



“THE COOT”



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GROUP ACTIVITIES

TANNERS MARATHON 2009

Some 15 cubs and parents walked the 10 mile event, 1 Scout (Luke Shirley) walked the 20 mile event and two Scouts (Daniel Hardman and Adam Shirley) entered the 30 mile event. The weather was good and it was a pleasant day. We did not come home with the Scout Trophy, but not for lack of trying. Luke Shirley made the twenty miles in 6.5 hours accompanied by Gareth Llewellyn. Daniel Hardman completed 25.5 miles before having to retire at the Tanners Youth Hostel checkpoint with knees that had been hurting badly for a long time. Adam Shirley stuck with Daniel the whole time, helping him up and down the hills so retired as well, also hurting by that time from a recent skate board injury to his back. Well done to both. Gail Hardman drove our Group minibus in support of the checkpoints and Anita and Adrianna Merritt manned checkpoint two on Epsom racecourse.



From the left, Ben, Luke, Adam, Daniel, Adrianna, Pictured with Alan Virgo of the Tanners Marathon Committee (between Richard & Gail)

BEAVERS – NOVA SCOTIA COLONY

On Wednesday 8th July the Beavers and visited Lightwater Country Park. They enjoyed a session of mini beast hunting under the watchful eye of Gordon, one of the park's rangers. Equipped with large net and specimen jars the youngsters had a lot of fun collecting various beasts including spiders, grasshoppers, beetles and the such which

Gordon happily identified before carefully replacing them back into their natural habitat. The sun shone down on our intrepid explorers and not only did the youngsters enjoy themselves they (and their leaders) gleaned much information on the names and habitat of the smaller creatures that we live amongst but hardly every get to see.

BEAVERS – SAMUEL CODY COLONY

No reporting.

WOLF CUBS – HASTING PACK

On Wednesday 8th July the Cubs also visited Lightwater Country Park. They started with a session of pond dipping where happily no one managed to fall in, followed by an equally boisterous session of mini beast collecting.

We also held our annual 'Sports Day' for the Cubs together with the Beavers. All did very well and it was a very enjoyable evening for Beavers, Cubs, parents and leaders. The BarBQue was most welcome and managed to raise a small profit for the group.

SCOUTS – PIONEER TROOP

CAMP EWOC January 24 & 25 2009

January saw the Scouts making a small Ewoc village (bivouac) in "Out of Africa" (our name for E1 MOD training grounds).



Construction started immediately on arrival on the Saturday morning



From the outside it looks like a pile of ferns...

The evening was closed with a singsong around the fire and the Scouts construction proved good despite some very hard rain during the night. The next morning after breakfast it all had to be dismantled and the site tidied. However, the Scouts were positive that it was a good time.



.....but inside it was a snug shelter



Food was prepared on the campfire in the centre of the bivouac and was tasty, plentiful and popular

SENIOR SCOUTS – MOUNTFORD Trp CAMP SOUP DRAGON 14 – 17 Feb 09

The seniors (including one young Scout from Pioneer troop – Harry Punter) made the pilgrimage to our campsite at Trelong, just up the river from Sennybridge on the border of the Brecon National Park, in sight of PenYFan. Just two patrols occupied the site

this year, which gave them lots of room. The lower part of the site we use for camping and the top, larger area of woodland and stream we use for activities.



Looking down toward the road and entrance gate.

Camp was set on arrival and the following day Jonny Walter (SM Pioneer Troop) and Gareth Llewellyn (ASM Mountford Troop) took the Scouts on a 12-mile hike to the North, over the hills and back through Sennybridge past the Army training Camp. The route was navigated without fault and all the checkpoints found and photographed.

The weather was good during the day but got cold in the evening, but a good campfire was soon going.



On the Monday We all made our way up PenYFan, the highest mountain in the Brecons. We have experienced all conditions on the mountain over the years, always being confounded in our expectations. We have had deep snow over the whole mountain, raging winds, and peace, solitude and sunshine. This year was no different; despite 20 inches of snow in Camberley (!!), there was little snow, sunshine and little wind. A very pleasant day including a fly past by a C130 Hercules transport at zero feet on the summit! (all over too fast for a photograph).



