

1st HAMPTON HILL

SEA SCOUT GROUP



BEACHES

1976

December

84 STATION ROAD
HAMPTON, TW12 2AX

IT'S UP!

PLEASE KEEP IT UP!

Thank you all for your support in the past.
Feel free to visit there whenever you can,
see what you have achieved, but note how
much remains to be done.
Watch the pride that our Scouters and your
Boys have in their new home.
Remember we all still need your support,
after all it is a FAMILY AFFAIR.

E.V. WHITEHEAD
Chairman -
Group Council

LETTER FROM THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER

The year 1976 has been a most successful and significant one for the 1st Hampton Hill-Achilles. This has culminated in the opening of our splendid new Headquarters, 'The Whitehead Hall'. Everyone who has seen it will agree that one can justifiably be rude to anyone who refers to it as the Scout Hut. The efforts of so many of you, working over many years, to make this possible are very much appreciated and it will, I am sure, add a new dimension in the years to come to Scouting in the Group and in Hampton.

Royal Naval Recognition in 1977

Looking forward to 1977 one of the most exciting events will be on Wednesday, 12th October 1977, when we shall be visited for the first time by an inspecting officer from the Royal Navy. This will be an initial inspection for inclusion in the select list of 100 Royal Naval recognised groups in the U.K. We have been recommended by the District Commissioner and by the Assistant County Commissioner for Sea Activities. If we reach the appropriate standard we shall join the list and will become entitled to the various privileges which include the wearing of a special badge, the supply of certain stores from the Royal Navy and participation in certain events.

At the inspection parade, the Venture Scout Unit and the Troop will be expected to be in full attendance. Sixers and Seconds from the Cub Pack will also be required. We shall be working hard during the year to make sure that we are prepared for this test and we shall be having one or more practice inspections.

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LETTER FROM THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER (continued..)

Support from Cub Parents

All the Section leaders are busy preparing an interesting and demanding programme for 1977, some details of which are included elsewhere. In this connection I must make a plea to parents. Most parents willingly and enthusiastically support their boys when required, and this support helps to make the Group as thriving and successful as it is. Unfortunately this support has not been so full as it should have been from some Cub parents. These are mostly parents of boys new to the Group and the parents do not perhaps realise how important it is for Cubs to support all possible activities as well as making regular attendance at Pack meetings. It is not good enough to pick and choose only those activities which are convenient. It is not fair to the boys themselves, and it is not fair to Akela and the Pack if carefully prepared activities are not properly supported.

Additional Leaders and Instructors

Getting more involved in the Group has proved for many parents a most rewarding experience. This was highlighted by the successful father and son camp organised recently.

We are still looking for further assistance, especially in running the Troop which is now very large. Bo'sun leads this section very ably and enthusiastically but the larger numbers, and the new 'Whitehead Hall' does mean that one or two new Instructors or Assistant Scout Leaders (ASL) would be most welcome. Those who have a skill or pursuit they would like to pass on to our boys should consider this seriously and get in touch with me, or Bo'sun. The range of skills and pursuits we are or would be interested in is very wide including most outdoor activities, not only boating, as well as indoor hobbies and crafts. Our new Headquarters could be especially valuable in expanding the range of these we can follow. Very good training, where necessary, is available on courses run by the Scout District and County organisations.

SKIPPER HARBORNE

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*          STOP PRESS
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* 12th October 1977 .....
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*          R.N. RECOGNITION INSPECTION!!!
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FUTURE EVENTS:

- 15th December..... Group Carol Service in Scout Headquarters.
- 16th December..... Troop Christmas Party in Scout Headquarters.

CUB PACK

We have had a successful year so far, starting in January with a visit to the pantomime at Richmond, which we hope to repeat this coming Christmas if we get enough Cubs who want to come with us.

Although we did not win the Cub Football League last season it was thoroughly enjoyed by all and Mr. Pat Cook has again kindly offered to train the boys and organise the matches for this season.

In May a week-end Camp was held at Sunbury Court, the weather was very kind to us and during the week-end many boys gained their Athletes Badge and passed many Arrow tests, including cooking over an open wood fire. During this test you could not tell who was the blackest - the boys cooking the sausages or the sausages in the frying pan. All enjoyed themselves, Cubs and Scouters alike.

