

1st HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACHILLES



HMS ACHILLES

1977

December

"YOUR DIARY"

Your diary for 1977 already looks pretty tatty with an ink spot there, and that crossed out. Why those two clean pages in August - Ah yes, we found time to go on holiday. Then it is back to Venture evening Tuesdays, Cubs on Wednesdays, Troop night Thursdays; inbetween are the Executive meetings, planning, plotting, perspiration and impatience at 10 pm!

And now heavens, Christmas is on the horizon and a rash of indulgences appear - 11th December Cub "nosh" and films; 13th December Carols; 15th December Troop party excesses; 17th December Venture "rave-up and other goings on". Suddenly two more clean pages in December, and the whole outfit seems to have voted for a final awesome "bust up" around 25th December. Those who survive this ordeal, note the penalty clause - DECEMBER 28th "WORKING PARTY HQ" AND A SLIMMING DIET OF COLD CANNED BEER!

But what about the rest of the year- well, you shouldn't have missed the GSA Xmas Market on 26th November, flick back the pages Regattas, Jumble Sales, try to forget the rain on the morning of the Fete; and yes, painting parties, a race against time for the Naval Inspection - a good job we found time to paint the Ladies Loo HE EVEN WENT IN THERE - how wrong can you be!

How clean the 1978 slip in replacement looks, but listen, what was 'Bosun' muttering about camps? The GSA already appear to have booked 10th June for.. "THE GREAT FETE", and talk of a target figure of £820 - and no rain.

More challenges, contests, and Admiralty recognition - any bets on a date?

E.V. WHITEHEAD
Chairman - Group Council

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

The Group has once again had a most successful year. We are now accustomed to our splendid new Headquarters, and very appreciative of the well-thought out design. The furnishing has gone ahead very well. We are grateful to all those who have helped, some a little and some a lot, to make the Headquarters what it is - "a home for a Scout Group" not just a building.

The Group has grown during the last year. At the census we were over 100 for the first time in recent years, but we are now short of Leaders and uniformed Instructors, a point that was picked up by Lt. Commander Philip Cressey at our RN Inspection. During the year we have lost Alan Williams, our Venture Scout Leader, who has been such a great helper and then Leader in all sections of the Group, not excluding fund raising, starting when his son Paul came into the Cubs. Alan was, usually, very quiet and often diffident of his own abilities, but when he took responsibility for a job it was always done to the best of his abilities - which were great. We shall miss Alan and Doreen, his wife, as friends as well as supporters. We hope they will visit us often from their new home in Sussex.

Den Sainsbury-Brown has stepped into the position of Venture Scout Leader, and I am confident he will build well on the foundations that Alan has laid. I am delighted that the Ventures have decided that 20 years old is too young to retire from Scouting, and we are going to keep together under the title of a 'Service Crew' after that age.

We have also lost Linda Balchin and Joan Carr, her mother, from the Cub Pack. Linda had a baby earlier in the year. We are sorry to lose them and thank them both for all their help.

Keith Ferguson has taken over the running of the Pack, with some guidance from Bosun. Keith is doing a fine job, but we do need further help for all Sections. I am very pleased that Paul Adams, who has been through all Sections, has now come forward to be trained as a Scout Leader. This is most welcome and encouraging. We really need one or two others who are prepared to help as Instructors. If any father feels he might enjoy helping especially, but not only, if he has interests in outdoor activities, would he please get in touch with me. It is also useful to have people who are prepared to give a talk or some instructions on a hobby or special interest.

The most exciting event of the year for the Group as a whole was undoubtedly our initial inspection for Royal Naval Recognition. This first inspection was carried out by Lt. Commander Philip Cressey, RN Inspecting Officer, on 12th October 1977, who reviewed the ability and effectiveness of the Group to provide a full and varied Sea Scouting programme.

The most obvious part of the visit, and the most difficult for the boys, was the formal inspection in which Commander Cressey spoke to each Scout individually, asking quite searching questions on some subject covered in their training. In the course of the evening the Inspecting Officer spoke to all the Scout Leaders, Instructors,

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT (continued)

and those lay members present, and viewed the Group Headquarters and our equipment in some detail. I am pleased to say that he gave us a very good report, commenting particularly on the 'dedicated and able Executive Committee' and the excellence of the 'parental support'. So thank you Mums and Dads who have done so much in so many ways to help in making and equipping our new Headquarters so well. Your efforts have certainly been worthwhile. Credit must also go to all the Leaders and Instructors for the works they have done over the years and recently. Bosun is particularly to be congratulated on the turnout of the Troop. The Cubs and Venture Scouts also did very well.

