



8th Worthing Sea Scout Group
AGM Reports
2012

As in previous years I shall present a brief summary of the activities of the sections. Full details are of course contained in their individual accounts.

Port Beaver Scouts arranged their programme around a different theme for each term. In the summer term, a visit to the Wildfowl Trust at Arundel was followed up with pond dipping, a nature ramble, making aquariums and even octopus biscuits (the mind boggles). In the autumn term the theme were the Emergency Aid, and Air Activity Badges. (I don't know what it is about Sea Scouts they always want to play with aeroplanes). The spring term was based on passports and travel and included activities on clean water supplies and fair trade in developing countries as the Beavers worked for their International Partnership Award.

Starboard Beaver Scouts had a visit from a lady in her wheelchair with her dog and showed how a dog can help a person who is not fully mobile. An ex-Beaver gave a talk on breeding chickens for show and the Beavers specially liked the small chicks. Trips to see Peter Pan (Boo) and a sleepover at the HQ followed. A night beach walk combined with a town quiz sounded like fun.

Starboard Cub Scouts won the District rounders competition, visited the new lifeboat station at Shoreham. (If you haven't been, I recommend a visit). A sleepover at the HQ followed a night hike on the Downs. Autumn and winter activities included a visit to Chichester Planetarium and an indoor camp at Wilverley during February. The Spring term started with a French evening including food tasting. One evening was devoted to re-cycling, the Cubs bringing in items from home to be recycled

Midship Cub Scouts had a very busy autumn term with plenty of badges gained following camps at held at Yapton Scout HQ and the annual camp at Stanfords. Swimming and Water Activity badges were gained following visits to Lancing college pool and kayaking sessions organised by the Explorer Unit.

Port Scouts. Mark and Lou Scott ran their last annual camp held at Oxford before handing over the reins to a new leadership team. A good number of badges were gained at the annual camp and this good work continued for the rest of the year with over 100 badges gained. An Outdoor Challenge camp was held during September including using altar fires which I have not seen on an 8th Worthing camp since I became involved in 1979! Other activities included communications, astronomy a night hike, wide game and pioneering projects.

Starboard Scouts again went to Longridge for their annual camp which was a great success. During the year over 100 badges have been gained including 6 Chief Scout's Gold Awards. The Scouts tried the gentle art of bowling at the Pavilion Bowling Club, and then ten pin bowling at Christmas. Ice skating at Guildford and potholing at Cheddar followed then a canoe expedition on the River Medway; truly a varied programme.

The **Osprey Explorer Unit** with 47 members compared with the UK average of 16, are one of the largest in the country. The programme for the year included a talk on town planning, Rugby Union at Twickenham, hot air balloons and an expedition to Snowdonia in the spring. A talk on Buddhism and meditation broadened Explorer's view of human nature. As 2 Explorers went to the World Jamboree in Sweden, the Unit held their annual camp at Carrot Wood, Tonbridge, undertaking a wide variety of activities. The Unit were runners-up in the RN 6-a-side competition held at HMS Bristol in Portsmouth. The explorers acted as casualties for a fire training exercise at the Beach Hotel. In February a night hike in the snow sounds fantastic.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is still well supported, with 7 members gaining their Bronze Award and a further 7 gaining their Silver awards. Lawrence Shaw, an ex-member has now received his Gold Award at St. James' Palace. A variety of sports feature in the Physical Recreation part of the Award, including cricket, football, badminton, swimming and volleyball. The Skills section has seen playing the clarinet, guitar and drums, scenery construction and website design. The Volunteering section has seen members helping at church youth clubs, charity shops, a Guide Company and football coaching. The DofE section relies heavily on the skills and knowledge of leaders and members of the other sections of the group, without which it would not prosper.

During the year we decided to close the **Port Watch Cub Pack** due to the resignation of some leaders. Despite our best efforts we were unable to keep this section going. The boys and girls involved were offered places at our other two Packs. In practice, we had been artificially suppressing the Cub Scout numbers to avoid over-stretching the two Scout Troops which both had membership in the high 40's. The situation is now more balanced with 2 packs feeding into 2 troops.

