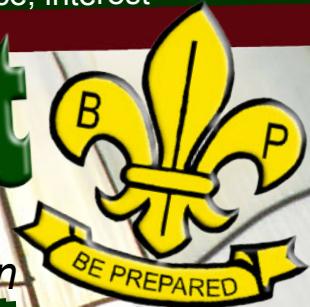


September 2013

Scouting about

The newsletter of the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association



Make a parachute shelter

Badge requirement changes

24 hour challenge review

Senior Scout badge positions

Foraging

and much more...



Beavers - Wolf Cubs - Scouts - Seniors - Rovers

'Traditional outdoor Scouting for the 21st century'

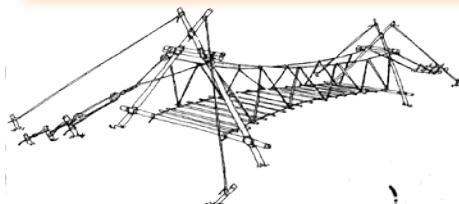
SUPER SUMMER, AWESOME AUTUMN

Summer is now over and Groups have had the opportunity to do so much more out of doors in our main camping season. There has been so much going on in the B-PSA with Summer camps and other activities and the new term beckons with the prospect of even more so please share your stories with us.

We received fantastic feedback about the new look Scouting about which makes the hard work really worthwhile. However, to make it even better we really need plenty of contributions in the form of information and articles coming in! If you have anything to share then write a few words, or a lot of words if you like, and send them along with a picture, if possible.

Contents

Page	Feature
3	Changes to Beaver badge requirements
4	News and info
5	Senior Scout badge positions
6	Scouts/Seniors badge bonanza
7	Around the Groups
8	Be prepared for foraging
9	Around the Groups
12	Bothying is brilliant
13	Reflections on Rovering to Success pt 2
14	Parachute shelters
15	Rovers' 24 hour challenge review
16	Upcoming events



Editor: Sue Beadle

association_secretary@traditionalscouting.co.uk

Sub Editor and Design: Nick Allen

nick.allen@northumberland.gov.uk

Proofreading: Ninette Gray

ninette@alnsideassociates.co.uk

Contributors: Nick Allen, Clive Gray, Colin Stevens, Jay Dodson, Norman Boxall, Katheryn Ovendon, Graham Rutherford.

Chief Commissioner: Graham Rutherford

chiefcommissioner@traditionalscouting.co.uk

Association Secretary: Sue Beadle

association_secretary@traditionalscouting.co.uk

National Commissioners:

Beavers: Lyn Tomlinson Tel: 01189 665003

Email: lyn.tomlinson@gmail.com

Wolf Cubs: Sheena Dodson Tel: 0161 3387459

Email: sheena111@hotmail.com

Scouts: Jay Dodson Tel: 07796 691681

Email: jaydodson@traditionalscouting.co.uk

Senior Scouts: Norman Boxall Tel: 01189 753438

Email: [noman.boxall@ntlworld.com](mailto:norman.boxall@ntlworld.com)

Rovers: Clive Gray Tel: 01665 574733

Email: clive@alnsideassociates.co.uk

Training: Martyn Dodson email:

martyndodson@traditionalscouting.co.uk

We hope to build 'Scouting about' into a more comprehensive and inclusive newsletter for the whole of the B-PSA and so welcome news, images, information etc from anyone actively involved within the association or from those with a genuine interest. Anything that could be relevant would be appreciated and perhaps gives any budding journalists or literary talents the opportunity to get started. Alternatively, get members of your sections writing, taking photographs etc. This newsletter aims to share ideas and provide useful information for leaders, assistants and lay helpers of all sections. It is your newsletter and a means of two-way communication so please use it.

Contact Sue or Nick using the details above.

Changes to Beaver badge requirements

Changes to Beaver badge requirements

Following comments from some of our Leaders about the length of time it takes to achieve some badges the following amendments have been made to the Beavers' Project Award and Hobby Award:

Project Award

This badge will be awarded when a Beaver has completed TEN of the projects in the Beaver Project Book over a period of at least 6 months.

Hobby Award

Choose an interest or a hobby and over a period of 6 months satisfy the

Examiner that a reasonable amount of progress in developing the subject has been made. (There is no limit to the subject. It must be one where progress can be detected and measured.)