The standard for Royal Naval Recognition is very high and the pressure on the 100 places is very great, and although we have reached the necessary standard in our initial inspection, we now go on to the Reserve List with four other Groups to compete for places that become vacant.

Royal Naval Recognition is principally an honour, but there are certain concrete advantages in the way of small grants based on numbers and badge winning performance, opportunities for taking passage and sea training in H.M. ships.

We shall have our next inspection on Thursday, 20th July 1978. This will be an inspection 'afloat', and we shall be practising hard to put on a good show and gain a coveted place in the list of Royal Naval Recognised Groups.

SKIPPER HARBORNE

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FUTURE EVENTS

<u>1977:</u>	11th December	Cubs Christmas Party
	13th December	Group Carol Service
	15th December	Scout Christmas Party
	17th December	Venture Christmas Party
	15th December	Scout Troop Christmas Break.....
<u>1978:</u>	5th January	Scout Troop restart
	18/19th February	Chief Scout Award - 30 mile hike (Bentley Copse)
	28th March/2nd April	Easter Camp (land)
	15/16th April	District Patrol Leaders Training
	23rd March	Saint George's Day Course
	29/30th March	Advanced Scout Standard-12 mile hike
	6th May	District Scout Sports
	10th June	Annual Fete - Beveree
	24/25th June	District Campercraft
	1/2nd July	Longridge Regatta
	20th July	R.N. INSPECTION
	12/19th August	Summer Camp (boating)
	10th September	GLSW Regatta
	24th September	Middlesex Canoe Race
	October	District Scout Swimming Gala
	12th December	Group Carol Service
	14th December	Troop Christmas Party

CUB PACK

It has been a successful year for the Cub Pack.

We started the year with a trip to Richmond Theatre for a pantomime.

Then in April we attended the St. George's Day Parade at St. Mary's College Twickenham, which is one of the few times in a Scout Leaders year when we can show off our Packs to the rest of the District.

Cub Sports Day was held on a Saturday in May at the Collis School, Teddington, and like the Swimming Gala in October, we gained some places in the finals. Both events were well attended by boys and parents.

In late June some of the boys went to 2nd Whitton H.Q. and were presented with a Pennant by the County Commissioner for being one of the few Packs in the District winning the Diamond Jubilee Challenge. All credit must go to Lin and Joan the Akela's at that time.

The Summer outing was to the Royal Tournament. This was a great success. I don't know who enjoyed it the most - Scout Leaders or the boys...it's hard to say.

Most of the beginning of September it rained all but two days, 3rd and 4th September. This is when we held our Cub Camp at Sunbury Court. Many boys gained their Athletes Badge and passed some Arrow tests. The boys enjoyed cooking over an open wood-fire; not one burnt sausage, but lots of black faces. I would like to thank the Scouters and Leaders who helped that weekend.

In October twelve boys took part in the Royal Naval Inspection. David Gibson was the Senior Sixer that night. I do not know who was more nervous, the boys or me, but I must say I was proud of them all that night, not one foot out of place.

I would like to thank the two Girl Guides, Debbie and Alison, for giving their time up each week, and for the parents that support us and attend our activities; also Pat Cook and helpers who do the football each week through the Winter for the boys.

Thankyou all - SHERE KHAN

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* STOP PRESS: *
* DID YOU KNOW THE DESIGN OF THE TWICKENHAM *
* DISTRICT BADGE CAME FROM A MEMBER OF OUR *
* GROUP? THE D.C. AND HIS COMMITTEE JUDGED *
* THE DESIGN FROM TONY SPARKS AND HIS MOTHER *
* AS THE WINNING ENTRY. *
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SEA SCOUT TROOP

Last year I opened by saying ... "What have we done in 1976? In a nutshell - everything." What can I possibly say about 1977.
AN ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING YEAR!

We started with a District Patrol Leaders Training Course on 30/31 October attended by Phil Shortman, Paul Bacon, and Tony Sparks. Yours truly had the privilege of instructing on that Course.

