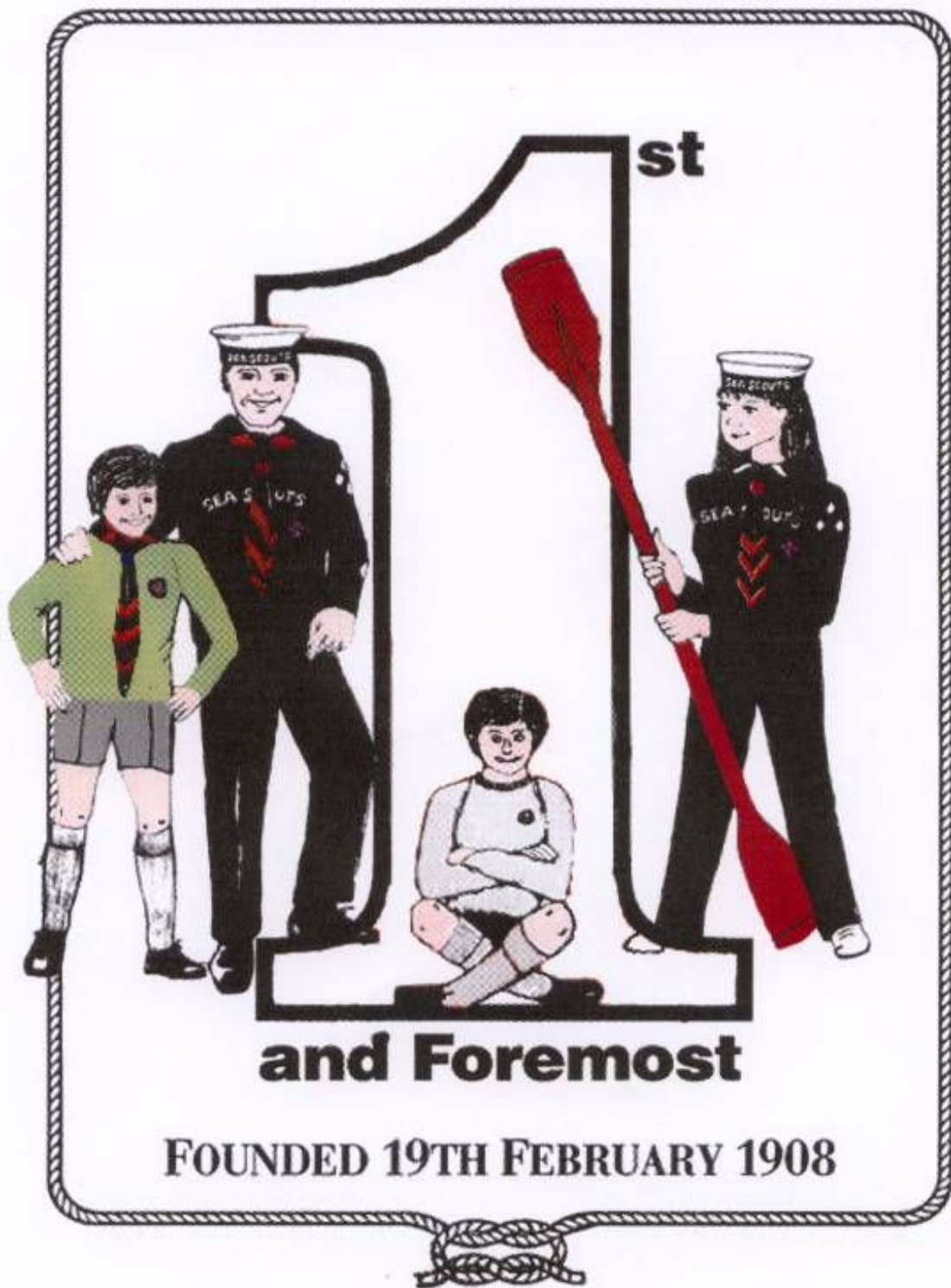
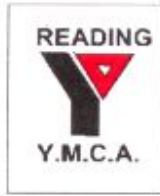


1st Reading (YMCA) Sea Scouts



November 2011



Issue 190

November 2011

Chairman's Thoughts

At the time of writing my previous report back in March, we were eagerly awaiting the handing over of our brand new Waterside Activity Centre, planned for the start of the Scouts boating season at the beginning of May. Builder's delays however resulted in the building being ready for us only as partial possession in June; this allowed us to use the boat store and river frontage but not the changing rooms or meeting hall. Full possession (all be it with a few outstanding items) came at the beginning of July, at last the Scouts and Explorers could change in comfort with hot showers at the end of the evening.