Unfortunately the Cub Sports was disappointing from the fact that many boys did not turn up who had been entered for races; consequently we did not put up a good showing.

Twickeree in July again was not very well attended, but we did appreciate the effort made by the boys who did turn up and take part in the various activities including the Cub Pageant enacting Dick Turpin "holding up" a stage coach on Hounslow Heath.

In August we had a day's outing at the Windsor Safari Park and Dolphinarium.

The Swimming Gala was held on 29th October and we gained six places in the finals. In the under 9½ year age group Matthew Morris not only won the final of the freestyle race but came second in the breaststroke final. It was a good effort by all the boys.

We hope to enter one six in the District Challenge Cup competition on 27th November.

The Christmas party has been provisionally arranged for Saturday afternoon, 11th December. Could we please ask for the help of 'Mums' with the food, and 'Dads' for help with the games. It is proposed to make it fancy dress.

We would like to thank the parents who have given their help and encouraged the boys to attend our activities, other than Cub nights, but we would like to stress to those other parents that it would be appreciated if you could encourage your sons to attend as the Scouters freely give up their own time and are disappointed when they have such poor support.

AKELA

SEA SCOUT TROOP

It is just twelve months since our last Newsletter, and what have we done in 1976? In a nutshell - EVERYTHING!!!

A few of us stomped around Surrey, led by Alan Williams, on a Survival week-end 7/8th February. Basically we walked 15 miles on Saturday, camped overnight at Bentley Copse with the equipment we had carried on our backs, and walked another 15 miles on Sunday to be met at Ranmore Common by Tesco's tea/coffee bar about teatime - and a very welcome sight it was.

Easter Camp was held at Gilwell Park 20/25th April. Some 30 scouts attended led by yours truly and Henry Shortman. We achieved 2 Gilwell Park Camping Standards attaining marks of over 75% from the staff at Gilwell Park. Not bad for Sea Scouts on landlubbers Larks.

St. George's Day Parade was held on 2nd May, which was quite well attended. The salute was taken by our old friend, Don Young, the Deputy County Commissioner.

A few of the older scouts assisted at the Cub Camp held at Sunbury Court 8/9th May. A very successful week-end at which they learnt that 'Brut' is no answer to 'pepper' !!

On 22/23rd May, Phillip Shortman, APL of Quarterdeck, and Anthony Sparks, APL of Mizzen Patrols - and on 6/7th November, Paul Bacon APL of Po'castle Patrol - ran very successful Patrol Camps at Walton Firs as part of their work towards the Chief Scout Awards.

Once again a very successful Pete was held at Beveree on 12th June.

This year was TWICKEREE YEAR. Yours truly did not realise what that actually entailed. He does now!! We duly encamped at Marble Hill on 26/27th June and had quite a successful Twickeree, in spite of a heat-wave. Remember? Congratulations to Phillip Shortman and Anthony Sparks who received their Chief Scout Awards from Eric Walden, the County Commissioner.

Longridge Regatta, 2/3/4th July, was well attended this year and although the Troop did not do terribly well, a lot of experience was gained for next year. Congratulations to the Venture Unit on attaining 2nd place.

From 24th - 31st July, we held our Summer Camp at Longridge. 36 scouts attended an excellent weeks boating. The high standard of food was once again maintained by having the 2 Den's in camp. To them and their ladies thankyou very much. Whilst at camp 14 scouts passed the B.C.U. Elementary Canoe Test, but our congratulations must go to Brian Copestake and Paul Bacon who passed the B.C.U. Proficiency test enabling them to qualify for Scout Charge Certificates for canoeing on the River Thames. A most successful Camp Fire was held on the Thursday evening which was extremely well attended by parents.

Our warmest congratulations to the following on attaining the awards shown:-

Chief Scout Award

Stuart Clarke
Phillip Shortman
Anthony Sparks
Mark Davies
Paul Bacon

Advanced Scout Standard

Paul Bacon
Richard Beasley
Andrew Sainsbury-Brown
Ian Browne
Phillip Ward

Scout Standard

Gordon Cross
Duncan McLeod
Christopher Berisford
Ian Berger
Keith Gale
John Jacques France

SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued...)

Awards - Boatman Badge

Peter Davies
Gordon Cross
Ian Browne
Robert Emmans
Dominic Blanchard
Keith Gale
Phillip Ward

Canoeist

Brian Copestake
Paul Bacon

Our best wishes to Mark Pratley and Alan Draper on joining the Venture Unit, and thankyou for all you did for the Troop.