On 15th December we held our Group Carol Service laid on by the Troop, which was well attended and most successful. The following evening we had the Troop Christmas Party with traditional bangers etc.

Hatches, Matches, Despatches:

Hatches: We welcome into the Troop .. Richard Adams, Mathew Blackmore, James Graham, Roland Wade, Paul Beasley, Robert Stevenson, Robert Ramsay, Darren Rosser, Julian Bucknell.
We hope your stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Matches: . NIL - they're not old enough (yet) !!

Despatches: We wish the following well and every success in the future ... Dominic Blandhard, Peter Davies, Alex Brown, Christopher Berisford, William Wilder, James Graham, Peter Birch, Robert Stevenson, Michael Hughes, Darren Rosser.

Farewell and best wishes to all who have gone up to the Venture Unit ... Brian Copestake, Stuart Clarke, Mark Davies, Mark Ward, Malcolm Anthony, Andrew Clarke, Phil Shortman, Paul Bacon, and our best wishes to Tony Sparks who has joined 13th Twickenham Joint Venture Unit.

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

<u>Chief Scout Award</u>	<u>Advanced Scout Standard</u>	<u>Scout Standard</u>
Richard Beasley	Paul Killick	Johnathon Draper
Andrew (Tesco)	Gordon Cross	Paul Dart
Sainsbury-Brown	Andrew Clarke	Clive Owen
	Keith Gale	Trevor Whitehead
		Ian Galloway
		Andrew Cursham
		Stephen Cook
		Mark Huddleston
		Robin Ray-Jones
		Geoffrey Adams
<u>Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze Award'</u>		
Phil Shortman		
<u>Boatman Badge</u>		<u>BCU Proficiency</u>
Andrew Clarke	Clive Owen	Phil Shortman
Paul Killick	Ian Berger	Tony Sparks
John Jacques France	Stephen Clarke	Andrew Sainsbury-
Johnathon Draper	Robin Ray-Jones	Brown
Duncan McLeod	Simon Ray-Jones	
Paul Dart	Stephen Cook	
Mark Huddleston		

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SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued)

Awards - RYA Elementary

Malcolm Anthony
Richard Beasley
Tony Sparks
Andrew Sainsbury-Brown
Phil Shortman

RYA Intermediate

Tony Sparks

Boatman Instructor

Tony Sparks

The climax of all the badge achievements was, of course, the attainment of 5 Coxswains Mate Badges to Phil Shortman, Tony Sparks, Richard Beasley, Ian Browne and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown.

WELL DONE ALL OF YOU

On 3rd March we had a formal visit from Roger Jones, the Assistant County Commissioner Water Activities in preparation for our Royal Naval Inspection, and on that evening the VSU gave us an excellent film show. During this early part of the year we are indebted to George Davidson and David Russell for giving so much of their time instructing in the Coxswains Mate Badge.

The Group Supporters Association held a Jumble Sale on 26th March at which several members of the Troop assisted.

A formal visit to HMS Achilles at Portsmouth took place on 29th March. 3 Venture Scouts, 15 Scouts, together with Alan Williams and myself went aboard. We had a most interesting day and were well looked after. Before we came ashore Commander Trinder, the Captain, presented us with a ship's crest and a fine picture of HMS Achilles which now hangs in pride of place in the Wardroom.

On 2/3rd April young Tesco ran a good patrol camp at Walton Firs as part of his Chief Scouts Award.

Easter Camp this year was a complete dinghy sailing camp at Hertfordshire Young Mariners Base, Cheshunt, from 12/17th April. We had a good camp at which a lot was learnt. Malcolm Anthony, Richard Beasley, and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown gained their RYA Elementary certificates. Well done. My personal thanks go to Dennis Sainsbury-Brown and Henry Shortman for all the help they gave me.

The District Saint George's Day Service on 24th April was well attended and 1st Hampton Hill had the honour of carrying the District Union flag, namely Tony Sparks.

For the first time ever the Senior Patrol Leader and the 4 Patrol Leaders attended the Group's Annual General Meeting, followed by the pre-Fete meeting on 16th May. We shall now of course see them there every year.

It being the season for AGM's, 1st Hampton Hill was well represented at the Twickenham District AGM at which the District Commissioner, Derek Stevens spoke very kindly about us.