Obtaining full access to the building meant the Boathouse was able to play host to bookings for private events. During the first weekend my wife and I attended two parties, the Silver Wedding Anniversary party for our Assistant Beaver Leader Michelle Willett and her husband Ian, who met as Scouts at 2nd Reading so beginning a long association with Sea Scouting & boating on the Thames, neither of them have stopped using the river since their early days in the 1970's. It was the most appropriate setting for them since they and many of their guests arrived by narrow boat mooring up right outside.

The next day saw a lunch party for one of our long serving parent members of the Group Exec Committee, (now former parent) Judy Westwood, who was celebrating a very special birthday, her 35th Wedding Anniversary and her sons 30th birthday, without doubt a very happy occasion for her family. I especially enjoyed the harpist and the magician.

Several current Scout families have used the boathouse for their parties over the summer months. We have also had Corporate use from Sainsbury's and John Lewis have held two boating and BBQ evenings too. We held a christening party for my Grandson and already I have the Golden Wedding party arranged for Margaret & Richard Ellison in November. I hope I can interest many others of you in thinking about using the boathouse for your special celebrations.

The Beavers held their first boathouse sleepover and Pirate's party at the end of July and the Cubs camped here over the last weekend in September.

I must tell you about a delightful group of teenagers I met at the end of August. Caroline and I came to meet the teenagers, from a youth group called 'Smiles', who were all undertaking a canoe expedition as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. What made them so remarkable was the fact that they were disabled paddlers, camping overnight. We were welcomed immediately we arrived; taken to see how they were cooking their supper using Trangia stoves, and shown their tents they helped put up.





I spoke to the Father of one participant, who told me our facilities for the disabled were far beyond his expectations, in fact we could offer more than they had at home. I congratulated the adults accompanying these youngsters for making their trip a success. I hope to see them back in the future, hopefully working towards their Silver Award. We left the group happily taking turns on the stair lift.

Moving on to the building itself, there are still some outstanding buildings works to be completed by the builders, namely the second set of steps from the roadside for canoes, and our flag pole is still lying on the ground waiting to be erected. A burst mains water pipe occurred in early August, flooding the tent store and boat store. We are currently using a dehumidifier to dry out the concrete before being able to fully assess any damage, hopefully there won't be too much.

My time now is turning to continuing with the fund raising, we still have no tents or much camping equipment & many of our buoyancy aids require replacing. If we continue with our efforts we hope to resolve this in time for next summer. Bag packing at Sainsbury's Calcot, is arranged for December 10th. The Chairman's' Christmas Party with Pig Racing is Saturday 3rd December - raffle prizes would be appreciated. I must thank everyone who helped raise £500 since the end of August. We have been out in our community bag packing during August Bank Holiday weekend, running the BBQ at the Granville Road Fun Day and car parking duties for the Model Engineers Open Day at Prospect Park.

1st Reading YMCA Sea Scout Group is a very active group, so to those parents and members new to our group, reading the magazine for the first time, I hope you will enjoy reading about our group and will join us on our activities whether they are camps for our members or fund raising for the group as a whole. I attend most events. I look forward to seeing you.

I am keen to try all aspects of fund raising, so if you have an idea you think would be successful please let me know.

Kevin Ware - Group Chairman

Editors Comments



On the last evening of the Summer Session at the Boathouse the Scouts rightly presented Mike Wyatt and Kevin Ware with the 'Scout Thank You Badge'. This was presented as a Thank You for all that Kevin and Mike had done to achieve the building of the new 'Water side Activity Centre'. We very much appreciate their ongoing work.



Annual General Meeting Friday 15th June 2012 at 8.00pm

At 'Wychotes Water Activity Centre'.

Parents - Friends - Ex Members - All are welcome.

This is YOUR Group so please support us on this evening.

Simple Facts:

1. Compact discs read from the inside to the outer edge, the reverse of how a record works.
2. A snail can sleep for 3 years

In the last issue of *'1st & Foremost'* we said goodbye to Vic Hills the YMCA Chief Executive for the past 24 years who retired in February. Bob Hutchins took over as temporary CEO of the YMCA from February to September and everyone in the YMCA and Group are very grateful for all his hard work. His support towards the Water Activity Centre was very much appreciated. We must also thank Ray Jones - YMCA Board Chairman who took on a great deal more responsibility during this period and continues to provide much appreciated support, especially as we enter the final stages of the Centre completion.