The following new members were welcomed during the year, either from the Cub Pack or by direct entry:

Jonothan Draper	Clive Owen	Timothy Worth
Stephen Cook	Brett McLeod	Michael Sullivan
Mark Huddleston	Geoffrey Adams	Paul Dart
Julian Bucknell	Ian Gibson	Bruce Roaf
Trevor Whitehead	Uwe Klos	John Marc France
Alex Brown	Raymond Franklin	Nigel Budgen

We wish those who have left us every success in the future, namely:- Robert Emmans, Mario Volpi, Paul Frank.

Offshore Sailing: We were very fortunate this year to have a kind offer from Mr. David Russell of Hampton to allow scouts to sail in his 28' sloop 'Olivia Anne III' based at Lymington. David is an ex-scout leader of the Troop. This all happened on the 13/14/15th August. On the Friday morning I took down to Lymington - Phillip Shortman, Anthony Sparks, Paul Bacon, and Dominic Blanchard. We experienced some of the best offshore sailing I've ever known. We sailed from Lymington to Poole and anchored overnight within the lee of Brownsea Island, then Poole to beyond Swanage and back, again anchoring in Poole outer harbour and finally sailing back to Lymington. May I add my voice to the scouts in saying "a big thankyou David."

The London Sailing Project was not neglected. Brian Copestake and Stuart Clarke sailed 14th-20th August; Mark Ward and Malcolm Anthony sailed 21st-27th August.

In our last newsletter I mooted the idea of a Father and Son Camp. It happened!! Alan Williams and the Venture Unit kindly offered to run it for us, so they organised the week-end 11/12th September at Bentley Copee which was attended by 11 fathers and 11 sons. Fuller reports appear elsewhere in this newsletter, but "thankyou Alan and the Valtures for an excellent weekend."

We officially opened the new Headquarters on Saturday, 25th September, again I am sure reported on elsewhere. The next day we took part in the Middlesex Canoe Race - 10 miles from Walton Bridge to Twickenham Baths. 17 Ventures and Scouts entered in 16 canoes and we finished fifth overall. A tremendous effort by all those who participated. Placings were as follows:-

Junior K1 (15-18 years) : 4th - Paul Bacon/6th - Mark Pratley
Junior K2 (15-18 years) : 2nd - Roy Copestake and Ian Shortman
Junior Touring Singles (15-18 years) : 4th - Clem Fisher/
5th - Brian Copestake/6th - Malcolm Anthony
Junior Touring Singles (12-15 years) : 2nd - Anthony Sparks/
3rd - Phillip Shortman
Junior Slalom (12-15 years) : 3rd - Gordon Cross

Again reported elsewhere, a Venture Unit Sponsored Canoe Race was held on 3rd October.

SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued...)

On the 8/9/10th October we once again went to the GLSW Mountain Activity Base at Bethesda, North Wales. We left Hampton at 1730 hours on Friday night in a minibus and steamed into Bethesda at midnight. Very instructive mountain walks were arranged for Saturday, and in the evening safety lectures and some excellent colour film slides were shown. On Sunday morning all rock climbed and abseiled; after lunch we motored back arriving at 1900 hours. Those attending were:- Mark Ward, Brian Copestake, Stuart Clarke, Mark Davies, Phillip Shortman, Anthony Sparks, Paul Bacon, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Richard Beasley, Phillip Ward. All in all a good weekend.

A Link Badge Course has just started for the following Cub Scouts:- Ian Galloway, Mark Denness, Andrew Ker sham, Serge Allsop-Menist, Shaun Pratley.

Several of our younger Scouts assisted with a jumble sale on 16th October.

George Davidson, the County Registrar and Boat Examiner, also ex ACC Sea Scouts, is to visit us on 28th October to present Charge Certificates.

We entered the District Swimming Gala on 22nd October at Richmond Baths. All who entered swam particularly well earning the Troop a well deserved 3rd place; 1st and 2nd places went to 1st Margarets and 2nd Whitton respectively.

Stephen Cook and John Marc France were selected to represent the District in the County Swimming Gala. Well done!