On the 26th May we had a small going-up ceremony from Cubs to Scouts and on the 11th June we held our Annual Fete at Beveree.

We again went to the Longridge Regatta 1/3rd July at Marlow, and as always had a super weekend. However, this event ended on a sadder note. We said goodbye to Alan and Doreen Williams. Small presenta-

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SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued)

tions were made by the Troop and the Unit. Alan - thankyou for all the sterling work you and Dorsen have done over the years. We wish you both every happiness in your new home in Alfriston, Sussex, and remind you not to be late for next years Longridge Regatta and Middlesex Cance Race.

On 17th July we entered the Arun Canoe Race for the first time and did extremely well. Ian Shortman taking a first in his class, and Paul Bacon/Tony Sparks in a K2 taking a first place in their first ever K2 race. Well done.

From 30th July - 6th August we held our Summer Camp at Longridge. We had fairly good weather and an excellent weeks boating. At this camp the Troop earned a total of 55 badges including the 5 Coxswains Mate Awards already mentioned. Well done lads. The two Dens once again ensured an extremely high standard of food from the galley and to them and their ladies my heartfelt thanks. My thanks also to Henry Shortman for all his help at this camp, and in particular for running the finances so expertly. Without all this assistance the camp would not have been possible. We held a camp fire on the Thursday evening attended by Roger and Janet Jones, and a wonderful turn out of parents. Thankyou all for showing so much interest. I hope to see even more of you next year.

After camp the Patrol Leaders went back to Longridge for a second week on their own, and congratulations to Phil Shortman and Tony Sparks on achieving their RYA Elementary and Intermediate awards respectively.

Offshore Sailing: Unfortunately this year our places on the London Sailing Project were cancelled due to the yacht being out of service. However, this was more than made up by Messrs. David Russell and Martin Cursham.

On 12/13/14 August, Richard Beasley, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Gordon Cross, Phil Ward, and yours truly sailed with David Russell in his 28 foot sloop 'Olivia Ann III' out of Lymington.

To help offset the disappointment of the London Sailing Project, Martin Cursham came to our rescue with his 26 foot Invicta sloop moored at Bosham. Aboard on 1/2nd October were Phil Shortman, Paul Bacon, Martin Cursham and myself.

Reports on both of these sails appear elsewhere in this issue, but my sincere thanks to Martin and David for their kindness, and we hope to see them again in 1978.

We entered the GLSW County Regatta at Kingston Reach on 11th September, and all did well. The Troop taking a creditable second place.

On 17th September two of our Scouts - Andrew Sainsbury-Brown and Richard Beasley were privileged to receive their Chief Scout Awards from the Chief Scout himself at a presentation at Gilwell Park to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee Year. A not to be forgotten experience of which a report appears elsewhere.

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SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued)

We entered the Middlesex Canoe Race again this year held on 25th September, and took away the 'Whitton Shield' for third place. Individually we did extremely well. Roy Copestake winning class 3A; Phil Shortman won class 3B; and Richard Beasley was first in class 3C setting a new record time and winning for himself a set of the famous Mark Gee paddles. Richard also bought home the 'Achilles Trophy' which the Group had recently presented to the organiser, Ken Fielder, GSL of 16th Twickenham Sea Scouts. Last, but not least, Paul Bacon and Tony Sparks won the K2 class for their age.

WELL DONE EVERYONE

The Fulwell Station of the London Fire Service very kindly ran a Fireman Badge course for us from 12th September - 10th October; all 9 entrants passed - Phil Shortman, Tony Sparks, Richard Beasley, Ian Browne, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Gordon Cross, Paul Killick, Phil Ward, Keith Gale. Well done.

At last the GREAT DAY arrived - Wednesday, 12th October. It will be remembered as a Red Letter Day in the history of 1st Hampton Hill. ROYAL NAVAL INSPECTION FOR RECOGNITION.

I am convinced the evening was a tremendous success thanks to all the Scouters, Group Officials and ladies who did so much to make it a success. We were delighted to have present the following...

Lt. Comdr. Phillip Cressey	RM	- Inspecting Officer
Mr. & Mrs. Don Young		- Deputy County Commissioner
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Jones		- Assistant County Commissioner Water Activities
Mr. & Mrs. Derek Stevens		- District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner Cubs
Cllr. Monty Leaney		- President Twickenham District Council
Mr. Alan Williams		- ex Scouter 1st Hampton Hill
Mr. Percy Baldon		- ex Group Scout Master 1st Hampton Hill

My personal thanks must go to the Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venture Scouts. I thought their performance was terrific, and had we the space to invite all the parents you would have been extremely proud of your sons that evening.