We are also pleased to extend a warm welcome to Russell Martin who joined Reading YMCA as Chief Executive on 19th September. Russell was previously Chief Executive at Slough YMCA. He is already looking at ways he can help the Group and the Group Executive is looking forward to meeting him at the next meeting.



In the past instead of being called 'Chief Executive' the person holding this position was titled 'General Secretary'. It is presumed that Martin Hope Sutton who started the YMCA in Reading would have been the first General Secretary but the only records that can be traced through Reading Library of persons holding this position is from 1882 which you will find listed below. Position of Chief Executive was started in 1986.

YEAR	LOCATION	General Secretary
1884 to 1892	The Abbey Hall, 11 Kings Road	James H Redman
1893 to 1897	Valpy Street	Not Listed
1898 to 1912	30 Friar Street (Corner of Merchants Place)	Frederick Hunt
1912 to 1915	30-31 Friar Street	Herbert W Bryant
1917 to 1920	30-31 Friar Street	Harry Burton
1921 to 1925	30-31 Friar Street	F. Daldry
1926 to 1932	30-31 Friar Street	Arthur W Kruse
1932 to 1939	30-31 Friar Street	Chas Wheeler
1940 to 1947	30-31 Friar Street	R Consterdine MBE
1949 to 1959	30-31 Friar Street	W F Cutbush
1960 to 1971	Marlborough House, Parkside Road	C A Briggs
1972 to 1976	Marlborough House, Parkside Road	A K Miles
1976 to 1987	Marlborough House, Parkside Road	Ann C Johnson
1987 to 2011	Marlborough House, Parkside Road	Vic Hills

Simple Facts:

1. Energy is being wasted if a toaster is left plugged in after use.
2. Although identified with Scotland, bagpipes are actually a very ancient instrument introduced to the British Isles by the Romans.
3. Slaves under the last Emperors of China wore Pigtails so they could be picked out quickly.
4. The USSR launched the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, in 1957.
5. The worldwide Spanish Flu epidemic which broke out in 1918 killed more than 30 million people in less than a year's time.

John Osborne



It is with much sadness that we report the sudden death of John Osborne who passed away at home on 16th June. John was a great friend and ex member of the 1st Reading and had given a lot of generous support to the Group in recent years in its efforts to build the new boathouse. His father Wilf was one of the early members, later becoming Leader in the

Group. Much of the historical information and photographs on the Group had been provided by John.

John had kindly given a donation to pay for the new aluminium 10 metre high flagpole with Yardarm and Jackstaff which we hope will be a fitting memorial to him. The funeral for John, a beloved husband, father and grand-father, was held at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium on Monday 27th June. Our prayers and deepest sympathy are with the family.



Joan Bushnell

It is also with sadness that we report death of Joan Bushnell at the age of 81 in the care home in Lower Earley where she had lived for some time. Joan will be remembered for her life long work with Cub Scouts in the Districts of Riverside, Thameside, and Reading Central. Her significant role was as a Cub Scout Leader with 1st Reading (YMCA) Group for some 15 years, before she took on the role of District Cub Scout Leader.

She later took the position of Assistant District Commissioner for Cub Scouts and latterly for Leader Training. She will also be remembered for her tireless support and active involvement in the Reading Gang Show during the performances at the Reading Hexagon.

Joan's personality will be recalled as bubbly hands on person, with boundless energy always with a cheerful disposition. She was not someone who would let things get her down, a characteristic she displayed with abundance in later life when her health sadly deteriorated.

Joan's long and distinguished work for the Scout Association was recognised with the award of a Medal of Merit in 1973, The Silver Acorn in 1988, with a bar to the Silver Acorn in 1997. She recently received the Chief Scout's 50 Years Service Award which she proudly displayed in her room in the Nursing Home where she was being looked after.

Thoughts for the Day from the September 1992 issue of '*1st & Foremost*' by Harry Beckett.

Working Together - A man grabbed the other end of a piano when he noticed a storekeeper trying to get through the door of his store. They struggled for about 15 minutes unable to budge the heavy object. Finally the store owner puffed, "I don't think we'll ever get this thing out of the store."

"Get it out!" the man wailed, "I thought we were trying to get it in!"

Scout Leaders, Scouts and Committee members often waste valuable time and energy working against each other instead of working together. Now is the time for everyone to grab the piano and start pushing in the same direction?

Need: Ordinary Scouts - General Dwight D Eisenhower once rebuked an officer for referring to a soldier "just as a private." He reminded the officer that the army could function better without its generals that it could without its foot soldiers. "If this war is won", Ike declared, "It will be won by privates."