Finally, I am sure as you read through the report in detail; you will have noticed the large number of people who are helping the sections achieve the wonderful activity programmes mentioned. Many of these people are parents and friends, and there are also a significant number of Scouts and Explorer Scouts helping with the younger sections. So as well as thanking all the Uniformed Leaders and Executive members, I should like to specially thank these other persons who beaver away in the background because they enjoy what they are doing and think it is worthwhile.

Ian Wetherell
Group Scout Leader.

For the Summer term we started with a visit to the WWT at Arundel looking at pond life as well as the birds. We then looked at the countryside and had a nature ramble. This was followed with a sea life theme where aquariums and octopus biscuits were made, and a pirate evening complete with treasure hunt. We also had a town quiz round Worthing.

The Autumn term found us working towards Emergency Aid and Air activity badges, which included a visit from an ex-RAF man. Most of the Beavers also attended another District Fun Day at Dappers Lane, which was a once again a great success. We also had our annual sleepover which all the children enjoyed thoroughly. The term was finished off with a magician and Xmas party.

For the Spring term 2012 we had a passport theme and had a cowboy campfire evening and Caribbean beach party. We studied Fair Trade and Right to Clean Water as they worked towards their International Partnership Award.

All those Beavers going on to Cubs have managed to gain their Chief Scout Bronze Awards before leaving. I would like to give special thanks to my ABSL Keith Preston and my Colony Assistants Emma Wallace and Mel Doyle for all their invaluable help and support. I would also like to thank my Scout and Explorer helpers Alex Owen, Kieran Wallace and Benjamin Rees for all the assistance they give to the Colony.

Jane Preston (Beaver Scout Leader).

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Well after many years as Assistant Beaver Leader I took over from Bryan as Beaver Leader this year as he has gone to live in Kenya. We held a leaving party for him and presented him with an engraved frame which of course starred our beavers in the photograph! I am delighted to have Raine Miles as our Assistant Beaver leader. Also congratulations to Stephen Turtle who is now a Beaver Scout Section Assistant following his successful appointment in Feb this year.

As usual we have had fun at beavers with our varied programme. We had a visit from Canine Partners-a lady in a wheelchair with her dog showing the fantastic help dogs are to a disabled person. On another night an ex-beaver Louis Cottle-Barnett come in to show and tell his chickens which he shows and breeds. The beavers had a great time stroking the chickens and loved the baby chicks he brought along. We held a sleepover in October going ten pin bowling, walking back to the scout hut-had pizzas a DVD and most importantly HOT CHOCOLATE!

We boomed and shouted at the Peter Pan pantomime at the Pavilion Theatre in December, searched for crabs on our beach rock pooling night, went tracking at Honeysuckle Lane, taken our torches for our night beach walk and held a Worthing town quiz where both beavers and adults saw many things in our town centre they had never noticed before!

16 of our beavers achieved their Bronze Challenge Awards and attended a ceremony at Durrington School given their certificates by the mayor of Worthing.

I must give great thanks to Jon Starr, Lauren Emms, Nick Short, Declan Southby and Tom and Olli Rowley who all came along from Starboard Scouts to help us throughout the year. Also my thanks to the parents who have given their time to help with the various activities where we need extra adults.

I have had a great year of Fun and Friends with my beavers and thank them for that.

Otter
Fiona B.S.L.

A varied year for us all and we continue to steer the cubs each week to achieve their badges. Now we run at 33 cubs and still being asked for places from outside. Our team has grown with Stella and Kelvin Seacombe.

They came on board just before our summer camp last year, which was at Bentley Copse and bravely took on the galley and camp cooking for us all, which they did brilliantly and again at our very cold but fulfilling winter weekend camp at Wilverley this February in the snowy New Forest. Having a hearty dinner round the log burner was lovely.

Our young leaders, Josh Stewart, Richard Worsfold, William Lytton and Ross Stewart all of whom are doing a great job each week at cubs, plus they are attending young leaders module training and D of E, London to Brighton bike ride and their college and school exams. Thank you boys for your commitment to cubs, much appreciated by the cubs and leaders. We have Holly Seacombe and Megan Edwards as our scout helpers, they are an asset and work well within the pack.

