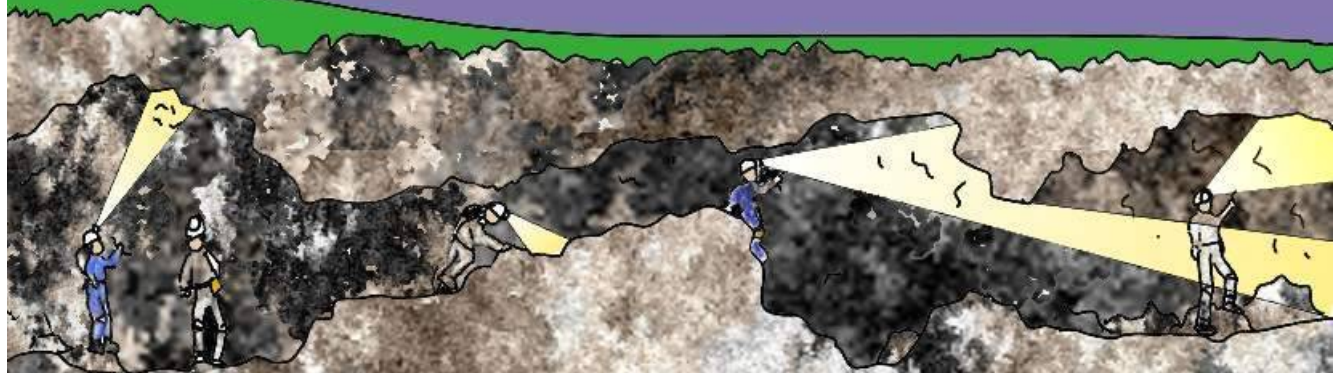
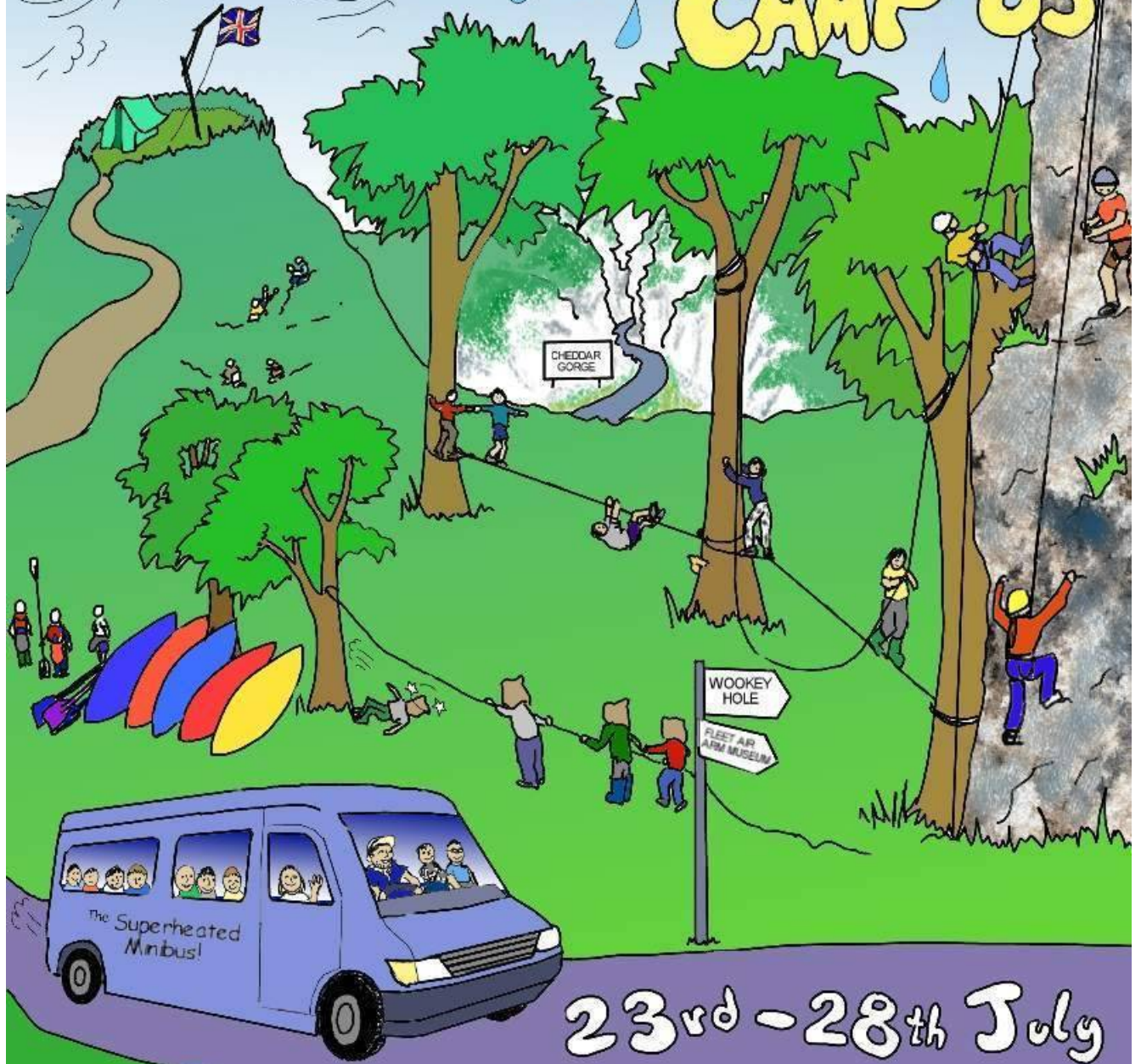