In the same way, the common ordinary, one-talent Scouts are the very back bone of the Group. We have our Commissioners, Group Scout Leaders, Chairman, Presidents and other big-wigs that attract a lot of attention. But if the work of the Group is to be done it will be ordinary Scouts who will carry the Group into the future.

Over 80 boys, girls and Leader from the '1st Reading YMCA Sea Scout Group' were again on parade at Brock Barracks for the Remembrance Day Service where they took part in the March Past in front of the Mayor Debbie Edwards, Council Aldermen, MPs and other civic dignitaries. Also taking part in the parade were ex Service men who have served their country during the 2nd World War as well as those since. Army, Airforce and Naval Cadets were also parading.



< Beavers on parade

The Group Assembled after the Parade



You would have been very proud of your boys, girls and Leaders.

Stephen Sherwood - Editor

Never Alone

Many years ago, Red Indian Tribes in North America trained their boys and young men to become fully accredited warriors - 'braves'. They had to prove themselves efficient in peace and war, resourceful, reliable and most of all, courageous. One of the first ordeals a boy had to undergo was that of vigil.

When a boy had passed some of the easier tests, he was taken by his father into the forest, way beyond their home, where the paths were unfamiliar. Red Indians believed in the spirits of the forest; the loneliness through the night would be frightening, especially with the strange night sounds of bird, animal and insect.

The father would say "goodbye" to his young son, and leave him in the forest. The boy had to keep awake, alone, with his fears of ghosts and wild animals. How long the night must have seemed! At long last dawn would break, and the boy would find that, only a few feet away his father had been watching silently with him all night.

There are many times when we feel absolutely alone, when things look hopeless and we are frightened. It is then that God watches over us: He is always close at hand. Have a look at Psalm 139 in a modern version of the Bible, which includes the words . . . "you are round me on every side; you protect me with your power".

Did you hear about the Scout who went on holiday to Italy with his parents? He asked the hotel receptionist what time they served meals. "Breakfast 7 to 11, Lunch 12 to 3, and dinner 6 to 10", he was told. "Doesn't leave much time for sightseeing does it!" he replied.

Or the Cub Scout who went to the seaside. At 5 o'clock Mum noticed Dad wandering along the beach looking for something. "What are you looking for?" she said, "it's time to go home". "I'm looking for a piece of toffee." He replied. "We can't waste time doing that" Mum answered. "We shall have to," said Dad, "My false teeth are stuck to it!"

That's all for now, folks. Keep Smiling! - Ken Mills

Boathouse Report

Rebuilding the Wychotes Water Activity Centre 2005 - 2011



Rebuild Fund £20,000 100 tons debris removed by barge 2011 Total Rebuild Cost £400,000

The old boathouse, little more than a boat store with very poor changing rooms and one single toilet, was totally destroyed by arson in 2005. Not only was the building destroyed but we lost all our boats and camping equipment.

The new building, with galley, meeting and changing rooms, stands on foundations with 18 metre piles (twice the height of the roof). It has been designed by Owens Galliver Architects LLP of Pangbourne and constructed by Lindum Construction Services, with river bank reconstruction and debris removal being undertaken by Canal & River Services.

After the fire we obtained a few nearly new kayaks ourselves and bought 2 dinghies with a grant of £3,000 from the Royal Navy. Reading Borough Council then leased us the next door Warren Canoe Club which enabled us to continue our normal activities. With borrowed camping equipment we managed to arrange summer camps, and subsequently passed our regular RN Inspections for the next six years.

We had the fire rubbish taken away by barge, then carried out design and feasibility studies, instituted a ground survey and obtained planning permission. All this cost over £30,000. We had to undertake major fund raising activities such as bag packing, public displays at Reading Water Fest, sponsored hikes in the 3 Towers event, and Pirates in Petticoats who towed a Pirate Ship by bicycle along the tow path from Bath to Reading, before we could start the rebuild in April 2010.

We must continue to raise funds to replace the tents and other equipment destroyed in the fire.

Harry Becket joined the 1st Reading Group as a Cub Scout on his 8th birthday in 1922. He subsequently became a Boy Scout then a Scout Leader and latterly the Group President. After the fire, to our great delight, he gave us a very substantial donation which gave us hope that we could rebuild. Sadly Harry died before the rebuild was complete.

The fire insurance paid for the £30,000 pre-contract costs, and £130,000 towards the main contract, but the balance of the funding came from former scouts (£100,000), group fund-raising (£30,000), charities and business (£50,000), and Reading YMCA, who gave us a grant of £20,000 and a loan of £40,000.