So to Iain Stewart, Mick Lytton and Nick Davis who have many professional and scouting skills between them, much appreciated and they ensure all aspects of running our pack are met properly. Thank you.

Because of this team of friends and leaders, young and more mature! our pack nights are always, fun, informative and planned so as the cubs get the most out of what scouting has to offer.

And so, some of our activities have been:-

Winning the district rounder's tournament last July.

Some of our cubs and leaders were part of the Gang Show last April, very challenging.

Our brilliant Bentley Copse summer camp, a visit to the fantastic new Lifeboat Station last September, Night Hike over the downs and sleepover at HQ in October, Chichester Planetarium in December always a favourite and our picturesque winter Wilverley camp in February.

Also through the year we raised money for the Air Ambulance with various events including a quiz and cake sale at the last AGM.

So with all that I would like to thank you all for your support and dedication to Starboard cub pack.

Well done to my cubs for welcoming in Port cubs and not questioning it!
Thank you to the parents for turning out such smart cubs.

Jayne Gathergood - Akela

Midship Cubs have had another busy, successful, FUN-PACKED year.

Summer Term 2011 - We started the term with a Royal Family evening. The cubs chose which 2 badges they wanted to gain over 2 meetings - Hobbies, Collector, Book Reader, Skater, Martial Arts, Sports Enthusiast or Musician. They worked towards their Fitness Challenge and had a Tai Chi evening with Ian Churchman. They also took their Athletes, Athletes Plus or Cyclist Badge. The Senior Cubs ran a games evening, we made Father's Day Gifts, and had a visit from the Police towards their Community Challenge. We also took part in both the Cub District Football and the Cub District Rounders.

We ended the term with a BBQ which was held at the HQ instead of Goring Gap because of the rain - what a surprise!!

We held two Camps. One was for older cubs over a weekend in June at Yapton Scout HQ so that they could gain their Outdoor Plus Challenge. Our Summer camp was held at Stanford's Camp Site and was well attended.

Thanks to Roy Wells, for running the camps, and to Thekla and Paul Christopher, Chris Sawyer (an ex Midship Leader), and the catering team of Owen Hall, Rachel Henderson-Payne and Sally Tomlinson.

Many badges were gained - Camper, Naturalist, Emergency Aid, Navigator, Map Reader, Scientist, Astronomer, Local Knowledge, My Faith, Physical Recreation, Nights Away, Hikes Away, and Outdoor Challenge.

Autumn Term 2011 - We held a Sausage Sizzle and a campfire at Dappers lane, Angmering, We studied for the Global Challenge by having talks on Fair Trade (with food tasting), on the Jamboree from Lucy Hammond, and the Scouts held an OXFAM evening. The Cubs spent a Saturday evening at Lancing Swimming Pool taking their Swimmers badges, thanks to James Swift for his help), and the older Cubs went kayaking with Paul Chaplain and James Hackett so that they could gain their water Activities Badge. We were visited by Sama Karate towards their Fitness Challenge. Many of our Cubs attended the Remembrance Day Service and Parade. The cubs either took their Home Safety or Personal Safety Badges, and either their Artist or Local Knowledge Badges this term

We ended the term on our last 3 evenings with Christmas Crafts evening, went to the Panto (oh yes we did!) and held an extended Christmas party evening with DVDs, take-a-way, and games.

Spring Term 2012 - We started this term with a French evening, with a talk, a quiz, and the Cubs Favourite, food tasting! Also we started working towards their Global Conservation Badge with country code and environment evenings. The Scouts ran a recycling evening. We also set up our own recycling scheme with the cubs bringing in clothes, shoes, stamps, and milk bottle tops. The Senior Cubs ran an evening, and we also visited the Mosque for the World Faiths Badge, while the older cubs took their I.T. Badge. We held a sponsored walk in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and Midship Cubs.

A team of six Cubs took part in the Cub District Handcraft Competition, and we held two craft evenings for the Mothers Day and Easter.

Over the last year we have awarded 263 activity badges, 59 challenge badges and 11 Silver Chief Scouts Awards.

I have to say a big thank you to my husband Jim for running the Football, helping with the rounders and badgework, and generally doing any job asked of him. Also I would like to thank my son Mike for his help and support.