1ST SANDLEHEATH SUMMER CAMP '05



1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group
Summer Camp 2005
at Maesbury Castle, near Oakhill, Wells, Mendip



Friday 22nd - Ros travelled to camp to welcome the toilets!! Having seen them safely installed, the afternoon was spent putting up tents: the mess tent, the explorers large frame tent, leaders tents etc.

There was a wonderful view over Mendip from the site: Glastonbury Tor, the Severn Bridge and estuary, Wells, Hinckley Point and the sea and the other way over towards Dorchester and Dorset. Sue and Phil arrived in the evening and we watched as the sun went down and later, as it became dark, we could identify the various places by their lights. A peaceful scene - to be appreciated this evening - as we knew the peace would not last!

Saturday 23rd - the Scouts and Explorer Scouts met at the Scout Centre at 9am, were bundled into the transport and arrived safely at camp at 11am. They set up camp straight away and had lunch. At 2pm everyone went to Burrington Combe. There was caving in Goatchurch Cavern and climbing behind the car park. The three climbs that David set up in no way challenged Ellie Coatham, but were good fun for most of the others taking part. Those not caving or climbing went for a scramble up the side of the Combe to a vantage point where they could do some art work under the expert eye of Laura. When hunger set in we all returned to Maesbury.



Back at camp, David, Phil and Stephen erected a Flag-pole (Stephen would like to disclaim all responsibility for the lashings), which it was decided had to be more crooked than last years - and it was!!

After a dinner of pasta Bolognese, (spiced up by insect repellent by one patrol) we had a camp meeting under the flag-pole. After going through organisation, rules etc. (do not go outside the mound of the Castle), there was an excellent talk by James on the history of Maesbury Castle (an Iron-age Hill fort). Lots of questions followed - especially about cows for some reason we never did sort out!! Josh told us about a German plane which crashed into the castle in WW2. The scouts were then allowed to choose what they wanted to do - so there was a game of German Spotlight in the woods (in the dark) before supper.

That night we had torrential rain and gusting wind. Hill forts and wind go quite well together, so we experienced the weather at close quarters.

Sunday 24th - we awoke to more torrential rain, the wind having abated slightly. Clearly it was not a day for the climbing we had planned. This was the first of many re-organisations of the programme for the week. Ros took Geoffrey and Laura to Goatchurch and everyone else went to Wookey Hole for the day. On return the scouts made fun of the silly names given to the formations there - Leaning Tower of Pisa, Elephant, Wedding Cake etc..... The rain had cleared so David, Geoffrey and others set up a Blindfold trail in the woods, going through nettles, brambles and anything else likely to make progress difficult - the usual David-style trail.

There was turkey stew/curry/chilli for dinner then a chance for the Explorers to try out the blindfold trail. It was declared to be good, but then more rain (torrential again) made us abandon play for the day! The Scouts all gathered in the Leaders Mess tent and were treated to a talk and demonstration about Tilley lights and stoves by Stephen, then supper and bed.