Wychotes Waterside Activity Centre
Opening Ceremony - 30th June 2012
Lots being planned for this Day - Look out for further details

Simple Facts:

1. Extremely high pressured water can easily cut through a steel beam .
2. The King of Hearts is the only king without a moustache on a standard playing card.

The Group is most grateful to the following without whose help we would have no new Waterside Activity Centre

Harry Beckett and many former Scouts for most generous donations
Parents & Group Supporters for donations & fund-raising activities
The Berkshire Masonic Trust - The Earley Charity - The Englefield Charitable Trust
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust - The Gosling Foundation - The Rotary Club of Caversham
Festival Republic - Gillette - John Lewis Partnership - Prudential plc - Sainsbury's
SPP Pumps Ltd - Thames Water - Waitrose
Thatcham Kitchen Designs Ltd in association with Bosch, Co-Tops and Wentworth.
Reading Borough Council - Reading YMCA - The Royal Navy

Mike Wyatt - Chairman Boathouse sub-committee.



Beaver Log Chew

The Beaver section has had a really great summer, making the most of the good weather and perhaps best of all, having a number of opportunities to introduce both the Beavers and their families to the great new resource that is the Waterside Activity Centre. We have also been lucky enough to gain another Leader and so we would like to take the opportunity to welcome Magpie, and to thank her for all of the hard work she has done so far.



So what have we been up to? We started off the year learning about the Countryside Code in preparation

for our subsequent outdoor visits. The first outing was to the 'Wind in the Willows' walk near Pangbourne where we had a lovely stroll through the meadows surrounded by bluebells, and putting our Countryside Code knowledge into practice. Later on in May, a number of our Beavers joined other colonies from around the District at a fun day to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Beaver Scouts and this also proved to be a big hit.



Since we planned to hold our Beaver Sleepover at the Waterside Activity Centre later in the year, we felt it was a good idea to get both parents and Beavers acquainted with the facility. We had a highly successful evening of boating there with the Beavers, and this was followed by a 'life at camp' evening the following week for the Beavers and Parents which gave everyone a taste of what our Sleepover would involve.

The annual Fathers Day hash was run with the usual military precision thanks as always to help from Ian Willett. We took the opportunity to try out a new venue at Ashampstead, and the rain that had been pelting down all day seemed to part as we arrived, making the evening a big success. Caversham Bridge was the chosen venue for our riverside walk this year, and the group was lucky enough to see a good variety of wildlife along the way including a heron at the weir.

Other new visits this term have included strawberry picking which was a very wet but delicious experience, and a trip to Bucklebury Farm which comes highly recommended. The Beavers went on a tractor ride through the deer park and were able to feed the deer from the trailer which was excellent. We also herded (do you herd chickens?!) chickens back into their coop for the night, fed some very hungry goats and cooed over some very cute warthogs. After all this we still had time for the Beavers to take on the adventure playground, and for some of the Dads to take on the trampoline!

The highlight of the year was of course the Beaver Sleepover at the end of the summer term. This year's theme was 'Neverland' and the Waterside Activity Centre was duly kitted out with Captain Hook's pirate ship, the Mermaid's Lagoon, the Lost Boy's Cave and Tiger-Lilly's Indian camp complete with wig-wam. The weather was great meaning that all of the outdoor activities were able to go ahead as planned. These included an epic waterfight on the river as the Beavers tried to steal back the pirate treasure from Captain Hook and campfire songs at the Indian camp. No sleepover is complete without getting Mike Davidson in fancy dress and his appearance at the supper table as his alter-ego 'Tinkerbelle' was suitably memorable. Ratty, Otter and Magpie had a record amount of sleep overnight and so we have to express our thanks to everyone that helped us over the weekend for doing such a great job of tiring the Beavers out!

Another great summer, and with our numbers up to 23, we are now looking forward to an equally great autumn.

Otter- ABSL Beaver Colony.

Reading History Quiz

1. In what year did the Police first set up speed traps?
2. A German Dornier bomber dropped a line of 4 x 1100lb bombs on Reading on Wednesday 10 February 1943 at 16.43pm. Where were these dropped?
3. In what year was the 'Evening Post' opened?
4. In what year was the trolley bus replaced by the motor bus?
5. In what year was the M4 Reading section opened?
6. Ian Mikardo was Labour MP for many years. In what year was he first elected?
7. Reading suffered serious flooding on 14 March 1947. What area suffered the most?
8. Food and other items were rationed during and after the war. When did rationing completely finish?
9. Which famous actress was born in Reading and where?
10. Where is this picture of?
11. Where is this on the river?