Thanks to Paul Christopher for all his help and for his energetic enthusiasm when camping. Thanks to Wendy Bant who has all craft evenings this year.

I must also thank Lucy, Rachel, Harry, and Sam for their help this year. Also thanks to Starboard Scouts Gemma Stevens, Sam Hyde, Oliver Millard, Dan Smith, Zak Boucher, and Josh Appleton who helped us this year.

Lastly, thanks for the parental support we have received this year, and a big thank you to my Cubs who make every pack evening different and fun with their energy and enthusiasm, without whom none of the above would have been possible.

Deirdre Green - Cub Scout Leader.



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Chief Scout's Silver Awards were gained by the following Midship Cubs
between April 2011 and March 2012

Lewis Jan, Jake Moore, Marwan Burghli, Kurt Savory, Luis Doyle, Joe Bruford,
Joshua Jones, Finley Kesteven, Reilly Stow, Edward Craker, Joseph Brows

It has been an exciting adventure since the sad departure of Mark and Lou from the Leadership Team at Port Troop. I am sure that we would all like to thank both Lou and Mark for all their efforts and are extremely grateful for the wonderful job they have done in creating a great Troop.

The remainder of the Leadership Team have worked tirelessly on a balanced programme with the new addition of Alyn Laughlin to the team. Numbers have risen slightly with intakes of 7 new Scouts in the January and 8 in the April but most of our Senior Scouts have or will be transferring to Osprey Unit from January 2012 to September 2012 and we shall then become a very young Troop of Scouts.

...Leading from where Lou finished off for the report last year, I will get Mick to write this next bit about Summer Camp at 22nd Oxford in 2011.

Summer Camp was held on the banks of the River Thames, just downstream from Oxford by kind permission of the 22nd Oxford Scout Troop.

24 Scouts enjoyed a full week's programme of water and land activities. Unfortunately the river is too narrow to allow amateur sailing but full use was made of the Power Boat with Captain Mark instructing various scouts in the delicate art of throttling!

With many side streams and cuts it was a kayaker's pleasure ground as long as you avoided the rowers. So many, in fact, that surprisingly the chief kayak instructor got lost when leading a trip! There was even a small local weir to run and even the smallest and youngest paddlers had their first moving water experience shooting it.

When the scouts still had some energy left they were sent out pulling, rowing and sculling with various degrees of success.

Time off for good behaviour was spent swimming and bowling and the week ended with raft races when one or two people got wet. A fitting end to an excellent camp, which was to be Mark and Lou's last troop camp (for now!).

Badges resulting from summer camp were as follows:-

Outdoor Challenge Badge 4, Canoeist 11, Canoeist Plus 8, Basic Nautical 13, Nautical 4, Camper 4, 50 Nights Away 2, 35 Nights Away 9, 20 Nights Away 7 and the Pulling Badge 1. Badgework has been top of the agenda again. We have been extremely busy and have attained a stash of badges as follows:- Outdoor Challenge Plus 5, Adventure Challenge 1, Hobbies 21, Music Stage (1) 5, Swimming Stage (1) 3, Physical Recreation 13, Watersports 1, Model Making 3, Small holders 3, Chef 1, Entertainer 3, Community Challenge 1, Promise Challenge 18, Fitness Challenge 11, Craft Badge 1, Faith Badge 2, 20 Communicator 20, Emergency Aid Stage 3, 19 and Pioneering 37. Astronomers Badge (pending) 33 and Nautical badgework still ongoing.

At the end of September 2011 the Outdoor Challenge Plus Camp was a huge success. Led by Matt, we were lucky enough to have on board a fantastic Skills Instructor, Mark Scott.

Not only did the Scouts on the Camp build a Sturdy Bivouac, It was noted by Mark that we were the first for a while to actually build Altar Fires. We reintroduced the Communicator Badge, this activity being led by Alyn, using Semaphore and the phonetic alphabet; we also reintroduced pirates to the delight of the Scouts. Mick led the Pioneering and Nautical Activities, Matt led the Hiking and wide game activities and I led the Creative and cooking activities. Whilst this was going on, in the background I am keeping everyone informed by sending out weekly bulletins to the parents letting them know what is going on. In October we started planning Summer Camp 2012 by making our first risk assessment, by visiting the proposed Scout Site at Perch Poole in Dorset.