Both badges used to be over a one year period, so hopefully Beavers will more readily gain these badges now.



B-PSA UK Badges:

Mrs Sylvia Rutherford grsrutherford@yahoo.co.uk
611 Thornaby Road, Thornaby, Stockton on Tees
TS17 9HD
01642 887962

B-PSA UK Uniform and Supplies:

Mr Stuart Hunt-Bryden
bpsupplies-uniform@blueyonder.co.uk
66 St. Andrews Road, Warminster BA12 8ET
01985 217664

Is your census information correct?

It is always a great relief when census forms are returned in time. However there appears to be a problem when it comes to First Aid qualifications!

When checking through the submitted forms it has been seen that a number of certificates are out of date. Please note that First Aid Certificates are only valid for three years and, therefore, refresher courses are required to keep the qualifications up to date and acceptable.

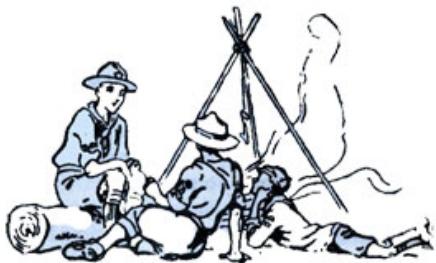


Flodden Badge

Northumbria Area's Cub and Scout Camps hosted by 1st Flodden were a huge success. Camp badges were awarded to all attendees who helped to commemorate the quincentenary of the Battle of Flodden.

Special thanks to all those leaders from other Groups who helped to ensure fantastic camps by running activities

If any other Groups would like to visit the area, camp and learn about the battle and gain the 'Flodden badge', they should email Joanne at
1stfloddenbpscouts@gmail.com



Change to Venture Badge

All unissued old Venture Badges are now obsolete. They have been replaced by a new version with a yellow border and will come into effect from the AGM. All requests for a Venture Badge will come from Norman Boxall who will require a bage certificate.

If you do happen to have any unissued old Venture Badges, they should be returned to Graham Rutherford and credit will be given for them.



Reflection on Woodbeads training

As a Scout I only ever camped with my group, writes Katheryn Ovendon of 3rd Wiltshire - so you get an idea that this is the only way of camping and must be what all other Scout Groups do too. After Woodbeads I was able to learn new skills from other leaders and Rovers, which taught me that there are many different ways of camping. Some good and some bad - but I took a lot out of the course and hopefully I'll be able to make my Group expand on their ideas of traditional camping so that all camps are fun and different.

But I truly did learn loads and would recommend the course to any other leader/Rover

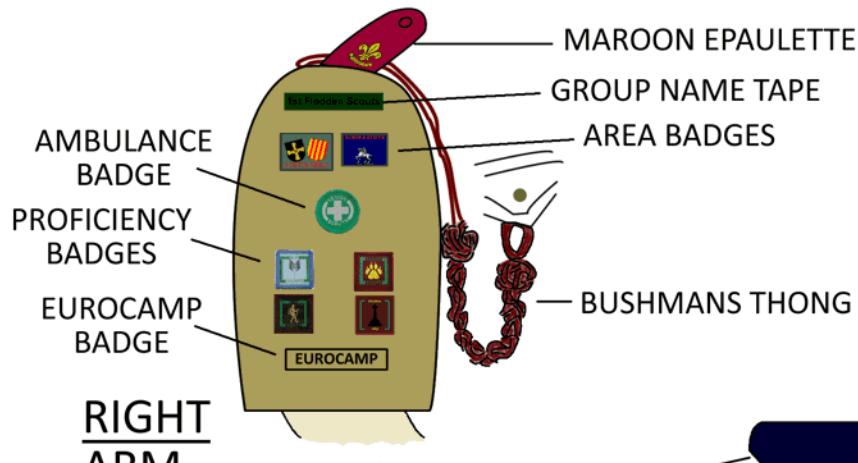
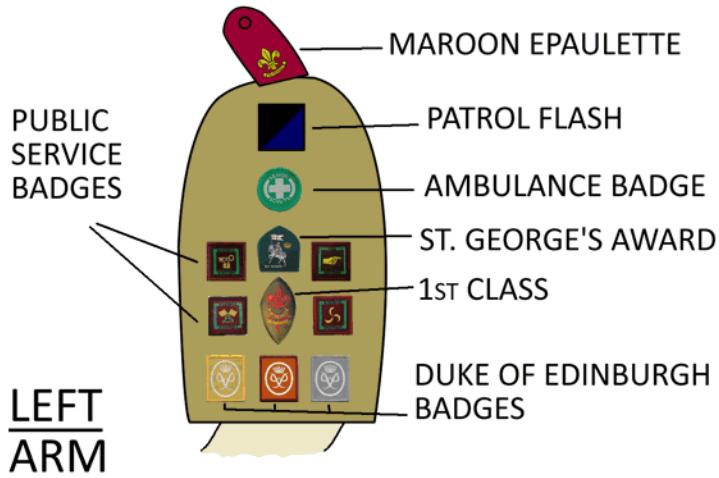