Answers to this Quiz are on the last page but are all easily available through the internet.



Simple Facts:

1. There are 206 bones in the human body.
2. The speed at which Honey Bees fly is at 15 miles per hour.
3. The Olympic was the sister ship of the Titanic and she provided 25 years of service.
4. The Beatles have sold more records than anyone else with over a billion worldwide.

The Cubs



The Cubs have been working for two of their Challenge badges, the Promise Challenge and the Community Challenge where we undertook several activities such as: arranging a visit to the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints as part of our understanding of World Faith; learning about our Community by seeing an operational Fire Appliance with the Blue Watch team at Dee Road Fire Station, then using the hose to douse some bollards (and the Fireman who set them up); and learning responsibility and team -work through tasking the Sixes to propose activities and games before helping to run them.

The culmination of achieving all six Challenge badges is the Chief Scouts Silver Award. This is the highest award available in the Cub Scout Section and we are very pleased to have been able to award this to Ben Lawrence, who has consistently produced a high standard of work and upheld the Cub Scout Promise. We have several cubs who are on their way to this Award and hope to recognise them in the next issue.

Returning from the Summer break we have made promotions in the Sixes and welcome as Sixers: Kieran Docherty, Mark Seaman and Owain Lewis; we also welcome a new Seconder: Paige Doheny.

Before the Summer we ran activities at the Wychotes Water Activity Centre where Cubs were given the chance to learn or improve their skills in Kayaks and Canoes. Some preferred the getting wet part which our helpers obliged with by running water confidence games.



Post summer was our Camp taster session also at the Wychotes Centre where sixteen of the Cubs spent a night under canvas. We ran some back to basics skills such as Knot Tying and Pioneering, with one group making a fantastic crane model. The weather was good and we were able to take everyone through their Paddle Power Start award run by the coaches Claire McNicholas, Matt Bonewell and Ian Sherwood.

We recently invested a number of Cubs and welcome them to the 1st Reading pack: Abbey, Ayesha and Lucy; and those who came from Beavers: Alfie, Molly and Nathaniel. Moving up to Scouts, we hope Ben well.

On the leadership side, we welcome Matt Bonewell, seen here teaching the differences between portable gas stoves, as Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Matt has several years experience in different parts of the group.



Simple Facts: Chewing gum while cutting onions can help a person from producing tears.



Our activities planned for the rest of this year are focused around Science with a dip into swimming badges and the District gala to have fun with.

Jon – Assistant Cub Scout Leader

Troop Report

We currently have 44 members in the troop, with 6 Scouts recently moving up into our Explorer unit. Since the last issue we welcome into the troop Jack Penton, Tridham Mandunath, Bernard Kalanouski, Gareth Ellis, Earl Amaglo, Olivia Burrell, Katie Rodda, Anna Wheatman and Peter Millington.

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotion:-

To Patrol Leader – Sam Evans, Thomas Knight, Dewi Rees, Daniel Whitehead and Ronald Shearman.

To Assistant Patrol Leader – Gus Walters, James Scott, Harrison Jowett, Joe Newton, Laurence Gate, Thomas Pottinger, Nick Moxley.

In April, we had 7 Scout teams take part in the ‘3 Towers Hike’, well done to all of you for completing the hike in the extremely warm conditions.

For the first few weeks of the summer season we commenced boating activities at the old warren site as we had to wait for the builders to sign over the new Water Activity Centre as safe for use. During this time we were able to have a tour of the new facilities and devise a working plan on how best to use it. After just a few more weeks we were given the all clear and the Scouts were really excited with their new Headquarters. During the summer months we were able to make full use of the building, and we also saw a big increase in potential new recruits as word got around on what we could offer them.

We continued with our kayak and rowing training, with many of the Scouts achieving their basic paddle power award. It was also good to see more Scouts attending on Sunday afternoons.

In June we once again attended Reading Waterfest. I was able to bring my rib along to help tow the open canoes to the venue. The rib proved a popular attraction once again with rides around Chocolate Island. Many thanks to all the Scouts that helped on the day, and also on the previous Sunday helping to clear rubbish from the site and lay out the markers. The following day from Waterfest we had a Father’s day open day at the Water Activity Centre. This was very well attended and gave families a chance to come along and try out the various boats and take part in a few fun races.



Relaxing at Camp

Our Summer Camp this year was at Welsh Bicknor, camping on the bank of the river Wye just upstream from Symonds Yat.