In December 2011, the Young Leaders, Rachel Austin and Tors Head ran their own meetings under the watchful eye of the Leaders, as part of their Young Leader Training. They made a fantastic mess building rockets and setting them off using vinegar and baking powder. We had our usual Christmas Party, this time Fancy Dress.

January 2012 saw the first intake of the year of new Scouts. 8 of our older Scouts moved on and we commenced the new programme until May. This year we were extremely fortunate to engage the services of Mr and Mrs Andy Price as Scout Parents and skills instructors for the Emergency Aid III badge.

The Team would like to say thank you for a most entertaining and fruitful completion of badgework. I am still smiling thinking about it. Mick Led various pioneering projects, on evening with the generous help of Mark Scott, Alyn Led the Astronomers Badge, Matt led the Night Hike and Wide Game and I led the Promise Challenge where the whole troop reviewed the old and drew up their new code of conduct and various cooking and creative activities whilst finding out about the Scouts and their Hobbies and what they liked to do.

We completed the Pioneering badgework building several monkey bridges on the main deck, the Astronomers Badgework will end once we have completed the project and those with Emergency Aid III before this year's activity commenced are working towards Emergency Aid 4.

Also around this time, Both Rachel and Tors were both awarded their DofE awards Rachel her Silver and Tors her Bronze and Alyn set up and started running the 8th Worthing Port Troop Website with all the news and views.

Towards the end of April this year whilst we had the wettest weather, I carried out a second risk assessment of the camp site taking pictures to show the team and at a subsequent planning meeting decided that Perch Poole was the place we would camp this Summer. We have had a huge response to summer camp this year with over 30 Scouts wishing to go on camp and planning is happening quite quickly now.

The Summer Programme is on track with a new young Leader joining us in the form of Jon Proctor a former Port Scout, with our usual fayre of Kayaking, Tent Pitching Camp Cooking and the Astronomy Project. Unfortunately, the Astronomy project is on hold after Alyn had a heart attack but with the help of parents we are managing to keep the rest on track in readiness for Summer Camp. We hope that Alyn gets better soon but rests easy, so that we can complete the Astronomy badgework. Again, we have submitted our entry this year for the District Raft Race for two teams, The Orchre and The Olympiad.

We, as a team, have almost completed a successful year and I would like to thank Mick, Matt, Alyn, Rachel, Tors and most recently, Jon Proctor for all their help in making this happen. I would also like to thank the Scout Parents who have been helping us out, sometimes, more recently at short notice. I am very grateful to you for all your help with particular thanks to Sarah Walker for her support in various things throughout the years I have been involved in Scouting i.e. Community Challenge, Cooking as well as the Art and Creative Challenges and DIY Badge Activities with Port Cubs. We would also like to thank John Nighy for providing the Transport for the kit for last year's summer camp and for this year's camp in Christchurch and to Dave Scott and John Nighy for driving it there.

We look forward to Summer Camp and welcome our new "Camp Mum" Teresa Price and our latest helper, Land Scout Leader from Brighton, Victoria Leon-Cutler.

Nikki Nighy

It has been another great year for Starboard Troop as we continue to enjoy the activities and balanced programme within in our popular Troop. Our current membership is 38 scouts and 8 regular leaders plus 2 occasional helpers.

Our badgework continues to be one of our great strengths and Pauline Wilton continues to administer and coordinate this and has helped a number of our scouts achieve the highest award possible. Our scouts have earned a good number of Challenge badges and many are now well under way to gaining their Chief Scout's Gold Award. We have awarded 6 this year.

Since last April, our Scouts have earned many badges between them. These include 7 Adventure Challenges, 3 Community Challenges, 19 Global Challenges, 6 Expedition Challenges, 10 Promise Challenges, 3 Creative Challenges, 7 Fitness Challenges, 9 Basic Nautical Skills, 8 Canoeist, 13 Camper, 9 Power Coxswain, 15 Quartermasters and 13 Athletes.

