

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

Feb 2012

New Year Edition

Acoustic Panels

Last November we received a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to “soundproof” the main hall, most of us were all too well aware of the dreadful echo that made meetings and other events far less enjoyable than we would have liked.

Not knowing how difficult the job would be we organised work parties for the first weekend of 2012, allowing for three days graft and many hands to be available. By mid Friday afternoon it was clear to us that it was going to be easier to do than first



Above: New acoustic panels in the H.Q.

thought. That night I had to ring round to thank the many volunteers for their offer assist, but to say we would be okay without them. We had finished by lunchtime on the Saturday.

The hall has been used by most of the groups now, the feedback has been really good to say the least. For the younger sections – the Beavers and Cubs – the sessions are far less daunting, I have been in the building on several occasions and have listened to leaders using normal voices where in the past it would not have been possible. Overall it has changed the way the hall feels, stress levels have reduced and parents, helpers and other hall users have reported the same.

John Hinton – Parent

Quiz Night

Friday
23 March 2012
7.30pm

at Sandleheath Scout Centre,
Station Road, Sandleheath SP6 1PF

Teams of 4-6 people
Raffle

Tickets £7.50 per head in advance
(includes light supper)
Available from 01725 510397

Bring your own drink and glasses
Quizmasters: Keith Harris and John Savage

In aid of

1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group

Registered Charity Number: 1081596

& Subscriptions

We have been very successful this year with regards to grants and we must thank the Salisbury Journal for their grant of £2,000 towards the cost of replacing the mess tents for scout camp. Sport England gave us £10,000 towards the cost of safety boats and equipment, and the Big Lottery fund gave us £5,935 towards the sound boards for the scout centre which I am sure all the leaders will be appreciative of.

Without our success with the grants over the last few years the group would not be in such a good position not only financially with the pressure being taken off the subscriptions fees but also the youngsters would not have benefited from such new and fantastic equipment especially with regards to sailing and kayaking. It is getting harder each year to find new sources of grant money so if anyone is aware of any grants I would be pleased to hear from them so I can investigate whether it is worth pursuing

Last year we received £2420 from the Gift aid scheme, which is a huge amount of money for us that helps with the general running costs of the group. So please keep filling in the gift aid form at the bottom of the subscription letters if you are a UK tax payer.

It is important that Scouting should be available to everyone. Should you have difficulty in paying your child's subscription, special arrangements may be made by contacting Mandie Dawson or Ros White (contact details on the back of this newsletter).

Subscription letters will be sent out shortly, one in January, May, September 2012.

Mandie Dawson – Grants and Subscriptions

Well done all those who were at the Solent Sea Scout Regatta at Testwood in September. We had a really good day there.

What more could we ask, fine weather, lots of good races, a bunch of enthusiastic and amazingly well-behaved scouts and explorers, then at the end an armful (or two) of trophies.

There was some really good kayaking, canoeing and rowing. Outstanding was the performance of all our people in Canadian Canoes. All were very stylish, competent and successful. The under 12.5 pulling crew also shone, not just winning all their races and so their class, but doing so with superb style. They stood out as an example of how a pulling crew should work together.

Brendan had an even more successful regatta that last year, being involved in all the winning under 12.5 classes: single kayak, double kayak (with James Waterman), double canoe (with James Waterman) and the superb under 12.5 pulling crew (Toby, Brendan, James, Jess and Hannah).

We won the small group trophy and were 2nd overall in the Scout and Explorer categories.

Brendan won the under 12.5 single kayak, Lucy had 1st and 2nd places in the under 14 single kayak, Lee got maximum points in under 16 single kayak, Jake won the under 18 single kayak.

Brendan and James won the under 12.5 double kayak, Jess and Hannah got maximum points in the under 12.5 double kayak, Lucy and Oliver had 1st and 2nd in under 14 double kayak. Lee and Daniel had a 1st and 2nd in the under 16 double kayak and Chloe and Jake took 3rd place in the under 18 double kayak class.

Brendan and James won the under 12.5 double canoe class, Lucy and Oliver won the under 14 double canoe, Lee and Daniel won the under 16



Above: Scouts & Explorers with their trophies

Left: Lee and Daniel competing in the Under 16 Double Canoe event (photo from Chloe Hinton)



double canoe class and Chloe and Jake were 2nd in the under 18 double canoe class.

We also won the under 12.5 pulling class, the under 14 pulling crew had a 3rd and 2nd and we did not have enough explorers to enter a crew in the Explorer pulling class.