Simple Facts: 1. An Iceberg contains more heat than a lit match. 2. Ants don’t sleep

Once again it was well attended and the Scouts enjoyed Climbing, Kayaking, Swimming and Hiking, along with Camp Olympics and the annual Scout's v Leader's football match!!



Welly throwing contest

Our day out was spent in Gloucester with Karting and Laser Tag proving a great hit with all.

Thanks to all the Leaders for their hard work during the week, which made the camp such a success. Thanks also to Kevin, Caroline, Steve Shellard and Kevin's Friend Boshier for helping us out at the last minute with the complicated transport arrangements.

During the summer the Scouts also were able to experience open water Rib Boating on the Solent, and white water kayak trips in Wales and Devon.

Our final Sunday opening of the season was a family open day to make good use of the glorious late summer sunshine. This was very well attended and all enjoyed getting out on the water and finishing with a BBQ.

Everyone has very much enjoyed our first season in the new Water Activity Centre, we hope to use some of our winter evenings down there to give the programme a bit more variety.

We are now meeting at the YMCA where we have planned a Halloween party, a visit from St Johns for a first Aid training session, and continue to progress the Scouts on the award scheme.

Mike Davidson - Scout Leader

Dates for your Diary

2011

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 rd December | Chairman's Christmas Party |
| 10 th December | Bag Packing at Sainsbury, Calcot |
| 16 th December | Scout Xmas Party and final meeting |

2012

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 th January | Friday Troop meetings Resume at YMCA |
| 18 th January | Group Executive at Englefield |
| 3 rd -5 th February | Royal Naval Swimming Gala |
| 2/3/4 th March | Winter Camp in Southampton |
| 21 st March | Group Executive at Englefield |
| 14 th April | 3 Towers Hike |
| 16 th May | Group Executive at Wychotes |
| 2 nd - 9 th June | Royal Naval Summer Camp |
| 15 th June | Group AGM at Wychotes |
| 30 th June | Grand Opening of the 'Wychotes Waterside Activity Centre' |
| 17 th July | Royal Navy Inspection |
| 28 th July - 4 th August | Summer Camp at St Brides, South Wales |
| 22 nd - 28 th October | Royal Naval Explorer Camp. |



Does anyone have or know of anywhere that I can store my Rib boat
undercover for the winter months?

Length of trailer is 8.8mtrs - width is 2.5mtrs

If you can help please give me a call

Many Thanks - Mike Davidson - Scout Leader in Charge

Explorers



I would like to welcome Danny Coles to the Unit who joined us on Summer Camp. The Explorers have had an enjoyable summer on the water at the new Boathouse, improving their boating skills and helping the younger Scouts. In June we had a family open day held at the boathouse which was open to all sections in the group. The day was aimed at everyone taking part, parents seeing the various activities and also having a go at boating themselves. The day was well attended and everyone had a brilliant time.

Just before camp we had an Explorer social evening where we went to Pizza Hut for dinner then went to see Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2. This was attended by all and we had a really good evening.

Summer camp this year was held at Welsh Bicknor. They went on the advance party on the Friday to help the Leaders set up camp early Saturday morning before the Scouts arrived. The first two days were spent with maps of the area planning a route for a day's hike with an overnight stop. They decided the purpose of the hike was to walk to the lookout point nearby to see if they could see the Peregrine Falcons. I went to visit them at the campsite once they had settled down to see how they had got on. A good day was had and they enjoyed setting up their own camp and cooking their own meal, but unfortunately weren't able to see any Peregrine's.

Some Explorers were able to go climbing at Symonds Yat National Park on real rock faces. As well as climbing up the rock face they learnt how to belay for each other. They also had a day kayaking on Symonds Yat Rapids, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Explorers on their Hike

They also enjoyed taking part in activities on site which included rounders, football and camp Olympics. This year for our day out we went go-karting and laser tag. The go-karts were amazing.

Congratulations go to Edward Wimble who achieved his BCU Level One Coaching Award this summer. In September we had to say goodbye to Nick Coles who left us as he has now turned 19 and is off to University. I just want to say good luck and thank you for being part of the Explorers. We look forward to you visiting soon. After an eventful summer we are now back at the YMCA and I would like to welcome our newest members Josie Elliott, Callum Macleay, Cameron Stichbury, Nye Rees, Josh Williams, William Jerome and Laura Bacon into the Unit. This brings us up to 17 Explorers, which is the most we have ever had.



We have had a visit from John Bannister who brought the 'Little Annies' and did a session on CPR. The Explorers also helped the Patrol Leaders to organise a Halloween Party. This was well attended and everyone joined in with the fancy dress. There were prizes for the best dressed boy and girl, five different bases and at each were different games ranging from Apple bobbing to find the Malteaser in a tower of flour. There was also a Zombie hunt.