Last year's summer camp was another great success; 28 scouts camped at Longridge Boating Centre in Marlow and had a brilliant week of water and land based activities. One of the highlights for the leaders was getting every scout to kayak over Marlow weir! We are looking forward to another great summer camp at Longridge this year and are excited about using their new facilities and trying out their new activities.

In September we took the scouts to Pavilion Bowling Club who tried their hand at bowls. Everyone came away having thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We went canoe rolling and completed the swimmer badges at Lancing College. We went to Alton Towers and Cadbury World during half term. Twenty scouts went scuba diving at the Padi Training Centre in Lancing. At Christmas we had a party and took the scouts ten pin bowling and we went ice skating at the Guildford Spectrum. Pauline organised a great weekend camp at Blacklands Farm where the older Scouts were able to complete their Expedition Challenge.

Since March we have been taking part in the scout association's 'Our Sporting Adventure'. We have taken part in the suggested activities from the adventure booklet and these have been enjoyed by all.

In March we went to Cheddar Gorge in Somerset where the scouts went on a potholing tour of the famous caves, the next day we visited Longleat Safari park. In May our PL's organised an evening based on the Olympics, we entered four teams in the District Air Rifle Shooting competition, we visited Worthing Fire Station, and went indoor climbing at the Adur Centre. At the end of June we took 8 scouts on a canoe expedition on the River Medway in Kent. A brilliant day was had by all kayaking down the canoe passes at all the weirs along the way.

Our list of activities goes on. We like to keep the favourites in our programme but we are always thinking of new and different activities for the scouts. I am sure that in the coming year will be no exception.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the leaders for their time, commitment and energy that they have given and continue to give week in week out. I would like to pay particular thanks to Paul for his ongoing support at Starboard, and finally to Pauline for her continued hard work and organisation of our badge work and Chief Scout's Awards.

And finally big thanks to all our supportive parents and to all our Scouts, without whom there wouldn't be a Scout Troop to lead. They are a fantastic group of kids and make leading the troop very rewarding.

James Hackett
Starboard Scout Leader
June 2012

At the end of March this year, we had 47 invested Explorers (42 boys and 5 girls) split into 6 Patrols named after Royal Navy ships: **Ocean, Somerset, Portland, Richmond, Exeter and York**. The average size of an Explorer Unit in the UK is 16 so we are 3 times this. We continue to be the biggest Explorer Unit in Worthing District and one of the biggest in the UK.

April: The 2 Bronze DofE teams went on a training weekend. We had a Nutella evening! Red Driving School visited to give driving taster sessions in the caged playground. 5 of our Explorers were in the cast of the Worthing Gang Show. We joined with the other Explorer Units in Worthing and Scouts across the UK to watch London Wasps and Bath do battle at Twickenham in the annual charity St George's Day Game. James Appleton, Executive Head of Planning Regeneration and Wellbeing, gave a presentation on some of the developments currently being planned for our town, including the Aquarena replacement and redeveloping Teville Gate. Thank you James.

May: We held a Spoons (card game) championship! A lead coach from Worthing Rugby Club taught us how to play Tag Rugby. Thank you to Steve Briscoe for arranging this. The Bronze DofE teams completed their practice expedition. We made model hot air balloons. Old Bro Martin Shepherd visited to give everyone a copy of "Agent Zig Zag" as part of this year's World Book Night. Thank you Martin. We made Swedish meatballs to mark the 2 month countdown to the Jamboree in Sweden. We went on a hill walking expedition to Snowdonia, staying at Yr Hafod Scout hostel. Thank you to Andy Price for organising this and Wayne Dix for his help as a mountain leader.

June: A guest speaker visited us from Bodhisattva Buddhist Centre in Brighton to talk about Buddhism and meditation. We went indoor go karting at Crawley. We took part in the District Treasure Hunt. We played beach volleyball at Worthing's brand new sand courts.

July: We hosted a mission review evening for the Young Leader training scheme. We went to the annual Gilwell 24 Camp. We went kayaking at Southwater and had a barbecue. The Bronze DofE teams completed their qualifying expedition. We attended the District swim and barbecue at Arundel Lido. The Silver DofE team completed their practice expedition. 2 of our Explorers went to the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

August: For Summer Camp we went somewhere new! We went to Carrot Wood in Tonbridge. 24 Explorers and 9 Leaders attended. Activities included: all weather sports pitch, archery, banquet, barbecue, camp fire, canoe/kayak trip including 6 weirs, climbing at Harrisons, high ropes, low ropes, maze, orienteering, shore leave in Tonbridge, sports field, swimming pool and wide game. Thank you to James Anderson, Petula Bladen, Steve Briscoe, Jacky Green, James Hackett, Kevin Lawrence, James Swift and Sue Wearing for their help in running the Camp.