Brilliant results.

Thanks to David Chadwick (programme organiser), Stephen White (1st aid and assistant to David), David and Sharon Miller (judges on the kayaking course), and John Hinton and Chris Rea (starters/judges on the pulling/canoeing course) who all worked non-stop all day to enable the regatta to take place.

The regatta is a lot of hard work both before and on the day for the organisers, but seeing scouts and explorers having such a good day makes it all worth while.

Thanks to all our Scouts and Explorers who took part and made it a day to remember.

Overall results are below. Well done everyone

Ros White – Group Scout Leader

Blashford Solent Sailing Regatta

Scout Overall Results

Place	Team	Points
1 st	9 th Lymington	0
2 nd	1 st Sandleheath	14.4
3 rd	6 th Hamble	21.7
4 th	4 th Eling	33.7
5 th	10 th Christchurch	36.4
6 th	Milford & Keyhaven	53
7 th	Fleet	55.4

Scout Overall Results

Place	Team	Points
1 st	9 th Lymington	153
2 nd	1 st Sandleheath	147
3 rd	13 th Southampton	113
4 th	2 nd Fareham	100
5 th	4 th Eling	99
6 th	Milford & Keyhaven	98
7 th	10 th Christchurch	81
8 th	3 rd Porchester	63
9 th	4 th Hythe	58
10 th	1 st Gatisfield	26
11 th	2 nd Southampton	10

Explorer Overall Results

Place	Team	Points
1 st	Avon Valley	0
2 nd	6 th Hamble	11.7
3 rd	9 th Lymington	25.8
4 th	4 th Eling	28.8
5 th	10 th Christchurch	53
6 th	Milford & Keyhaven	83

Below: Pippa & Raffie competing at Blashford



Explorer Overall Results

Place	Team	Points
1 st	Sea Dragon (Fareham)	118
2 nd	Avon Valley	100
3 rd	Relentless (Eling)	72
4 th	Enterprise	64
5 th	Milford & Keyhaven	63
6 th	4 th Hythe	60
7 th	9 th Lymington	39
8 th	3 rd Porchester	6

Basingstoke Canal Challenge

Well done everyone who took part in the Basingstoke Canal Challenge – we won!

Max Etheridge won a silver medal for 2nd placed Scout in the 2 mile race.

Sharon was 2nd placed warranted leader in the 6 mile race, with David Miller and Elizabeth White in a double just a few minutes behind.

Brendan Miller got a silver medal for 2nd placed scout in the 6 mile race, James Waterman was 4th (out of 36).

Lee got a gold medal (again) for best Explorer in the 8 mile race. In fact he was over 10 minutes faster than anyone else over 8 miles. Brilliant Lee.

Well done everyone.

Ros White – Group Scout Leader

Summer Camp

(an Explorer perspective)

We set off from the Scout Hut early Friday morning and started our 4 hour journey to Caehopkin in South Wales. We stopped off at a service station half way and most of us spent nearly all our money at Burger King! Well, at least we weren't hungry!

After lunch we pitched tents and unpacked our things. Then we went on a “treasure hunt” cleverly prepared by Stephen. We ventured many ways and came across some “Horny Goats” and some very loud monkeys (who managed to wake us up EVERY morning!). We also spoke to our first welsh man... let's not say any more! Failing to get lost (for a change!) we returned safe and sound to the camp-site and had a good nights sleep.

On Saturday morning we rose early and were chucked on a minibus for a good hour. Most of the explorers were put in to do the “hard” day and a few explorers did the “easy”

Right: the site at Caehopkin



Above: Pen y Fan. Apparently the other group had a view when they got to this point.

option. Hard was an understatement to say the least, as we found out about 10 mins into the day! The “easy” group canoed down the Brecon canal, and then cycled back along the tow-path. The hard group split in 2 and swapped at lunchtime. They did a 21km cross country cycle over some hills and through villages and then did a hike up massive hills, some of which consisted of scrambling up and one of them was Pen-y-Fan. Although we all complained about the required effort, when reaching the top of the hills the view was most definitely worth it. We slept really well that night!