Thankyou to Henry Shortman for so ably running the team which comprised:- Stephen Cook, John Marc France, Jonothan Draper, Brett McLeod, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Richard Beasley, Dominic Blanchard, John Jacques France, Anthony Sparks, Malcolm Anthony, Brian Copestake, Mark Ward.

To sum it all up we have once again enjoyed a most successful and exciting year, the highlight of course, being the opening of the new Headquarters.

I must express my own personal thanks to all those who have made so much possible. A joyful Christmas to you all and a prosperous New Year.

RON SPARKS (BOSUN)

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VENTURE SCOUT CANOE RACE

Last year the Venture Scouts organised a canoe race for the scouts. It comprised of two races; one short sprint and one over four miles. The winner was the Scout with the fastest average time for both races. Last year Brian Copestake won the cup, and this year he came back to try and win it again.

Despite bad weather conditions most of the competitors turned up. After the first race Brian Copestake had a narrow lead of 20 seconds over Malcolm Anthony and Mark Ward. In the second race - the longer one - Brian was first again and so he regained his cup. Second place went to Malcolm Anthony, and third to Mark Ward.

Next year the Unit hopes to be running the race for different age group classes and providing a cup for the winners of these classes.

Well done Brian, let's hope we see you all next year.

IAN SHORTMAN
Venture Scout

THE VENTURE UNIT

(Sometimes known as "The Heavy Mob", "Alan's Alpines (the mountains not the plants - a third of the Unit are well over 6ft. tall!), or more usually as "The Vultures".

As at 19th. Nov. the Unit strength stands at 9, plus one somewhat aging acting Leader, and by mid-December our numbers will have increased to 13, with the addition of "brother" Mark Ward, "brother" Brian Copestake, Mark Davis and Stewart Clarke, to whom we extend a very warm welcome. The strong sense of comradeship which I mentioned a year ago has been more than maintained, & I feel sure that all the lads are extremely proud of their Unit. During the past 12 months a number of "activities" of one sort or another have taken place, which I mention as follows:

December 75 - Another attempt to walk the South Downs Way in less than 48 hours, this time undertaken by Clem Fisher & Dave Ward, who were joined by Troop Leader Ron Sparkes and myself. Unfortunately, success again eluded us, the hike terminating at Lewes with some 70 miles covered in 32½ hours, including an unwanted "Cook's Tour" of around 7 miles.

March 76 - Yet a further attempt on the South Downs Way, with the "regulars", David & Alan, being joined by a new member of the Unit, Steve Paynter. This time the trio were triumphant, covering the 80 miles in 38½ hours, with generally very good conditions apart from a very strong wind which blew incessantly. Very good local press publicity was received on both occasions including a photograph of the 3 walkers taken en route (by courtesy of Steve).

Easter 76 - Probably the greatest "effort" undertaken by any Unit members, namely the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, in which our competitors were Roy Copestake & Ian Shortman. This race, sometimes known as the poor man's Everest, covers 125 miles of waterway & includes 77 portages, where the canoe has to be taken out of the water, carried round a lock and then replaced in the water. Some 54 miles are paddled along the Kennet & Avon Canal until joining the Thames at Reading & beginning the long haul to Westminster. The two lads, who were only about 17 years of age at the time, entered the Junior section of the race (up to 19 years of age) & did extremely well to finish 53rd out of 70 with a total paddling time of some 26 hours. The Unit also supplied a Support Crew consisting of Paul Adams, Dave Ward and Paul Williams, & both Roy & Ian appreciated all their help & encouragement. Even if they couldn't be seen, they could certainly be most distinctively heard - the SIREN saw to that!

May 76 - St. George's Day Parade & Service. You may well say "Nothing remarkable in that, it happens every year", which is very true but what is worthy of comment was the 100% turn-out from the Venture Unit. For what must be regarded as a purely "duty" occasion this is very good, & thanks to Joan Bacon, we even have a photograph to prove it!

12 June 76 - The annual Group Summer Fete, in which the Unit were well represented. For several weeks previously they had been constructing a very novel "Aunt Sally" which, when the "bull" in the target was hit a bucket of water was deposited over a canoeist sitting below. Virtually the entire Unit took a turn sitting in the canoe, plus "Big Wormhole" & "brother" Brian, but, without a doubt, there were far more competitors when Debbie "Tesco" was the luckless victim. Now, why should a water-sodden, bikini-clad 18 years old young lady be more of an attraction than a number of equally water-sodden young men? In addition to this stall, the Unit as usual ran the China Shy, & at short notice mounted an exhibit devoted to the South Downs Way Hike and the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, plus a small section on Community Service. This included the operation, from time to time, of a chain saw & discs of oak, yew and pine were supplied to anybody who wanted them, for a donation.