September: We said goodbye to Sam Briscoe who went off to university. The Silver DofE team completed their practice expedition. We had a mobile phone photography competition. In Patrols, Explorers took photos from a list using the cameras in their mobile phones. We went kayaking at Southwater. We went on a night hike from the Franklin Arms pub in Washington to Hill Barn Recreation Ground. We went to the brand new GYSO ("Get Your Skates On") roller disco in Shoreham. We were runners up in the plate competition at the RN 6 a side football tournament at HMS Bristol in Portsmouth.

October: We held a debating competition. The Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) team completed their qualifying expedition. We went to the cinema to watch Johnny English Reborn. We went on a mountain bike ride. We acted as live casualties in the major fire fighting training operation at the Beach Hotel. Smoke machines and lighting effects made it very realistic. 10 fire engines attended as well as many police and ambulances! We had a castaway cooking evening.

November: We held our own fireworks display. We went skiing and snowboarding at The Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead, some had lessons. We hosted Module F (Making Scouting Accessible) of the Young Leader training scheme. We attended the town's annual remembrance service and parade. We had a "Minute To Win It!" evening. We had a wide game at Highdown. We went ten pin bowling at Worthing Bowl.

December: We took part in the District quiz at 2nd Durrington. We went indoor canoeing at Lancing College swimming pool. We went ice skating at Worthing Ice Rink in Steyne Gardens.

January: We showed a video of our Summer Camp at Carrot Wood. We went to Laser Hub in Crawley. We held a junk fashion show! We played basketball at Lancing Manor Leisure Centre.

February: We made mini ballistas. We went on a night hike in the snow from Sleepy Hollow to Honeysuckle Lane. We made pancakes. To celebrate Leap Day on 29 February we had a frog racing evening!

March: We did pioneering. 2 of our Explorers ran a Family Fortunes evening.



Osprey Explorer Scout Unit - 28th May 2012

Our attendance is flexible to allow for the school and college coursework and exam commitments which affect our members' age group. 16 new members joined us from Scouts; 12 from Port and 4 from Starboard. 17 members left; 9 of these were older than 17½ and 4 went on to be Leaders. We have a Unit Forum to make sure our programme is balanced and the Explorer Scouts have a big say in what their programme contains. We include the whole Unit in our forum and set aside a meeting twice a year when everyone can have a say about the Unit and its programme. Our Patrols are reorganised every term to give Explorers the opportunity to mix with different people and hopefully make some new friends. The oldest 6 Explorers become PLs and the next oldest APLs. Anyone with below average attendance in the last term isn't eligible to be a PL or APL. Our Explorers selected to go to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree attended a programme of events with the rest of the County contingent in readiness for the Summer. A summary chart of our accounts appeared earlier in this booklet. Thank you to Jacky for her work as our treasurer. Most of our Explorers have previously been Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. 41 of our Explorers are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. 14 of our Explorers are registered with the District Young Leader Unit and help regularly at all Beaver, Cub and Scout sections.

I am proud to be the Leader of Osprey Explorers, but I could not do it without the team of Leaders that support me. A huge thank you to them for their consistent dedication that keep the Unit running so successfully and make it so much fun. They are: James Anderson, Petula Bladen, Jacky Green, James Hackett, Kevin Lawrence and James Swift. Thanks also to Sam Briscoe for her help over the past 3 years while she was a Leader with the Unit.

Paul Chaplain

Explorer Scout Leader

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of activities for anyone aged 14-25. Founded by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956, there are 3 progressive levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. At each level participants undertake activities in 4 Sections: Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community. Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities. Skills - developing practical and social skills and personal interests. Expedition - planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad. Gold programme participants must also do an additional 5th Residential section which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity. The DofE offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to learn about commitment, responsibility and independence. Gaining any one of the 3 levels of the DofE is a huge achievement.

