawson (01425 653256) for more information.

Mandie Dawson

If you shop online with sites like Amazon or play.com, are shopping around online for insurance quotes, or are planning to use Expedia to buy this year's holiday, then please think about signing up with easyfundraising at

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/sandleheathssg>

If you then follow the links from easyfundraising to the retailer's site before making a purchase they will collect the "referral fees" that many retailers offer. This costs you nothing, but for each transaction easyfundraising pass on money to the Scout Group. This quickly adds up. In the past year we've raised over £100 this way, and the more people that remember to click through from easyfundraising when they make purchases the more money we'll get.

Stephen White



One of the new Laser Vagos in action on Wimbleball Reservoir during Scout Camp (with one of the Group's Bahias in the background)

Fleet Update

The Sandleheath sailing and rowing fleet caters for all abilities and comprises nine sailing dinghies and two rowing dinghies. This season at Spinnaker Lake our Scouts and Explorers will have the use of four Laser Picos, a 3.5m single or two handed dinghy ideal for beginners, two Laser Bahias, larger boats 4.6m in length which can take bigger crews and are equipped with spinnakers for added performance, and our most recent addition three high performance Laser Vagos equipped with trapeze and spinnaker for real excitement. The Vagos proved a popular choice for the more experienced sailors last season.

To teach boat handling under oars we have two Coypu dinghies, these robust and stable 3.5m craft were originally designed as a Scout sail training dinghy and are noted for their pedestrian performance under sail. Ours are rigged solely for rowing!

All of our boats are of modern low maintenance construction ensuring they spend maximum time on the water, and I spend minimum time repairing them!

Thanks to the efforts of Mandie Dawson and other fund-raisers we have a fleet of boats to be proud of, which is equal to that found at many sailing clubs and commercial sailing schools.

Les Radford

Canoeing Report

Doesn't time fly. The group's AGM has come around again; another year of Scouting has passed; and I have just realised that I have been coaching the group's budding kayakers for 15 years now. Ever felt old! But then, with my involvement with Sandleheath, and especially all those evenings joining in the fun and games on the water, youthful feelings seem to rub off on you. Indeed, Ros has been heard ticking me off for boisterous juvenile behaviour at water



games :-).

And that is all down to the brilliant group that we have, the youngsters, the Explorers, the Leaders, the helpers – all so enthusiastic, all so energetic, all so much fun.

Last year's season on the lake proved to be business as usual – but with a few exceptions (nay, improvements). A slightly more structured approach to the evenings included a time slot for some inventive games most evenings, played in our boats, and involving large quantities of floating plastic objects hurled from one to (or at) another. Neil, Chris and Gordon were roped in to help distribute paddles, buoyancy aids etc., load and offload boats, get the bums on seats. Less faff meant more time on the water. Thanks guys. And we introduced record cards and a system for tracking progress (in an attempt to keep up with those oh so organised sailors). But, at the end of the day, it was all the same as previous years, just a whole lot of learning fun messing about on, in or out of boats.

As usual, I tempered my own disappointment at the close of the lake season in September with thoughts of the adventures still to be had on the moors over the winter white water season. Sadly, it didn't happen this year. Owing to weather, rainfall, injury and the river gods, We only managed one Scouting trip to Dartmoor, at the end of October. Everyone enjoyed it, all did brilliantly, high fives afterwards with vows to enjoy another one 'soon'. Sorry guys, I will make up for it!

It is with a sense of privilege that I approach the new season – to be part of such a merry band of energetic and fun people that I know will fill our lake meetings with laughter (and, of course, the serious business of learning to canoe and kayak)

Graham Bland – Canoe Instructor

Harris enjoying some of the white stuff on the River Tavy in October

Editorial

Another edition with a nice selection of photographs, covering a wide range of activities from all the sections. Thank you again to everyone that submitted reports and photos. Sadly, no-one managed to keep up the precedent set in the last two editions by providing me with a photograph showing a member of our Group with the Chief Scout.

Stephen White – Editor

Picos for sale

The group has 2 Laser Pico Plus dinghies for sale £950 each (ono) including launching trolley

Boat numbers 6188 and 6189 available (originally purchased in 2002). Grey Hull, standard mainsail & jib. Reasonable condition for age. Ready to sail, can be viewed at Spinnaker Lake.



The poster features the Scouts Appeal logo at the top, with the tagline 'fundraising made easy for scouts'. Below this, the word 'RECYCLE' is written in large, stylized letters. Underneath, it says 'YOUR USED MOBILE PHONES & PRINTER CARTRIDGES' and 'Raise money for our Scout Group whilst helping the environment!'. A cartoon mobile phone character is shown waving. At the bottom, it says 'Call 08451 30 20 10 - Visit www.scoutsappeal.com'. The poster also includes a collection box for the '1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group' located at the 'Scout Centre Foyer'.

Group Programme

May	Saturday, 7th	Group AGM & Barbecue (Scout HQ, 17:00)
June	Friday, 17th – Sunday, 19th Tuesday, 21st Sunday, 26th	Cub Camp (Harry's Island) District AGM (1 st Ringwood, 20:00) Chernobyl Children at Spinnaker, help with kayaking needed 14:00-16:00
July	Saturday, 9th Tuesday, 19 th Tuesday, 26th Friday, 29th – August 4th	Solent Sea Scout Sailing Regatta (Spinnaker) Beavers & Cubs at Spinnaker (Beavers: 17:30-18:45, Cubs: 18:30-20:00) Last night of Beavers before summer Scout and Explorer Camp (South Wales)
September	Friday, 9th Tuesday, 13th Thursday, 15th Saturday, 17th Saturday, 24th Sunday, 25th	District Scout Rugby Tournament (Provisional) Beavers & Cubs at Spinnaker (Beavers: 17:30-18:45, Cubs: 18:30-20:00) Last night of water activities at Spinnaker Solent Sea Scout Main (Pulling) Regatta (Testwood) Dragonboating (Longridge) Basingstoke Canal Challenge
November	Sunday, 13th	Remembrance Sunday

Waterlines, May 2011

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

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<http://www.sandleheathseascouts.org.uk/>

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Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

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