Some leaders and Rovers on Woodbeads training

Badge positions for Senior Scouts

Badge positions for Senior Scouts

THE SENIOR SCOUT



WITH METAL BADGE OR
SENIOR SCOUT BADGE



BP BADGE ON BACK OF NECKERCHIEF (OPTIONAL)

A SENIOR SCOUT IS A BOY OR
GIRL AGED 15 - 18 (IN SOME
CASES 14½ - 18)

NORMAN BOXALL
HEADQUARTERS
COMMISSIONER
SENIOR SCOUTS

Bag a badge at the badge bonanza

This year's Scout and Senior Scout badge bonanza weekend will be hosted by 1st Isle of Axholme who will also arrange all catering. Thanks to Karl and co for organising this.

The weekend will be held at a new venue for us ie The Oaks Guide Campsite in Lincolnshire (for further details, visit <http://www.theoakscampsites.org.uk>) from 27th - 29th September.

The campsite is adjacent to an airfield where we have arranged glider experience flights - these will cost an additional £15 per person, but we need names of all interested Scouts and Seniors who wish to fly to be sent to Jay by 13th September. If we are oversubscribed we will make a draw, and notify the successful applicants by Friday 20th.

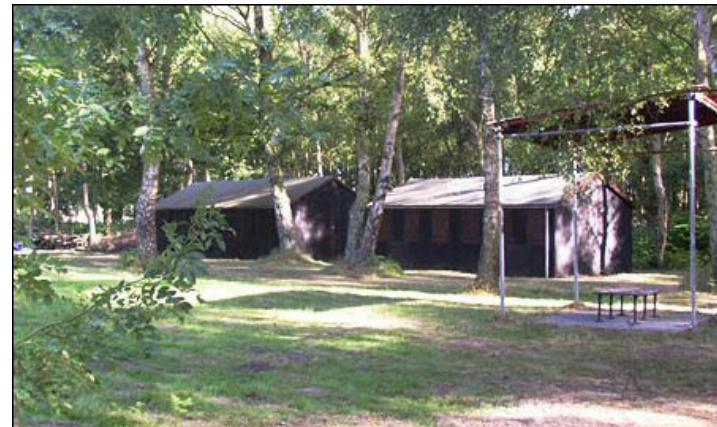
We hope to offer the following badges:

Scout badges:

- Tracker
 - Air Glider (subject to weather and an supplementary charge of £15, and number restricted)
 - Archery – as part of master at arms – won't be completed
 - Marksman
 - Pioneer
 - Backwoodsman
 - Camp Cook
 - Conservationist
 - Photographer
 - Starman
 - Signaller
 - Entertainer
-

Senior Scout Badges:

- Senior Tracker
 - Ambulance (£5 extra charge in cash if an Emergency 1st Aid at work certificate is required)
 - Adventure Pursuit – parts of – archery, gliding, air rifles
-



The Oaks Guide Campsite

- Forester
- Senior Pioneer
- Senior Entertainer



We have included the Scout and Senior Entertainer badges, and the plan is that those interested will prepare a mini gang show during Saturday to be performed on Saturday evening.

All badges are offered subject to us having leaders volunteering to run them.