This year has been a particularly successful one for our DofE Unit - Bronze Awards have been gained by Rachel Austin, Ben Blake, Harry Gilbert, Joel Hammond, Adam Hart, Tors Head and Iain Taylor, while Rachel Austin, Rachel Drew, Lucy Hammond, Alex Owen, Matt Proctor, Brad Stratton and Amelia Lytton have gained their Silver Award and we received confirmation that Lawrence Shaw achieved his Gold Award and attended at St. James Palace to receive his award from the Duke Of Edinburgh - well done to all these young people - all either present or past members of the Osprey Explorer Unit.

As usual a large number of our participants carry out their Young Leader Training through Explorers and help with various sections in the Group as their Volunteering Section of the Award. This assistance is always greatly appreciated by the Leader teams in the various sections. Also others have helped at a Church Youth Club, in a Charity Shop, with a Guide Group and football coaching with their local teams, so helping other sections of our community.

The participants also show their other abilities in the Physical Recreation and Skills Sections of the award. These include playing various sports, including cricket, football and badminton, swimming and volleyball. The Skills Section is always interesting as the young people show what a wide variety of skills they have. These include playing the clarinet, guitar and drums as well as scenery making and website design.

The Bronze Expedition is well under way and the qualifying expedition should be completed by the end of September. There has not been sufficient participants this year to run a Silver expedition although a couple of our young people have completed their Silver award through St Andrew's High School and a couple are also doing their expedition with Worthing College.

This year has also seen the record keeping for the Award change from paper based into the 21st Century and all sections of the award now have to be recorded by the participants onto the eDofE website and approved by the centre co-ordinators online.

This has helped tremendously as all the Leaders can see how the young people are progressing rather than waiting until they think they have completed everything, handing us their books only to find that some of the sections were incorrect. Mind you for an IT literate generation some of them still have problems even logging in on a regular basis.

Most of our Leaders have also undertaken training for eDofE, EVOLVE and eMapping, which is now all part of the record keeping for the Award and have attended various training courses across West Sussex.

A huge thank you to Paul Chaplain, Petula Bladen, James Hackett, Kevin Lawrence, Andy Sephton and Martin Wilton for their continued help as expedition instructors. Also to Tim Hill and Andy Price who have assisted as Expedition Assessors.

Jacky Green
Centre Co-Ordinator

Last year I stated the galley would be the next project for the 8th having no hot water on tap and relying on electric urns supplied from our Boson's store, was not really where the 8th should be in 2012 ...the major problem was that there were insufficient funds to carry out the work and no infrastructure to move it on.

With the changes in the executive committee made at last year's AGM to include active parents from each of the section groups in line with POR, the scene has dramatically changed.

From these parents the SOS team was born and has kick started a new revenue stream culminating in a cheese and wine evening in February 2012. This was well supported by the parents and very successful and was the catalyst for more fund raising to follow in the future from the SOS Team. The team has also been successful in raising funds from sponsorship such as West Sussex CLC and Worthing BC.

I understand that the work on the galley is well underway thanks to help from various parents and should be completed during the summer recess of 2012 dare I say by the time you are reading this report. Good luck to all those parents that the SOS committee have cajoled into giving their free time and energy to such a worthwhile project

On the other hand it was sad and disappointing that Port Cubs had to close due to lack of leaders - something we should all bear in mind - a section can only keep running if adult leadership is forthcoming - so many of our leaders have only got involved because of their children or because they continue themselves into adulthood. The message is, therefore, clear and simple involve parents and young people - get them involved either by them volunteering at a weekly meeting or helping at camp - inspire them.

I personally would like to thank Mandi Stevens for all she has done as Secretary, including dragging us into the 21st century with her e-mailed minutes and action notes - everyone on the Exec now knows what they agreed to achieve by the next meeting. We would all like to wish her well for the future.

Finally I would really like to thank the Leaders and helpers of all the Sections that give their time and considerable effort for all our young people in our local community by inspiring them to greater skills which will stand them in good stead for years to come.

Thank you everyone for your support as we look forward to another successful year for the 8th !

Roger Green Chairman