After such a strenuous previous day, Backwoods day was a relief. All the Explorers slept in late and when we awoke we were greeted by a big crate of food ready to be cooked! We gathered kindling and started our own “little” fire! We planned to make kebabs but they never made it to the grill! Tom and Jake were our chefs and we had a lovely brunch made up of bacon sandwiches and Oprah wedges that turned into the BEST mash potato EVER! After that we did a low ropes course and being the skilful Explorers we are, nobody fell off! Alice and Tom cleverly ended up finishing the course in each others arms... a very romantic picture! To finish off a really good day, we headed of to a nearby waterfall early evening. It is an understatement to say that the



water was freezing, but most of us went in for a dip! That was our first wash since we had got to camp, so the feeling of being clean returned to us as we hiked up the hill back to the minibus. It didn't last long though (as to be expected) because back at camp everything was muddy. The Explorer mess tent was unusable due to the ceiling being made up purely of Mosquitos! Never mind, we all got a good nights sleep!

We had a lovely long lie-in on Monday morning and rose about lunchtime! We relit our fire from the day before and managed to make the flames reach the trees above our heads! Alice got a big branch and made a flame torch which was really impressive! Later in the week we found that the trees above the fire were kinda singed (an understatement)! We put out the fire and then set off in the land rover to Porth yr Ogof and met some of the others to go on a Waterfall Walk. Again, like climbing those hills, the walk didn't go without us all complaining! But by the time we got to the big waterfall which we could walk under, we all agreed the effort was worth it! Some old man nearly knocked Tom in whilst he and Nathan were filling their bottles with fresh water from the waterfall! That was funny!

Right: low ropes course

Below: cutting wood for fires on the backwoods day

Far Below: Climbing at Three Cliffs



When we got back to the car park. The remaining group got in the minibus and went to do some caving. The first cave was full of small gaps and we climbed high enough to see a wooden beam supporting one of the chambers. Jake led the group

through the caves and did so with complete success not getting lost once! The second cave was mostly water and it was impossible to get through it without getting wet! Tom decided to test how deep it was at the end and after his head went under the water, we decided it was deeper than him! (but Tom's small anyway!) When we got back to the camp-site we had dinner, then supper and then we bivvied out that night! (until the rain came!)

Tuesday's weather was a bit of a mish-mash but when we turned up at Oxwich Bay, the sun was shining and the day before us looked promising. The boys went out kayaking in the sea and Alice and Suzie went to find what shops they could to buy essentials (leaders called it chocolate). This was the first touch of civilization throughout the whole week! Then we all walked across the beach to another spot where David and Stephen were organising climbing. Most of us attempted climbing the cliff, Suzie managed only 4 metres off the ground before having a break down, but everyone else reached the top! Lee brought a kite and most defiantly was the champion flyer. Daniel made a



turtle in the sand and we all shared a game of beach rugby (nothing like getting sandy!).

On Wednesday morning we took down of the two mess tents and then after lunch we all got in our “wet” gear and got the minibus to Pontneddfechan. When we arrived we put on helmets and belts and set off up the River Sychryd (a tributary of the river Neath). For the first leg Nathan attempted to stay dry, and Suzie and Jake cleverly stood in the deepest bit of the first waterfall and got soaked! By the time we'd climbed to the top of the big waterfall, we were all soaked. At the end of our journey we got to a huge pool where we jumped off the edges into the water. Jake Dipinto, Lee, Tom, Jake Deakin and James all managed to climb the last waterfall which was by far the hardest!

After getting dried off we went back to camp where we then grabbed our trunks and bikinis and we all then went to a swimming pool in Brecon. The girls got out early but still managed to be last out the other side! Everybody was very impressed with the showers (partly because we'd had none all week!)