Next Steps

Please notify Jay Dodson (jaydodson@traditionalscouting.co.uk) and Norman Boxall (norman.boxall@ntlworld.com)

as soon as possible if your Group intends to attend, and volunteer leaders to run/assist with badges.

Contact Jay and/or Norman as early in September as possible but no later than 13th with the following details:

- how many will be attending
- names of attendees with 1st and 2nd badge choices
- any special physical or dietary needs.

Details can be amended after this date - but we do need names and numbers early to plan badges and catering.

Cost of the weekend will be £17.50 to cover camp site fees and catering.

Wooler's year going well

WOOLER Scouts and Wolf Cubs take to the stage

On 1st and 2nd of March, after several weeks of rehearsing, 12 Wolf Cubs and 4 Scouts with leaders took part in the local variety show. There were 3 performances with 250 in the audience each time.

Getting their gear inspected



We took the theme of going for a hike which involved a Cub appearing from a rucksack and a kitchen sink, before they danced round the stage singing a hiking song.

The little chef makes her entry
The finale saw us going back out to join the rest of the cast dancing to Greased Lightning - most leaders could remember this from first time round! During the encore the Wolf Cubs and Scouts brought members of the audience to the front to join in the dance, mainly their mums, dads and grandparents!



Greased Lightening

Another highlight was when Carol (Ahmeek) and Anne (Akela) sang a beautiful duet in another part of the show. The show raised over £3000 for local charities and now the kids are looking forward to taking part in the pantomime next year.



Wooler Scouts First Camp of the Year

On Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 March Wooler Scouts undertook their first camp of the year. It lived up to all expectations and was yet another camp involving snow (last year 2 of the 3 camps undertaken by the Scouts saw snow at some point!).

4 Scouts and 4 leaders set off from the cars in the Simonside Hills, Northumberland to walk the mile and quarter to Spylaw Cottage.

There was a biting east wind blowing all weekend with a bit of shelter from the trees in the cottage grounds.

There was a lot of firewood available so a lot of time was spent cutting wood to keep the fire going. I have never been to a camp where the Scouts took themselves off to bed so early but at least it was warm in the tents.

There was some interaction with the Scout Association as a Troop of Sea Scouts from Blyth were staying in the hut and they made us very welcome inviting us inside and letting us use the tap indoors to collect water.

On Sunday we were up early and after a good breakfast packed up and headed back to the cars then Wooler to tidy up the equipment and to warm up at the meeting hall.

The whole Group has been very active since and we look forward to hearing of their adventures!



Be prepared for foraging

Foraging for fruits could be an excellent activity for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts this autumn according to the Woodland Trust. Following last year's dismal weather and resulting poor fruit harvest, 2013 is set to make amends.

The Woodland Trust predicts 2013 will be a bumper year for fruiting autumn berries and reveals that last year's crop was the worst in over a decade, according to scientific records.

Early indications from data collected by the public for the Woodland Trust's Nature's Calendar project suggest that autumn will be late this year, but that the glorious weather in early summer will mean autumn wild fruit crops will flourish, having a positive impact on the UK's native plant and wildlife species.

2012's extremely wet conditions during the summer resulted in late leaf tints, late fruiting and

exceptionally poor crops of wild fruit. In fact, last year's Nature's Calendar records displayed the lowest fruiting scores since the Trust started collecting records 12 years ago, for 14 of the 16 tree and shrubs species recorded by the project's volunteers¹. The Trust is urging the public to record their sightings of this year's early autumn sightings on its Nature's Calendar website.

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, Nature's Calendar Project Manager, said: "Although our records suggest that autumn fruiting will be late this year due to the delayed onset of spring flowering, if the warm weather interspersed with occasional wet spells continues, this should mean the fruiting of shrubs like bramble, rowan and blackthorn, is abundant.

"Wildlife species will no doubt benefit from a bumper crop, and finally fruit-eating birds and mammals will be able to enjoy an autumn feast.