26/27 June 76 - "TWICKEREE", the triennial Twickenham Scout District extravaganza held at Marble Hill Park, at which Venture Units attend to work rather than enjoy themselves. 1st. Hampton Hill were well represented, & in addition to their security duties the Unit did a first class job of stewarding the "Water Knock-Out" competition which brought them a well-earned round of applause when the competition finished. "Aquatics" were further pursued a little later on the Sunday afternoon with a water-bomb "fight" between the Unit and members of the Twickenham District Ranger Guide Unit. Skipper Harbourne, Bo'sun and Paul Carter (Cub Scout Leader when all the Venture Scouts were cubs!) were hit by ricochets (?), but bearing in mind the temperature I don't think they were particularly put out! This "fraternisation" became somewhat noisy & I fear an apology is overdue to the District Commissioner for drowning the commentary on the Cub Pageant for a few minutes.

July 76 - LONGRIDGE REGATTA, which, as usual, proved one of the most popular events in 1st. Hampton Hill's calendar, for Scouts, Vultures & Scouters. Although a pleasure to all, the two under 16 age groups did not fare quite so well this year, but the Venture Unit, for the second year running, came well up in the charts, tying for 2nd place in the 16 - 20 years class. Ian Shortman took 1st place in the dinghy pulling and was joined by Roy Copestake to take 2nd. place in the raft race. The Unit's boat also took 2nd. place in the dinghy paddling being crewed by Roy Copestake, Clem Fisher, Steve Paynter and Paul Williams. Improving upon his "disqualified 3rd" in 1975, the "Ancient Mariner" managed 2nd. place in the Veterans (20++) dinghy pulling, possibly aided by Henry Shortman's self sacrifice!

August 76 - And the Bank holiday week end saw Paul Adams, Alan Dreper, Steve Paynter, Ian Shortman and "Himself" participating in a rather unusual Camp. Four days were spent at Lingfield Race Course acting as Judges at "Cosmorama", a public spectacle at which a number of the more outlandish records in the "Guinness Book of Records" were attacked, & in some cases, broken. I recall such efforts as "the greatest number of stuffed olives in 2 minutes" and "lobbing the loo seat the greatest distance" (the first one issued split in two after about 10 throws!) By and large, not the best week end's camp but certainly a memorable one - and it was FREE! Laughs apart, the Deputy County Commissioner, Don Young, was very pleased with our help and support.

11 - 12 Sept. 76 - The culmination of much pre-planning on the occasion of the Group's first-ever "Father & Son Camp" held at Bentley Copse, Surrey, the entire running of this operation being in the hands of the Venture Unit. The event was made more memorable in that it was the first "joint operation" between the Unit and a number of the older Guides from 16th. Twickenham Guide Company. Whilst the Surrey scenery is great under any circumstances it was made even better by their company! Particularly on the Friday night in the pouring rain & driving wind, huddling close together (not too close!) in the cook tent! The camp as seen through the eyes of a son and a father is reported in detail elsewhere, but so far as the Unit is concerned it was probably the Fri. night which will be most remembered. First on site were "Fingersoff" & Doreen, who gallantly lent a hand in starting to erect the A.B. Orion or cook tent. Shortly afterwards "Mighty Lumberjack" appeared with several cwts. of forest on top of his car, bending Henry Shortman's roof rack in the process, plus, inside, land-rover tyres, a Double 4 tent & vast quantities of rope! As the rain began to gently fall, after weeks of drought, the pitching of the Double 4 and cook tent continued, which with only two pairs of hands requires a considerable amount of dexterity. Next on the scene was the Guide contingent, who set about pitching their own tent, and a little later the "Vultures" descended, having journeyed to Box Hill by train, passed through the "Stepping Stones", & were ferried by the Unit's local, acting, unpaid Transport Officer to Bentley Copse. Everybody retired just before midnight but the rain, which was now falling heavily & steadily, was not draining away due to the very hard ground surface caused by the hot, dry weather. The two Pauls set about digging monsoon ditches around the 2