I now await with bated breath the end of the year to see where we stand in the "entry stakes".

The District Swimming Gala took place on 14th October at Richmond Baths at which the Troop came seventh. Well done young Paul Beasley who earned a certificate from the District Commissioner for gaining a third place. My thanks to Vincent Whitehead who acted as Team Manager. Unfortunately no Scouter was able to be present that evening. Well done the team.

The Group Supporters Association held a most successful Jumble Sale on 15th October at which a large number of Scouts assisted.

We ventured forth to the Greater London South West County Mountain Race at Bethesda, 28/30th October. Ken Dart and I took Paul Bacon, Phil Shortman, Richard Beasley, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Keith Gale, Paul Dart, Clive Owen, Bruce Roaf, Johnathon Draper, and this year in spite of fairly bad weather conditions it was again a most successful trip. My personal thanks to Ken for sharing the driving. It made life so much easier with two of us spelling the wheel. A report by Ken appears elsewhere in this issue.

SEA SCOUT TROOP (continued)

On 2nd November we held a unique going-up ceremony. For the first time all sections combined taking Cubs into Scouts, and Scouts into Ventures. It was nice to see all three sections on parade together and we will try to arrange similar events in the future.

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions due to the going-up ceremony.

QUARTERDECK

PL Andrew Sainsbury-Brown
APL Paul Killick

FO'CASTLE

PL Ian Browne
APL Ian Berger

FORETOP

PL Richard Beasley
APL Duncan McLeod

MIZZEN

PL Gordon Cross
APL Keith Gale

In the Patrol Leader's Council - Richard Beasley is the Chairman and the Secretary is Andrew Sainsbury-Brown.

I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Troop our thanks to a man who works tirelessly behind the scenes. I refer to Mr. Ken Dart, our Group Quartermaster, who looks after all the tentage, camping equipment, etc. His efforts in this field are magnificent. Thankyou Ken, for without all your work camps etc. would not be possible.

Finally, may I personally thank all those who have made so much possible this year, and to all those wives who have shown so much tolerance and understanding -- particularly my own !!!!!

Happy Christmas and successful, prosperous New Year to you all.

RON SPARKS (BOSUN)

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FROM THE H.Q. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our grateful thanks to all the friends and supporters who helped with the painting and decorating of the H.Q. during the year. We hope that the new fences around the perimeter will be erected during the next few months. We will then need that help all over again to landscape the grounds.

How about a few different people coming along to help (you will receive a note giving dates and times).

We are also about to start building the boxed-in seating around the Main Hall. How about coming along to help on 28th DECEMBER?

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THE VENTURE UNIT

1977 - Probably the most critical year in the short history of the Venture Unit. From the small group who originally met in the bedroom of Paul (Thumbsoff) Williams we suddenly had a new intake of members coming up from the Scouts, which coupled with the facility of being able to meet in the new H.Q. every Tuesday evening means that the Unit has become a force to be reckoned with. Unfortunately immediately after another successful Longridge Regatta our original V.S.L. Alan (Fingersoff) Williams resigned, and moved away from the district.

The Unit then started a very hectic summer season when they entered the Arun Canoe Race, Middlesex Regatta, GLSW Regatta, Big Ship Sailing, Rock climbing, Downman's Hike, and numerous other climbing and hiking activities. Follow this with a 5-aside competition against other Venture Units and 'breaking-in' the newer members, it can be seen that we have a very active Unit.

Now that the Winter programme has started we are re-building the Canadian Canoe (under the guidance of Den Bacon), talks and slides on Big Ship Sailing by Clem and Ian; motor maintenance - archery - fire prevention - are also on the Winter programme.

The Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of David Ward, are really doing a first rate job, and have now taken up the challenge set them by Commander Philip Cressey, the Inspecting Officer at the RN Recognition Inspection, that they should try for the Venture Scout Award - I am sure that by this time next year a number of them will have achieved this. One of the qualifications required is that of 'SERVICE' which in some cases will be passed by Unit members helping with the Cubs or Scouts, and finally when the Unit member reaches the ripe old age of twenty they will not leave the Group but will continue to be members of our new 'Service Crew' who can help out in any of the sections which will, we hope, ensure continuity within the Group.