Jonny leading the way up PenYFan



Crossing the river at the bottom



Entering a small gully



In a glade, a poignant memorial to the sacrifice overseas by the armed forces who train here.



ON THE TOP!



...and parked up again at the friendly farmer's gateway, just down from our site, with PenYFan in the background.



Following the Easterly route down

Unfortunately Mildred (Scout Group coach) went sick immediately before Camp Soup Dragon. However, Ben Llewellyn (son of GSM and old Scout) provided his van to transport the kit and Long John Silver got his first outing to Brecon.



Safely back at the Scout Hut
SCOUTS & SENIORS CHALLENGE CAMP
"Camp Genghis Khan"
19th through 21st June

Teams from 1st Kingswood B-P Scout Group (Bristol) and 1st Earley B-P Scout Group (Reading), accepted the challenge for the Tony Wheddon Memorial trophies, one for Scouts and one for Senior Scouts. Tony was Southern Area Commissioner for our association for many years. The challenge was to see which team could construct a throwing machine that would throw a 1.5 kilo bag of flour the furthest.

Our Scouts and Seniors set up camp on the Friday night and were joined by 1st Kingswood later in the evening. 1st Earley arrived Saturday morning. The three Groups set up camp on the ridge to take advantage of the good weather, lovely view and a cool breeze.



1st Blackwater Valley campsite on the
Challenge camp.

The firing of flour started at midday on the Sunday and when the dust had settled, 1st Earley walked away with both trophies, marginally beating the other two groups.



Challenge camp at flag break on Sunday
morning.

DUKE of EDINBURGH AWARD

Christopher McGeehan completed the last section of his Silver DoE award with his Radio Operators Badge. Christopher accompanied his father and two colleagues on a sea kayak journey from Ilfracombe to Lundy Island in the safety boat acting as radio officer.



The 3 canoeists doing their stuff

During the three day, forty mile round trip, Christopher kept in touch with Ilfracombe harbour and Swansea Coastguard to ensure that VHF radio contact was good and available in case of emergency.

The expedition camped on Lundy and spent a day exploring. Group Scout Master Richard Llewellyn provided and drove the safety boat for the expedition. Chris has to complete the report for his Radio Operator's Badge before he can receive his Silver DoE certificate and badge.



Chris sitting by his radio as we depart Lundy Island for the return journey.



Rafted up for lunch



From the left: Norman, Nick and Gerry, the canoeists; Richard, Mick (local shore support - wife Jill taking the photo) and Christopher safely back in Ilfracombe harbour

UNIFORM

Association unique items are held in stock but not in great numbers as it is sold as close to cost as possible and we do not have the funds available. Please do therefore remember to include payment with uniform orders.

AROUND & ABOUT THE HUT

Our hut roof is again leaking badly along the back wall inside the hut (left hand long wall as you go in). If any parents are willing to make further repairs please do let Richard know.

SITUATIONS VACANT



The families and friends of those in the Group run our Group. Like our Association, all are volunteers. If you can help and participate in running the Group to keep our flag flying in any way please step forward.

• Fund Raising

NO FUND RAISING COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME

*If you are in any doubt about whether or not your assistance and participation is needed and will make a difference, **please know that it will.***

• Grants committee

NO GRANTS COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME

• Hut Maintenance & gardening

NO HUT MAINTENANCE TEAM AT THIS TIME

• Transport

BEING RUN BY THE GSM & AHMEEK

*NOTE: ALL costs of running our two vehicles are born by fund raising. No element of cost is included in the amount charged for any activity, trip, visit, camp or expedition contributes in any way to the running of our minibus (Long John Silver) or our coach (Mildred). Insurance, tax, MOT, maintenance, repairs **and fuel** are all paid for out of fund raising (How else can you go to France for a 10 day camp at 180.00 pounds per Scout?). However, no fund raising committee = no money = no transport.*

• The COOT

BEING PRODUCED BY THE GSM

USEFUL NUMBERS

GSM – Richard Llewellyn 01276 63940

Chairman – **VACANT**

Treasurer – John Lewis 01252 650066

Membership – Margaret Young 01252 835014

Q'master – Mark Howarth 01252 682197

Uniform – Michele Llewellyn 01276 63940