Last year, birds and mammals suffered some of the poorest fruiting crop in years and this,

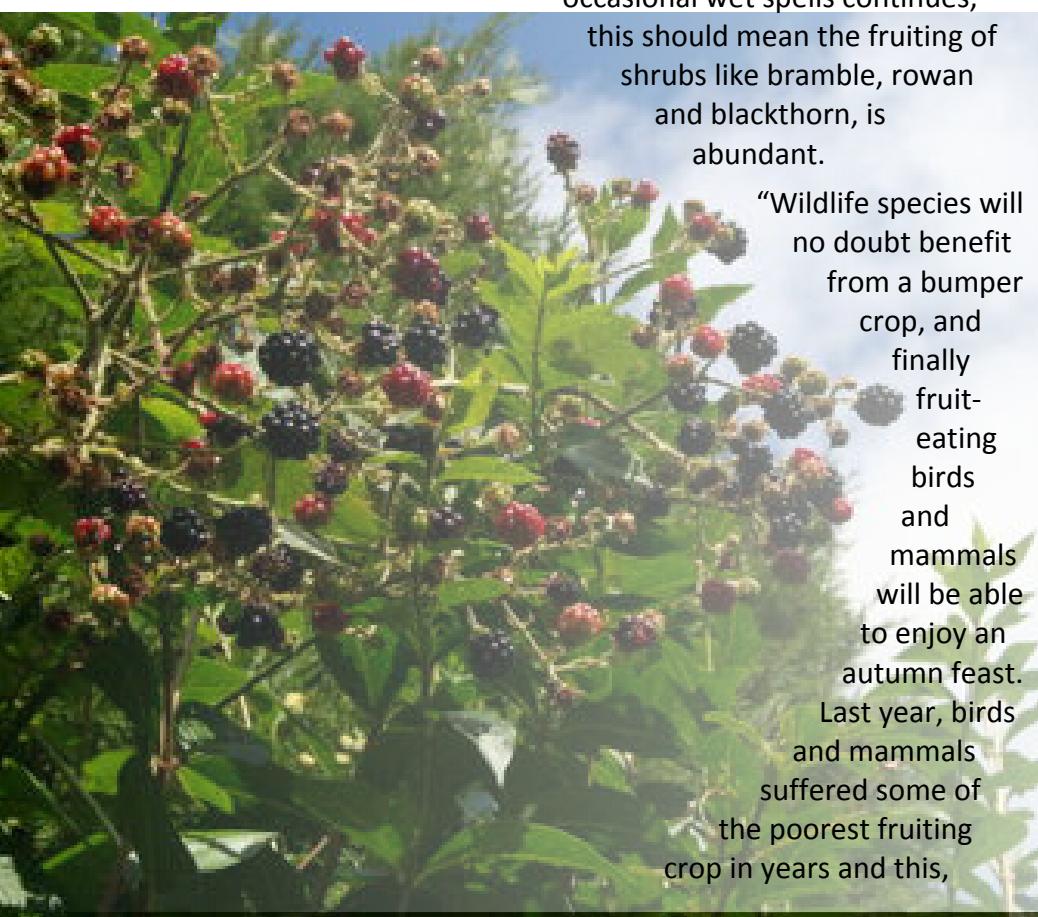


coupled with the prolonged cold snap in spring, meant that many species had to endure a long period without a decent food supply.

She continued: "In order to better understand the impacts of long-term changing climate on some of the UK's most-loved native species, we need the public to record their autumn sightings on our Nature's Calendar website."

The charity's Nature's Calendar project, which has phenology records dating back to the 17th century, allows people to record signs of spring as well as autumn by noting sightings such as fruit ripening, ivy flowering and leaf colouring. The records compiled by the public are used by government and scientists to aid the understanding of how flora and fauna is adapting to the changing environment.

The Trust is urgently calling for more citizen science recorders. Crucially, the number of Nature's Calendar recorders is falling year upon year and the charity needs to maintain a network of recorders in all parts of the UK to help maintain the scientific integrity of the data. Anyone can become a Nature's Calendar recorder and make a real and valuable contribution to citizen science and the long-term studies into the impact of climate change on wildlife by visiting www.naturescalendar.org.uk.



5th Wiltshire invest 50!

5th Wiltshire B-P Scout Group got off to an incredible start with fifty youngsters being invested in a special ceremony.

The Group was launched in November and marks the return of Scouting to the town of Ludgershall for the first time since the 1990s.

The evening, which saw 50 young people aged six to 17 invested, together with adult leaders, started with a blessing of the group's new formal Union Flag by the Reverend Malcolm Freeman.