DEN 'TESCO' V.S.L.

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A MESSAGE TO OUR GROUP SUPPORTERS

The uniformed section wish to take this opportunity of thanking those parents, helpers, and supporters for all their efforts "behind the scenes" during the past year. There are so many jobs which go un-noticed (and sometimes unthanked) but which are greatly appreciated and essential to the smooth and efficient running of our Group. May we wish you all the compliments of the season, and a happy and involved New Year.

YOU ARE THE GREATEST !!!

CHIEF SCOUTS AWARD

The 17th September was to be a very special day for both Richard Bessley and I, for we were to receive our Chief Scout Awards from the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone, at Gilwell Park. The reason for it being such an important ceremony was that it was to be the largest gathering of Scouts ever to be presented at one time with the Award (some 3,000) and also to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the 70th Anniversary of the Movement. The presentations were to be made at small garden parties.

My parents and I left home at 0745 hrs. on a windy and dismal day, firstly collecting Richard and then on to Bosun's house. We met Bosun at his house and set off at 0805 hrs. arriving at Gilwell at 0915 hrs.

On arrival we were presented with a commemorative folder containing a copy of the Scouting magazine, a timetable of the days events, and a letter from the Chief Scout, and a map of Gilwell. As we looked through our folders it appeared that the garden parties started at 0830 hrs. We looked for our site, which was the Greater London South West; all we found were some tents but no sign of life. Our organiser duly arrived, telling us to be ready for our garden party at 1545 hrs. We went back to our cars, had lunch, and then had a tour of Gilwell; brought some commemorative badges of the occasion, also getting Den Tesco's and Bosun's Scout belts branded and badge swapped with the Aldershot scouts.

At 1545 hrs. we went to our respective site and at 1650 hrs. along with 15 other scouts I was marched to the garden party where we had tea and a sandwich with our guests. Richard was in a later party. We were shown our exact places to stand and then stood at ease and told that the Press and TV were also present.

At 1700 on the dot Sir William Gladstone arrived looking very distinguished in his uniform. He went to each boy in turn presenting the Certificate and asking questions. The ceremony lasted not more than 20 minutes. Sir William Gladstone spoke quietly - his knowledge of boating activities and our area of the River Thames was astounding.

At 1830 hrs. the Chief Scout gave a speech to all Award Holders on the future of Scouting and congratulated all the boys on their achievement.

By the time we reached the Camp Fire Arena it was packed out so we decided to make for home - very tired, but with memories of a not to be forgotten day.

Thanks to Bosun for all his 'pushing' to help us get this Award.

"YOUNG TESCO"

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* STOP PRESS: *  
* THE CHRISTMAS MARKET ON 26th NOVEMBER *  
* MADE A PROFIT OF .... £320. *  
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LYMINGTON SAIL : 12/14th AUGUST 1977

After an early start with Bosun at the wheel, Richard Beasley, Philip Ward, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown (Tesco) and myself (Gordon Cross), arrived at Lymington at 0900 hrs. We looked around the yacht which is a 28' 6-ton sloop named 'Olivia Ann III' and can sleep six people comfortably.

We motored out of Lymington and set sail once we were clear of the main traffic. We made our way to Poole Harbour and arrived early evening and spent the night anchored off Brownsea Island. After our evening meal we blew up the rubber dinghy and went for a row. As the light was starting to fade we had a game of cards and then turned in for the night.

Saturday morning, after a good breakfast, we set sail for Swanage. The trip was a little rough, but we all arrived in one piece. The evening was spent discussing the day's activities. We put our heads down early as we had to make an early start back home.

Next day we followed a course to Poole Bar Buoy and from there set another course to Lymington via the North route. We arrived at Lymington just after lunch.

The weather was marvellous, and we had a great three days sailing.

Our thanks to Skipper David Russell for making the sail so interesting.

GORDON CROSS

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A WEEKEND SAIL -1/2nd OCTOBER 1977

Early one cold, windy October morning Bosun picked Paul Bacon, Mr. Cursham and myself up for what proved to be an exhilarating and interesting weekend. We were going sailing on Mr. Cursham's sailing boat moored at Bosham, a picturesque village near Chichester.