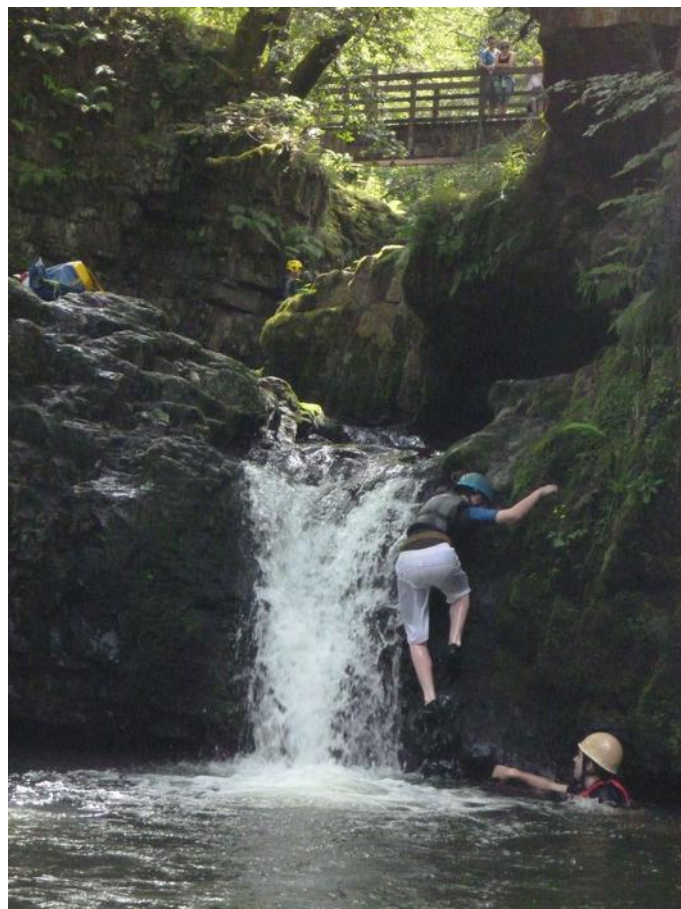
On the last morning we awoke to a delightful drizzle of rain and a slight wind which made putting down the tents an interesting experience! Once we had packed everything up and into the trailers, we said farewell to the lovely camp-site and disgusting porta-loos! Then we started our journey home, stopping on the way at Big Pit, an old coal mine which we went down into and had a tour around. The lift was scary! We arrived home, looking extremely tired, to our awaiting parents (except for Alice, who's mum came, picked up Alice's bags and then left again without Alice!). That was the last

laugh of a fantastic week. All the explorers thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Suzie – Explorer Scout

A longer report, and a greater number of photographs, can be found online at:

<http://www.sandleheathseascouts.org.uk/events/2011/scout-camp/>



Above: Gorge walking

Presentation Evening

Pictures from the presentation evening held on 25th November 2011.

Left: James Bailey and Poppy Cleall with Adam Jollans, County Commissioner, after their D. of E. Gold award presentation.

Below: Josh Cleall, Chloe Hinton and Richard Savage gave a presentation on their experiences at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.



Group Programme

March	Saturday, 3rd	Scout Centre Spring Clean (09:00 – 14:00)
	Tuesday, 6th	Leader's Meeting for summer camp planning (Scout Centre, 19:00)
	Wednesday, 14th	Water Activities Instructor Meeting (Scout Centre, 19:00)
	Friday, 23rd	Quiz Night (Scout Centre, 19:30)
	Saturday, 24th	S.A.L.L.I.E. Night exercise (Harry's Island)
	Friday, 30th	
	– April 1st	Scout Caving Weekend (Mendip, Fully Booked)
April	Friday, 13th	
	– Sunday, 15th	D. of E. Practice Expeditions
	Tuesday, 17th	Solent Regatta Committee Meeting
	Saturday, 28th	District Activity Day (Braggers Wood)
May	Thursday, 3rd	Start of water activities at Spinnaker (Scouts, 18:30 – 21:00)
	Friday, 11th	
	– Sunday, 13th	Scout Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Wye
	Saturday, 19th	Group AGM (Scout Centre)
	Saturday, 19th	
	– Sunday, 20th	D. of E. Bronze Assessed Expedition
June	Saturday, 2nd	
	– Tuesday, 5th	D. of E. Gold Practice Expedition
	Friday, 8th	
	– Sunday, 10th	Scout & Explorer Survival Camp (Burley)
	Tuesday, 12th	Beavers & Cub Water Activities (Spinnaker, 17:30–18:45 and 18:30–20:00)
	Saturday, 30th	
	– July, 1st	D. of E. Bronze Assessed Expedition (New Forest)
July	Saturday, 7th	Solent Scout Sailing Regatta (Spinnaker)
	Tuesday, 10th	Solent Regatta Committee Meeting
	Saturday, 21st	
	– Friday, 27th	Scout & Explorer Summer Camp (Isle of Wight, Fully Booked)
September	Tuesday, 11th	Beavers & Cub Water Activities (Spinnaker, 17:30–18:30 and 18:15–19:30)
	Thursday, 20th	End of water activities at Spinnaker
	Saturday, 22nd	Solent Main Regatta: kayak, canoe & pulling (Testwood Lakes)
	Sunday, 30th	Basingstoke Canal Challenge
October	Tuesday, 9th	Solent Regatta Committee Meeting

Right: Beaver water activities at the end of 2011



Waterlines, Feb 2012

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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