Monday 25th - After a risk assessment - helmets were duly handed out to the colour party before they were allowed near the flag-pole! It was still fine enough for the scouts to do the blindfold trail, which resulted in many scratches and bruises.



Times :	Barn	(Will)	18.59 mins
	Tawny	(Bryn)	19.58 mins
	Horseshoe	(Bryony)	20.00 mins
	Pipistrelle	(Poppy)	33.08 mins

Those scouts not on the blindfold trail spent lots of time hammering tent pegs in until they disappeared (the pegs not the scouts) or playing volleyball.

It was still fine at lunch time so, after yet another re-organisation of the planned programme, Nigel led a walk around the Charterhouse lead mining area, with an interesting

commentary - do you know the origin of the term "to be fired"?

They then went across the road to meet up with the other leaders who took groups on to Velvet Bottom and through the Longwood valley. The Explorers went to the same area, but took themselves round.

It was at this stage we decided that central cooking was a necessity. The scouts had major problems not only in cooking the food (which leaders were quite prepared to help with) but also in keeping their dining shelters vaguely hygienic (which the Leaders were not prepared to do for them). More about this in the de-brief. James did a wonderful job cooking huge quantities of fish fingers and fish cakes. The scouts ate well and the dining shelters afterwards merely resembled a pig-sty after a chimpanzees tea party!

We had promised the scouts a visit to the swimming pool at Wells to clean up a bit, so we set off hurriedly to negotiate the Wells one-way system before the swimming pool closed. After a short swim and a long shower the Leaders all noticed that, although they all came out smelling ok, their clothes stank of frying fish cakes!!

On return to camp we all huddled in the mess tent for another Stephen talk (this is becoming another favourite feature of Sandleheath camps), this time on First Aid. We learnt how to call for help on mobile phones, how to deal with bleeds and all about heart attacks and choking. We had a quick look round the dining shelters for debris and awarded the following points for the litter-check: Horseshoe 7, Pipistrelle 3, Barn 5, Tawny 1.

Tuesday 26th - a fine morning! Ros and Sally organised a trip to Swildons Hole for those who wanted more caving . An enthusiastic and competent group made light work getting as far as the 20' ladder pitch - so we went down it intending to go as far as the sump. A second light failure just beyond the ladder meant that this was not really sensible, so we turned round and went back, but returned via the wet ways. Well done the cavers, especially Tom who had done very little caving before. The cavers then had to go to back to camp via Tesco's for shopping.

Better weather meant a chance to go climbing at Spilt Rock near Wells, with some climbs that may challenge Ellie (up to severe)! An 80' abseil was set up for the brave. Those who did not fancy climbing or caving went for a gentle (Tim thought otherwise) walk from Wells Split to, and around, Ebor Gorge. Once again Laura encouraged art work from those not climbing. As usual, Ellie excelled at climbing and Peter did well but found some of the reaches a bit beyond him! After a meal of Burgers in rolls with cheese, onion and salad (James and Josh braved the fat-laden



environment of the stoves in the mess tent for burger-cooking) everyone was ready for more challenges.



As it was still fine, David set up a ropes course (with help from Stephen). The Explorers tried it out before helping to spot for the scouts.

The ropes course was declared up to David's usual standard (Tim and Andy had not seen one of these constructions before and were fascinated). Each patrol then had the opportunity to try it out and do a timed run. They are undoubtedly the highlight of Sandleheath camps!



Results:	
Pipistrelle:	1 st
Tawny:	2 nd
Vampires:	3 rd
Horseshoe:	4 th
Barn:	5 th



Some of the Leaders had a go on the ropes as the Scouts sat and chatted around a feeble camp-fire burning marshmallows and their tongues.

The scouts insisted on a wide-game, so after gathering in the mess-tent to discuss Scout Laws, they were allowed out to hunt-the-glowlight, followed, inevitably, by supper.