We look forward to the Groups Christmas Party on the 3rd December.

Jade Coombes - Assistant Explorer Leader

Memory Corner

In the last issue of *'1st & Foremost'* we told the story of the attempted rescue of Frank Jennings by Brian Cullingford, Geoffrey Wilding and John Goddard. We are pleased to report that we have heard from John Goddard and believe John and Brian have been in touch again after all these years.

Bob Stacey has kindly sent some photographs together with some of his memories and the boys he was in Scouts with. Bob joined as a junior around 1943 and went right through the Group to Rover Scouts with his best friend being Ken Heath. Bob is now living in Holland but he remembers the following: Roy Abery, George Barnett, Les Beckett, Geoff Beckett, Ted Bell, Eric Coombes, Brian Cullingford, Ray Field, Ken Heath, Brian Martin, Ken Mills, John Pocock, Kurt Schueller, Brian Scottford, Peter Short, John Smith, John Talbot, Willy Wilding and Robin Wills. Brian would love to hear from any of these people, so contact me and I will give you his email address.



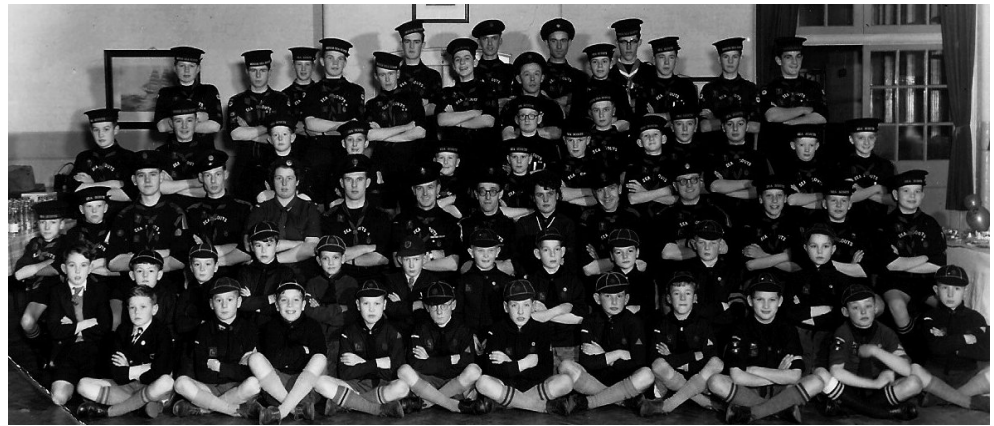
Group Pictures: Do you know who they are and where the photographs were taken?



October 1954 - Sailing Barge 'Kiel' becomes new HQ



Believed to be Skipper
Stan Lee



Joan Bushnell is in the middle row 3rd Leader from the left – we do not know when this picture was taken.

1st & Foremost



We are pleased to post or email copies to ex members and friends so if you know of someone who would like a copy just let us know and we will add their name to the list. Previous issues are available on our web site: www.1streadingseascoutgroup.org.uk

Scout Leader in Charge	Mike Davidson	
Assistant Scout Leaders	Cliff Coombes	Simon Tott
	Claire McNicholas	
Explorer Leader	Jade Coombes	
Assistant Explorer Leader	Sam Bonewell	
Cub Leader	Tracey Haskell	
Assistant Cub Leader	Jon Evans	Ian Sherwood
	Satty Mann	Matt Bonewell
Beaver Leader	Caroline Ware	
Assistant Beaver Leader	Michelle Willett	Jenny Copeland
	Katie Vockins	
Chairman	Kevin Ware	
President	Stephen Sherwood	
Group Treasurer	Mike Stephens	
Minutes Secretary	Victoria Billing	
YMCA	Ray Jones	
Boathouse Committee Chairman	Mike Wyatt	
Group Quartermaster	Steve Shellard	
Fund Raising Committee	Jane Shellard	
Beaver Parent	Brendan Paine	
Cub Parent	James Doheny	
Scout Parent	Jane Gate	
Others	Judy Westwood, Pearl Coombes, Martin Foley	

Answers to History Quiz:

1. 1903, 2. Simmonds, Welsteads, Peoples Pantry, Town Hall, 3. 1965, 4. 1968, 5. 1971,
6. 1945, 7. Caversham, 8. 1954, 9. Kate Winslett – Oxford Road, 10. Reading Prison, 11. Caversham Weir