After one-and-a-half hours travelling we arrived at the very windy mooring. As we were rowing out to the lovely 26' Invicta sloop, Paul and I were beginning to wonder if we were doing the right thing sitting in a tiny rubber dinghy getting soaked not from rain, but spray. As soon as we set foot on the boat we felt sure that we were in safe and experienced hands, looking forward to a very exciting weekend sail.

After having a conducted tour of the boat we left our mooring with limited sail up, to be precise a storm jib and a mainsail with several reefs. This was necessary as the wind was blowing a force 6-7 and even sometimes gusting 8. Due to this we did not go out of the sheltered estuary but sailed down to Hayling Island where we moored and ate lunch. This may not seem much, but I assure you it was enough. A couple of times Paul and I were sure that the boat was at an angle of 35°. The sail back was much faster and smoother as the wind was behind us. Thoroughly exhausted from our days sail we settled down to a lovely meal and a couple of rounds of Canasta.

The next day, Sunday, we were woken by the lovely soft voice of Bosun at 0630 hrs. Listening to the off-shore weather forecast

A WINDY SAIL (continued)

and hearing that the wind was going to drop a force or two, Mr. Cursham decided to take us out to Nab Tower, a light-house in the Solent.

So, once more we left our moorings, this time with slightly more sail. Paul took the helm until we passed Chichester Bar, then it was my turn. The sea was not particularly calm, but soon I got the hang of it and enjoyed every minute.

While Mr. Cursham had the helm Bosun decided to change sides to see the view, but as he stood up he met with a gust of wind and his famous hat, which every Scout knows, went for a swim. Words to the effect that Bosun had lost his hat reached the Skipper who quickly did a man over board drill and recovered it.

We went round Nab Tower, Englands equivalent to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and safely returned to our moorings, just about left with my stomach.

We then cleared the boat's larder, tidied up, and left.

We truly learnt that the sea is very dangerous and is to be respected by everybody.

We would again like to thank Mr. Cursham for the very enjoyable and thrilling weekend which he gave us.

PHILIP SHORTMAN

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BETHESDA EXPEDITION 1977

On Friday, 28th October, nine Scouts, Ron Sparks and Ken Dart set off for Bethesda, North Wales, in a mini-bus. The journey went as planned, arriving at 2100 hours.

On arrival we were served with hot soup, cheese and biscuits - and bunked down for an early night.

Saturday - breakfast at 0700 hours and transported out onto the Peak mountains with the wind blowing a gale. The party divided into four groups, each led by an experienced leader. Our group passed Lake Ogwen, covered with 'white horses' whipped up by the wind, and started to climb Carnedd Dafydd; halfway up we were enveloped in mist and got into our waterproofs. Arriving at the top, two hours later, still covered in cloud, everyone readily agreed to a ten minute rest, quite dramatically the clouds vanished and blue skies appeared giving us glorious views of Pema Straits, Puffin Island, and the surrounding mountains. We continued along the ridge path and lunched at 1300 hours within a rock shelter from the gale force winds. Lunch consisted of raisins, chocolate, cheese and biscuits, all contained within a small plastic bag. Yes, you can imagine the remarks as each bag of raisins was passed to Paul 'Piggy' Bacon. During lunch several groups of walkers attempted to use our shelter. Surprised to find it in use, they waited in small groups for it to become vacant: it reminded me of queuing for a table in Bentalls on a Saturday.

Several peaks later we descended into a boggy valley, had to cross a river without getting too wet, and walked back to base arriving at 1645 hours.

BETHESDA EXPEDITION (continued)

That evening the leaders discussed mountain skills and safety, supported with films.

Sunday - gale blowing and driving rain. After breakfast the leaders demonstrated rock climbing techniques and the use of ropes. The parties then left for the mountains, but owing to extreme weather conditions the rock climbing was cancelled; the lads let off steam boulder-hopping and returned for a hot meal at 1200 hours.

One hour later the base was cleared and cleaned, farewells exchanged and we headed for home, nine lads (Phil Shortman, Paul Bacon, Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, Richard Beasley, Keith Gale, Clive Owen, Paul Dart, Johnathan Draper, Bruce Roaf) nodding off peacefully in the back.

