

## **Scout Troup's Report 2012-13**

There has been a few changes over the past year, we have said goodbye to some of our older scout, who I'm glad to report have gone on to become young leaders, or joined the Air Training Corps, so not only can they sail, they are now learning how to fly!

At this point in time we have a healthy troop of 22 scouts.

We have also said goodbye to Rob, but have gained a new leader Katie Ballard who has the claim to fame of being the first female scout in 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon.

Over the past 12 months we have taken part in many activities; for example: Malvern Challenge. This is a weekend camp for scouts and guides to come together from all over the UK (we have also met some from further a field at this event). The aim is to complete an 8 mile incident hike which is always enjoyed by both scouts and leader. Although I think the disco, talent show, and fairground rides may have something to do with it. We are all looking forward to going again at the end of the month.

We have kept them busy over the winter period with hikes at Barbury Castle and Signal Way (weather permitting), which has helped them train for the Les Barns Night Hike. This is a district event that our leaders put a lot of time and effort in to providing a safe and fun event for scouts, guides and explorers in not only our district, but Swindon Ridgeway as well. This year we were a bit disappointed that we only had enough interest from a few scouts and could only enter one team. However, this team came FIRST! and brought the trophy home for the first time in over 14 years.

Sadly Les Barns died recently, but was happy to hear that the Trophy had come home. Well done guys, you are amazing.

We entered the Chess competition this year for the first time, the standard of the Cubs and Scouts were amazing (they put me to shame). Well done!

We also took part in the Remembrance Parade in the town centre, being given the honour of being asked to provide the Guard of Honour. As always the Scouts received fantastic praise from both the military organisations and members of the public. You make us proud every year. Thank you!

Since our last AGM the scouts have been working hard in gaining their sailing qualifications. We have held to sailing camps and all our invested scout have now got at least their RYA 1.

Last year we were very pleased to announce that one of the scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Sea Scouts gained their Chief Scout Gold Award! This is the highest award that can be gained in the scouting section. This year we have a few scouts that are so close to achieving this. Keep going guys your almost there!

Christmas was a very busy time with the scout post. I would like to thank the scouts and parents/families for all there help with this. This is a major part of our fund raising for the group, and we all know how tempting sat by a warm fire can be instead of selling stamps and delivering cards in the cold. Thank you!

I would also like to thank the scouts that took time out of their weekend to help with bag packing. Due to the money raised we have now added to our fleet of boats. Well done and enjoy the fruits of your labour.

I would like to say a big thank you to all my leadership team and our helpers, especially when we are down here at the lake, as we would not be able to have so many children on the water without your help. I would also like to thank the new 'tuck' lady for offering to take on the responsibility of providing the scout and leaders with a warm drink after a night of fun on the water, and to all the parents for bringing the scouts down to Bowmoor every week.

Thank you everyone!

**Ellen - Scout Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Sea Scouts**