tents, although initially the Guides suspected that their motives were not altruistic! By around 1230hrs. everybody was in his/her sleeping bag, but unfortunately not for a good night's sleep. At 0300hrs. Roy & Clem discovered that their bags were soaking wet, & they were rapidly becoming likewise, so Paul W said best for them to transfer to his car. On getting outside the first thing they saw was a heap of canvas & poles and various piles of food containers all exposed to the elements. The cook tent had collapsed! Any food items that could come to harm in the rain were rapidly transferred to the boot of Paul's car & the rest left until daylight. In the final event, the only loss was one loaf of bread. As for the rest of the camp, I can only tender an apology to all the fathers, sons, Vultures & Guides for "Alan's Big Boob" or "Operation Overkill". Perhaps it is some consolation to know that had the Incident Hike been left as some of the Vultures originally planned it, they wouldn't have been back to base for Sunday breakfast! On behalf of all concerned I would like to particularly thank "Mighty Lumberjack" & his "Hunter" without whom it would most likely have been impossible to stage the incident hike.

26 Sept. 76 - The Middlesex Canoe Race, in which 7 members of the Unit took part albeit not quite so successfully as last year, & as I did not attend I have left it to Bo'sun to report in greater detail. Next year I hope we shall have 1 or 2 further entries in the over 18 class to prop up the "Ancient Mariner".

October 76 - The last boating event of the year, the "Vulture Canoe Race" for the Scouts. The entry was smaller than had been anticipated but Clem & Ian, with assistance from the Dens, Henry Shortman & Ted Lawrence, did a good job running this. For the second year running Brian Copestake took the "Vulture Cup", with Malcolm Anthony & Mark Ward in 2nd. and 3rd. places. Next year we hope a larger number of Scouts will compete, & to encourage this an additional trophy will be presented for the younger boys. The precise "break age" has not yet been decided but it will probably be around 13 - 13½ years of age.

During the summer Roy Copestake, Ian Shortman, Steve Paynter, Alan Draper, Dave Ward & Mark Pratley staged a 2/3 days canoe camp, starting on the upper reaches of the River Wey and paddling back to Hampton. Apparently enjoyed by all - except the fishermen, but they probably wouldn't have caught anything anyway!

Following upon his appointment at the end of last season, Dave Ward joined the London Sailing Project & served his time as a Watch Leader, & Roy Copestake also obtained a berth on another voyage.

Of very considerable merit was Clem Fisher's selection by the local Rotary Clubs to fill the annual Rotary/Richmond Council sponsored berth on the Sail Training Association's "Sir Winston Churchill", 300 tons, which is really big ship sailing. Due to weather conditions, Clem did not sail so far afield as he might have done, but nonetheless he covered over 700 miles of water. The award of this berth is quite an outstanding achievement as the place is open to all young men within the area, selection being by interview. To top it all, I understand Clem has been offered the post of Bosun's Mate for 1977 on either the "Sir Winston Churchill" or her sister ship the "Malcolm Miller". Well done Clem - you're obviously not just a pretty face & a shapely figure!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE, of one sort or another, has continued throughout the year, the most memorable effort being the felling of a large elm tree (dead, of course, through Dutch elm disease), during which Paul W. got the "shudders" but triumphed in the end. If we say so ourselves, it was a first class piece of forestry, with a fence, a garden shed & a child's swing all within a few feet of the tree, & all were still intact when the job finished. This earned a donation of £ 35 which, as the job reached us via the Community Care Group, was split between this organisation and the Venture Unit.

The adventurous spirit has been well maintained by various members of the Unit "doing their own thing" during the summer, with rock-climbing & mountain walking in the Hebrides, camping in the New Forest, cruising on the Thames from Staines to Wallingford & back, and attending a National Trust Acorn Camp near Newcastle, doing conservation work (the "scenery" & "Bird life" was reported on very favourably!) Another Unit member provided invaluable help at the St. Mary's Church camp in Scotland.

It is perhaps worthy of comment that we now have 4 qualified drivers in the Unit, 3 of whom passed their test first time round, & I fully expect a further addition in the near future. Watch that rear mirror Roy!