KEN DART

-----oooOOooo-----

"THEY'VE GONAWAY"

They joined years ago
When Paul was a lad
And when help was wanted
They called on his Dad

Then Paul got bigger
And became a Scout
So Dad got hauled in
To help that lot out

Then a QM was needed
And who did they call
Of course it was Dad
Helped by son, Paul

Then a Unit was formed
By a small group of lads
Whose house did they meet in?
Of course - Paul's Dads

Then a leader was wanted
To help with our sons
At camp, early starts
With cross-country runs

Now whilst all this went on
Paul's Mum did not shirk
Feeding these brutes
And fund raising work

But Sussex kept tempting
Them away from us all
That's Alan and Doreen
And also son Paul

Oh how we do miss them
At First Hampton Hill
For the gaps that they've left
We never will fill

For you see they are friends
And as all Scouters know
Friends are forever
Where-ever they go.

ANON

GROUP SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

There has been some changes on the Committee since the last Newsletter. The two longest serving members of the Committee, Mrs. Gladys Shortman and Mrs. Gwen Richards have resigned after many years service. Also, Mrs. Valerie Beresford and Mrs. Janet Hughes also resigned at the end of the financial year. I know that their assistance will be greatly missed.

We have been fortunate enough, however, to obtain the services of three further ladies. Namely, Mrs. Pauline Naess, Mrs. Susan Owen and Mrs. Shirley Sainsbury-Brown.

You will have already been approached about our two major undertakings at present, namely the sale of the Christmas Cards and our Christmas Bazaar. By the time this Newsletter is circulated these two ventures will have been completed. I am unable to report at this time on the success of these, although indications are that the Christmas Cards are running well to form; and we expect to get somewhere near last year's figure of £1950 worth of sales.

A Jumble Sale was held on 22nd October and a record profit was made of £194. At present, we are considering money raising and social functions for the March/April 1978 period. I am not in a position at this stage to give any further information.

I am sure you will appreciate that the number of functions that can be raised is dependent upon the amount of support that we get from the parents and the size and amount of time that can be made available by each member of the Committee. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to put on various functions, and because of personal commitments to work and family it is not always possible to devote as much time as one would like. The present Committee consists of four men and seven ladies, and I would be very interested to speak to any gentlemen who would consider joining our Committee in order to give it a better balance of the sexes. The post of Assistant Chairman has been vacant now for some 6/7 years, and I could really do with some support. If you feel you could help on the Committee, or be of assistance to the Committee in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MICK WARD
Chairman GSA
45 Cardinals Walk
Hampton.
Tel: 979-2834

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* STOP PRESS: *
* AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT, CHRISTMAS *
* CARD SALES HAVE REACHED THE FANTASTIC *
* FIGURE OF £1931. 18p. OUR THANKS, ONCE *
* AGAIN, TO MRS. SEWELL FOR HER TERRIFIC EFFORT *

SCOUT LEADER	Edgar Harborne	"Southdown" 146 Lower Green Road Esher, Surrey. Tel: 78-66758
SCOUT LEADER	Ron Sparks	152 Park Road Hounslow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-894-4101
SCOUT LEADER	Dennis Sainsbury- Brown	10 Garside Close, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-1374
INSTRUCTOR	Ted Lawrence	9 Cardinals Walk, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-6659
INSTRUCTOR	Henry Shortman	11 Albury Close Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-5002
INSTRUCTOR	Dennis Bacon	17 Fairlight Uxbridge Road Hampton, Middlesex Tel: 01-979-8945
INSTRUCTOR (CUBS)	Keith Ferguson	8 Taylor Close, Hampton Hill, Middlesex. Tel: 01-941-0228
GROUP CHAIRMAN	Vincent Whitehead	3 Howard Close, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-1826
GROUP SECRETARY	Gerry Pratley	28 Lawrence Road Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-941-0358
GROUP TREASURER	Mick Rowland	26 Coombe Drive, Addlestone, Surrey. Tel: 97-44805
GROUP QUARTERMASTER	Ken Dart	33 Bluefield Close, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-941-0097
CHAIRMAN	Mick Ward	45 Cardinals Walk, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-2834
SECRETARY	Diane Gibson	69 Albury Close, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-0822
TREASURER	Shirley Sainsbury- Brown	10 Garside Close, Hampton, Middlesex. Tel: 01-979-1374