Wednesday 27th - wet again! Ros and Stephen (with 6 canoes on the Land Rover roof and 4 on David's car) took a Canoe trip on the Kennet & Avon canal from Limpley Stoke, over an aquaduct to Bradford on Avon. We had lunch there, visited the Tithe Barn and river then returned - but stopped at the aqueduct on the way back to walk under the canal and have an ice-cream! Those not canoeing went to the Fleet Air Arm Museum where they were able to keep warm and dry. Evening - Vegetarian stew or beef curry, rice, salad etc. The scouts were encouraged to wash everything properly then, after inspection, hand it in for packing. This took a long time and lots of returning for re-washing! We got together in the mess tent to talk about plans for Thursday. Afterwards everyone was encouraged to say how they had kept the Scout Laws in the last day or so and were rewarded with sweets if we thought they deserved it! Thursday 28th - Scouts packed all their personal kit and put it into the covered trailer. Final flag down (getting a bit windy) - the flag-pole had survived camp despite everything the weather threw at it. We decided the leaders would take down the canvas (scouts would have lost it in the wind which was getting stronger) -so David and Stephen stayed behind to get on with this task. The scouts were taken to Wells for a brief shopping trip (escorted by leaders) and fish and chip (or whatever) lunch. Some visited the cathedral and saw the famous clock with knights who, on the quarter hour, knock other knights off their horses. After lunch everyone went on to Cheddar where, after a sightseeing tour of the gorge, they were set loose (given strict limits and groups to go about in). Another chance to shop for souvenirs, buy sweets and visit the Sweet factory. A quick trip back to the camp site to collect the trailer of kit and transport home to arrive back at the Scout Centre at exactly 6pm. At least that bit went right! Ros, Stephen, Geoffrey, Laura and James were left to finish clearing the site - but even that didn't take too long (with scouts out of the way).

Very little lost property found - a few cake tins, one pair of walking boots and a whistle. Nothing was left on site - so anything else missing must be with other members of their patrol.

Thanks to :

Stephen who not only gave us some splendid talks on an evening, played his full part as a Scout Leader who can do knots, pitch tents and lead activities but also organised the collection of water each day and disposal of rubbish towards the end of camp.

Sue and Phil who came up to help with caving, but also brought a trailer of kit and then came back up Thursday evening on a special journey to take back the trailer of kit.

Paul Toynton for lending his trailer

Tony Parker for lending his covered trailer

Fordingbridge Scouts for lending tables and stoves

Nigel for driving the minibus, for not breaking a chair this year and for persuading James to come and help (it is now difficult to envisage a Sandleheath Scout camp without Nigel)

David for providing all the kit for the ropes course, lots of the kit for climbing and himself for getting kit together before camp, working non-stop on camp and helping to get everything back where it belongs after camp.

James, Josh, Sally, Geoffrey and Laura for helping with everything and doing whatever they were asked to do.

Andy and Tim - for surviving their first experience of a Sandleheath camp with good humour.

All the leaders for coping so well under very difficult conditions. We have debated whether it was wetter than the camp in Wales - it was certainly windier.

Special thanks to the Stevens family of Warren Farm who allowed us to use the site, helped and supported us throughout and let us fill up water at their farm each day. They did not want a camp fee - but asked for a donation to the Air Ambulance.

Scout Patrol points totals:

Scouts : Horseshoe:	Bryony Cleall, Rebecca Osborne, Charlie Stevens, Charlotte Osman, Fin Bland	24	2 nd place
Pipistrelle:	Poppy Cleall, Becky McGillveray, Amelia Philipps, Ellie Coatham	23	3 rd place
Barn:	Will Hall, Peter Marsh, James Osborne, Sam Hinton, Tom Acland	27	1 st place
Tawny:	Bryn Philipps, Jamie Murphy, Oliver Bartlett, Joseph Liddon	15	4 th place

Explorers: Vampire: Henry Osman, Josh Cleall, Hannah Bland, Ellie Stacey.

Explorer Scouts used their own tents and did their own cooking (tent provided). This they did with no difficulty and caused absolutely no problems at all to the Leaders throughout the camp. Well done!

Leaders: Ros White, Nigel Hall, David Chadwick, Stephen White, Geoffrey White, Laura Dawes, Sally White, James Hall, Tim Stevens, Andy Brooks. Caving: Sue Chase, Phil Candy.



Photos of camp are at: <http://trillian.randomstuff.org.uk/~stephen/photos/ScoutCamp2005/>

They mainly cover the blindfold lead and low ropes course

If you have any digital photos send them to Stephen and he will add them to these so that everyone can see them.