Before signing off I think all the lads in the Unit, particularly those who have been with us from the early days, would like me to pay tribute to Doreen (sometimes known as the "Venture Mother"). Her actual help on the transport side especially has been invaluable to the execution of many of our activities. Never mind the odd cakes that are ravenously devoured as soon as they come out of the oven - and there have always been plenty of takers to "lick out the bowl"! She still says "They're a great bunch of lads" but nonetheless, on behalf of us all "Thank you".

STOP PRESS Nov. 20 - "Mighty Lumberjack" has had stand-up fight with Macannell saw-bench - and lost! Suggested social service for "Gold Arrow" cubs - lifting Paul's pint. Don't forget the step ladder!

ALAN "FINGERSOFF" WILLIAMS

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"FATHER & SON" CAMP

11 - 12 Sept 76

Just another weekend, two days of rest. But no! this weekend we are going camping. We arrived at Bentley Copse about 0900hrs. Sat. morning; no tents in sight, just a muddy quagmire. Alan proceeded to tell us that due to the rough weather the previous night, the cook tent had fallen down & the Venture Scouts were flooded out! If WE were treated to such weather he doubted whether we would fare any better, but after all eleven families declared a vote of confidence in our tutors the camp was declared open. We were split into watches, each watch having to erect a tent, points being awarded by the Venture Scouts & Guides! We were then given a quick lesson by our children in the art of knotting e.g. sheep-shank, figure-of-eight, reef knot, bowline etc. Then, without warning, we were lined up in our respective watches and had a race tying knots we all agreed we knew!! Next on the list, how to join pieces of timber by lashing, then a marvellous salad lunch.

After lunch, all the watches were called together and told that we were going on a hike - "Nothing like a stroll to help the digestive system". We were given a compass, map and a list of items to be found en route, plus the route to our first incident. Each watch left at 10 min. intervals with ours departing at 1430hrs.

At the first incident we were given a compass bearing course with each member of the watch walking a "leg". The patrol leader was then given the route to the next check point. In all there were 8 check points & at each one a problem to be solved, e.g. scavenger hunt, crossing a small ravine over a stream (we had been taught how to lash timber in the morning), make the outline of a tent with a fixed length of sisal & 2 garden canes, & leave not more than 3" of sisal at the end, and crossing between two trees upside down on a length of rope. The 4th. incident was very welcome. We were allowed to brew up a "cuppa"!

GROUP SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

I am pleased to report that the G.S.A. Committee have been no less active since the completion of the Headquarters back in the late summer. Three new Committee members have joined, namely Mrs. Diane Gibson, Mrs. Janet Hughes, and Stuart Stredwick, and they are already making very useful contributions to the Committee and our fund-raising activities.

After the summer lull we started actively thinking about jumble sales, christmas card sales, and various other activities. A jumble sale was held on the 16th October. This was, in fact, the first fund-raising activity to take place in the new Headquarters. In spite of various problems which had to be overcome - such as the absence of tables to put the 'jumble' on (this was overcome by the help of the 3rd Hampton Group who kindly loaned us some tables to carry on with), and the difficulty of access to the new Hall as opposed to the Percy Road school - the sale was a success. We made a profit of £145, which is the second highest amount raised by one of our jumble sales and, as usual, the Handicraft, Toy, and White Elephant stalls for next year's Fete also benefited from the jumble.

On the following week-end, 23rd October, Mrs. Joan Bacon kindly ran a Bring-and-Buy sale. This, again, was a huge success and £100 was raised. Joan asked that the money be used for equipping the kitchen of the new Headquarters. We are all grateful for the time and effort put in by Joan in running a very successful venture.

Mrs. Pat Dart, of our Committee, ran a small Pip-a-Dee party at her house on Wednesday, 3rd November. This again was a very worthwhile effort, and a further £19 was raised. Thank you Pat.

As most of you are aware, we have also been collecting orders from the Webb Ivory Christmas Catalogue and at the time of writing this article, mid-November, we are approaching a total of £1800 in orders. This again should raise a nice 'little' profit for the Group.

We have not yet finalised our plans for early '77 but we are considering a jumble sale in March/April, together with a 'Get Together'.

MICK WARD
Chairman

STOP PRESS

We have just heard from Captain Trinder of H.M.S. ACHILLES that he hopes to visit us in December and that he is trying to arrange for a day at sea for the Boys - early next year.

NOTE ON BACK PAGE THE NEW ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NO.
FOR 'BOSUN'

ADDRESSES:

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