

7th Epsom News



November 2009

www.7thepsom.org.uk

Queen Scout Awards

Congratulations to Kelly and Zoe Dallen who have both been awarded their Queen Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting.

The Queen Scout Award involves doing everything for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and then a little bit more!

The presentation of their certificates was held in the Science Museum and the recipients met Bear Grylls, the new Chief Scout.

So what did they do?

For their expeditions they went to Sweden and travelled into the Arctic Circle experienced the midnight sun, slept in a Sami hut, ate raw Reindeer, got eaten alive by mosquitoes and interacted with many local Swedish residents and, for one of their projects, compared recycling with that in England. They spent ten days on their expedition and also gained their Explorer Belt, another prestigious Scouting award!

For Zoe, the Service part of the award included becoming qualified as a First Aider, being a Beaver Scout Leader for over ten years, helping as a Teaching Assistant at a local school and running a crèche. Kelly also qualified as a First Aider, helped with school kids with Behavioural Needs in Coventry following her studies at University earning a Disaster Management degree and helped as Scout Leader.

They both went on a course and became qualified shooting instructors and are now able to teach shooting and help out at the shooting club.

They played major roles organising international expeditions to Uganda. Among many other projects, Zoe was responsible for buying and installing a children's playground in Tororo town centre (swings, climbing frames, seesaws and roundabouts) which was completed by the English and Ugandan Scouts working together. Kelly organised the Mayuge project that included creating Protected Springs, giving clean drinking water to 1,000s of Ugandan residents.

They have both done much more but we have run out of space!

Water Weekend 2009

Our annual Water Activity weekend took place on the weekend of 19th September at the Longridge Scout Boating Centre. The centre is located on the Thames near Marlow and occupies a quiet backwater behind an island in the river, so it is clear of the main Thames traffic.

48 Scouts and Guides travelled up to Marlow by coach on the Friday evening, along with approximately 20 leaders and activity instructors. They were preceded by an advance party of leaders, a few scouts and nine explorer scouts, who erected the large marquee in advance, along with a large mess tent (more of that later). These sat on the river bank, between the river and the sleeping quarters. When the main party arrived it was getting dark, but they were quickly organised to erect their tents, the whole affair being lit by lamps from two generators. Friday night ended with cocoa and biscuits in the marquee, then late to bed –

even then some of the scouts and guides still managed to talk in their tents until the early hours!

Saturday dawned bright and sunny. An early breakfast was organised by the fantastic catering team, at which point we were joined by 24 cubs and a group of cub leaders and helpers, who had come for the day. The whole contingent were organised into groups and set off to start the activities. On offer were kayaking (the one-person ones); Canadian canoes (the big open multi-person ones); raft building and launching (usually followed by falling in and swimming); row-boats; a climbing wall; the leap-of-faith (climbing a telegraph pole and jumping from the top onto a trapeze – whilst safely roped of course); making giant siege catapults (one on the bank and one on the island) and firing water bombs at the opposition and often at hapless canoeists; giant jenga; silly Olympics (e.g. putting the cotton wool ball) and a range of other land-based (dry) bases.

Lunch, once again prepared by the catering team, was taken outside on benches in the sun. This was followed by an afternoon of similar activities. By now we had built a rope bridge over the river to the island, which also drew crowds to walk across (and perhaps fall in part-way if they chose). We said goodbye to the cubs and many of the leaders and explorer scouts finished the dying light of the day by canoeing up to the nearby locks and riding down the weir (not for the faint hearted). After dinner, the mess tent was transformed into a cinema (wonderful what you can do when you have a generator) and all who wanted to were able to sing along to Mama Mia. The older scouts and Explorers lit a camp fire and sat around chatting.

Sunday once again dawned bright and dry. The morning was spent on activities again, with the scouts and guides choosing their favourites. After lunch the tents and equipment were taken down, the trailer packed and everyone boarded cars, minibuses or the coach for the journey back to Epsom – tired but happy to have had another fabulous water weekend.

Tony Marshall

Tin can challenge

On Sunday the 11th October my sister, Connie, her friend, Anna, Anthony Chalkley and I were challenged with completing the Tin can challenge. When we set out to complete it, it was a rainy day and we got lost twice but we had great fun. As we went round the huge course we had to complete five difficult challenges. In The first challenge we had to put up a tent as best we could within ten minutes, we got a total 16 out of 20. After trudging a long way through rainy forests we finally found our second base, we got lost once on the way but we corrected ourselves and found the right track. The second base we had to memorise 20 items between and write them down. We got all 20 and the top score. The walk to the next base was a slightly easier because a leader gave us directions. At the third base we had to put as many marbles as we could in to a big flower pot through the holes on the bottom, using tiny ice-cream spoons! Though our group did get the highest number in and yet again the top score. As soon as we had left the base we went a mile in the wrong direction and had to go back, so by the time we finally got to the fourth base we were exhausted. At the fourth base we had to run water, from one litre jug of water to another, through gutters. To get full points we had to get the **whole** litre to the second jug. After a few test run we poured the whole jug down the line and none spilled we had done it and got full marks. We made it to the final base in no time at all. On this base we had to pick safety pins out of a bowl of rice. We got six out of ten of them which was also the highest score of the night but we only got 6 out of the 10 possible points. When we reached the small hall from which we had started we waited anxiously to find out who had won. To our amazement we had and we were overjoyed.

George Sibthorp Prottis.

We also had another team in the competition (Hector Leitch, Sam Hunnable, Matt Wadey and Joshua Allard) who came 2nd.

An excellent result, well done to both teams. Thanks to all of the leaders that helped to organise and run the day.'

Zoe Dallen

GSL's Report

New Editor for 7th Epsom News

Colin Sowman has agreed to take over as editor from January 2010 and 7th Epsom News will be published mid-month. Please get your articles to Colin by the beginning of the month you would like them to appear.

Survey

We need your opinion – last month 7th Epsom News included a survey, please return it to your section leader, post it in the Scout HQ letter box or send it to 77 Hazon Way. Closing date to be included in the 'count' for the section prize is 30th November 2009.

Neil Dallen (01372 728187)

Articles for 7th Epsom News are welcome from anyone and should be sent to Neil Dallen at 77 Hazon Way, Epsom KT19 8HG or emailed to neil@interim-mgmt.demon.co.uk for December issue and to the new editor Colin Sowman on email colin.sowman@gmail.com for future issues starting January 2010.

Donations for the new HQ to

Karolina Whitehorn, 3b The Grove KT17 4DQ.

Cheques to 7th Epsom Scout Group Building Appeal.

Dates for your Diary

December

Community Christmas Post Scheme

2010

April 1st–6th Easter Expedition - Explorers

May 28th–31st Spring Camp – Cubs, Scouts & Explorers

July 24th – August 4th (provisional) Sweden camp - Scouts

July 24th – August 11th (provisional) Sweden camp and Explorer Belt

1000 Club winners - Congratulations

May	1 st Gwenda Froud	2 nd Sara Curtis	3 rd Mary Fox
June	1 st and 2 nd Maria Kiero Watson	3 rd Sara Curtis	
July	1 st Hugh Sear	2 nd Bob Allen	3 rd Anthony Harrison
August	1 st James Arnold	2 nd Margaret Roberts	3 rd Mary Fox
Sept.	1 st Pam Brogan	2 nd Mary Fox	3 rd Anthony Harrison

6 monthly bumper prize – Anthony Harrison