URL for other art work by Laura: <http://www.randomstuff.org.uk/~laura>

Summer Camp 2005 - (Maesbury Castle, Mendip) - Accounts

Income

21 @ £110 (Scouts & Explorer Scouts) £2310

Expenditure

Camp Site & present for farmer	£ 85-92
Cars – fuel	£ 409.76
Hire of Minibus	£ 165-00
Food, other consumables etc	£ 373-60
Fish & Chips	£ 68-45
Hire of Toilets	£ 270-25
Gas, Paraffin, meths etc	£ 35-00
Hire of Climbing equipment	£ 40-00
Hire of Caving equipment	£ 68-00
Wookey Hole	£ 125-80
Swimming	£ 47-60
Fleet Air Arm Museum	£ 59-50
Art equipment	£ 25-35
Map	£ 6-49
Total	£ 1780-72

Income	£2310-00
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£1780-72</u>
Balance	£ 529-28

Not including cost of repairs to tents / dining shelters and replacing pegs (estimate about £100) and the now urgent need to replace Ros's large frame tent (preferably by another mess tent).

Ros White
5.8.05



We are offering a refund of £20 on the camp fee – but if you would like to donate the money towards the cost of another mess tent – cost for a small one would be about £750-£1,000 – we (and those camping with us in the future) would be most grateful.

Debrief from Camp :

1. Explorers - worked well together - large tent for cooking / eating / chatting good. Far enough away from the Scouts that the Scouts did not interfere. Given independence and used it well.
2. Scouts - many of scouts not able to cook/ look after themselves properly. This was made worse by the patrol leaders not accepting the responsibility of looking after all the members of their patrol, and not just themselves.
Need to do more cooking practice during the winter - with the emphasis on the need to keep things tidy and clear up properly and promptly after each meal.
Obviously also need to develop skills of leadership, teamwork and generally looking after one another.
3. Give them the minimum equipment - otherwise they just leave it dirty and use more! Perhaps just cook a few meals on camp - with most provided centrally. Need to teach them how to wash up!
4. Even when not cooking for themselves it was good that they had their own supply of water (with bucket and bowl) for each patrol so they could wash, clean teeth get drink etc whenever they wanted. Hot water only available centrally after stoves were taken away - but this should not have caused a problem.
5. Mobile phones either banned or kept by leaders to prevent phoning home EVERY time they were cold, did not like the food, lost something, argued with someone etc!! Just phone home on an evening - though this should not be necessary - they are supposed to be learning independence. If really necessary they can use a leaders phone.
6. A mess tent for the scouts would have been better for eating and just getting together on an evening - particularly because of the wet and windy weather (dining shelters do not provide much protection) - however there is no way we could let scouts cook in a mess tent, so we would still have to take a couple of dining shelters for when they did cook.
7. They were allowed too much choice of activity - resulting in some taking too many easy options - although the weather did not make running the programme easy!
8. Covered trailer borrowed from Tony Parker was excellent for taking scout kit.
9. Ropes course should be done over a whole day - so teams can have more than one go - and see others doing it after the timed runs.
10. Swimming at a pool in the evening always goes down well.
11. Need Nigel for visits to attractions to negotiate the price (Sandleheath Middle School!!)
12. If doing central cooking for some of meals need to delegate it to particular leaders in advance (well done James and Josh) so that others can prepare activities for the evening. This part did work well once we organised it
13. Tim enjoyed the camp and its given him lots of ideas of thing to do with the Scouts this Winter:
 - practice camping ie cooking/cleaning/putting up tents - we can adapt some of our games/events to help.
 - hygiene and foot care might also be included
 - scrapheap challenge for a large flagpole/ ready steady cook done in camp conditions
14. On trips out/hikes etc. we need to know which scouts are with which leader - regular head counts, plus each leader can award points for behaviour etc.
15. A few scouts mentioned that they didn't know what the point system was for - maybe have an end of day or camp reward scheme. Patrols could be inspected regularly with points awarded and further points gained during the day with the running totals forming part of the evening talk. Need a leader appointed to take charge of a points scheme like this - collect and collate points regularly. This was intended this camp but we did not have anyone in charge of the points system and with the appalling weather it was difficult to organise inspections etc.

Comments to add to this from leaders, scouts and parents are welcome - and hopefully will be taken into account when organising camps in future.