

## **2015 Scout Section Report for the AGM 2014/15**

We have had another very busy year in the scout section and have seen the section continue to grow. We have 25 scouts on role at present and during the year we have had Andy Rolfe join the leadership team.

The review of our year starts in April with the annual St George's day parade and where we had a good turnout. June saw our annual visit to the Malvern Challenge and I think it is fair to say this is the event that most scouts and leaders is the most looked forward to camp on our calendar. This is a weekend camp in the Malvern Hills for approximately 3000 scouts and guides. The aim is to complete an 8 mile incident hike, which is always enjoyed although I think the disco, talent show, and fairground rides have something to do with it. Unfortunately, last year was the last one as the farmland will no longer be available to the organisers. This has been replaced by a new camp called 'Strategy' and is to be held near Cirencester.

During the summer we held another of our RYA training camps and had over 25 scouts and a couple of parents taking their RYA qualifications.

In September we held our 2nd Scout Regatta, where we invited 10 teams of scouts from other groups in the area to join us for a weekend of fun and water based activities. The event continues to prove successful and in moving this year's event to July we have even more teams entered.

In October we moved back to The Wick for our winter season and started with a hike from Old Town to Taw Hill. We also had a treasure trail hike around Cricklade in November, an excellent visit to the Defence Academy, rock climbing at the Link Centre and finally a night hike through Stratton Woods.

The turnout for the Remembrance parade was excellent and yet again we received praise and thanks from the Mayor.

We had a team enter the Scout Chess competition again this year and well done to our Nick, Luke and Louis for finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competition.

The Scouts have also worked hard over the winter on a number of badges including the Fire Safety Badge, Meteorology and the Craft badge.

We finished the year with our regular hike near Barbary Castle in preparation for our annual Les Barnes Challenge Hike. This year we entered 2 teams and although they did not win the event, one of the teams did win the Keith Stone award, which is awarded to the team that is seen as getting the best from the event.

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 the Christmas Post which is always a very busy time for us. 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 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 our 'tuck' lady for again 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!

**James - Scout Leader 1st Swindon Sea Scouts**