This was followed by the leaders, Beavers, Wolf Cubs and Scouts saying their promise and formally joining the Group.

Scoutmaster Colin 'Skip' Stevens said: "Since we started, the demand for a local group has been much higher than even our research had shown.



"We filled up within a few weeks of opening and are now working on adding to our leaders and helpers team so we can grow a bit more.

"It's really great that so many local youngsters can enjoy Scouting and be able to walk to and from where we meet."

The group, which provides traditional Scouting in Ludgershall, Tidworth, Collingbourne and the surrounding areas, is planning to open Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts sections.

Scouting about wishes 5th Wiltshire the best of luck.



Second place for Skip Stevens

Skip Colin Stevens recently came second in the Area Community Awards for the two years work it took to get the new Scout Group underway. He was also awarded an 'Endeavour' certificate to go with it for overcoming all the obstacles along the way.

Flodden Bushcraft School instructs local students

1st Flodden's very own bushcraft school delivered a programme of backwoods, survival and bushcraft techniques to students from Berwick Academy as part of its preparation for life initiative. Students were instructed in friction firelighting using a bow drill, preparing and cooking trout, water divining, ghillie net making and shelter building with parachutes.

1st Flodden also helps the school with its John Muir Award programme.



1st North Ormesby and 1st Aycliffe Winter Pioneering Camp

February was unpredictable this year but we managed to find a break in the snow (although it was bitterly cold) to hold a 3 day camp at our campsite at Twizel in Northumberland. For any of you that have been to Twizel you will know the site is the ideal base for all types of scouting activities but this time we were mainly focusing on the Pioneer Badge, and spent the days building both a bridge that the scouts, some of which had not been in scouts



Senior for one reason or another was his third attempt and he was very pleased when he actually managed to complete it (without injuries or re-routing). This now means that he is able to get his St Georges Award and I am sure that with the scouts we have between our two groups we will have many more awards achieved in the next few years.



FLODDEN 1513 CAMPS



1st Flodden hosted two Area camps for Cubs/Beavers and Scouts/Seniors. Groups travelled from all over the

North East and Cumbria to join in the fun, learn about the Battle of Flodden and earn a badge while they were at it.



very long and never been to camp before, designed, engineered and constructed themselves, with careful guidance from the leaders, and tested out by a very brave and slightly mad leader from 1st North Ormesby, and a raft which for some reason the leaders didn't want to test out. Scouts also had fun doing a Spanish windlass race to see which team could figure out how to put in to practice what they had



1st Whittingham at Galloway Activity Centre where the scouts participated in a two day canoeing course, and a load of other activities including archery, wibbly wobbly water park, high ropes and much more!

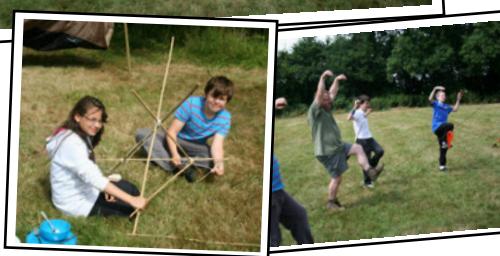
learnt about moving heavy objects when given just a rope and two brush shanks, On the evenings they spent time making turks head woggles from paracord and mastering the sailmakers whipping and those that completed their woggles are wearing them proudly, just with the knowledge that they mastered it themselves.

Our poor Seniors however missed out on all the fun as they were off doing their Venturer Hike, which for one

5th Wiltshire's held their first Group Camp which was exhausting but great. That's four camps so far this year and three to go

Nearly 60 Beavers, Wolf Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts, Parent Helpers and Leaders joined in at Chute in baking sunshine and torrential rain - it was fab!

10 youngsters from the newly formed 6th Wiltshire Kiwis also attended.



Around the Groups

1st Kingswood Beavers went on expedition to the real home of the industrial revolution! (where Abraham Derby saw William Champion using coke to smelt zinc and took the idea back to Ironbridge to try it out on iron!) Seen here in the Grotto, the chequered wall garden (the black bricks are made from slag from the smelting business) and visiting Neptune in the dried up lake that supplied the water for the smelting works. They also visited the museum that has lots about the local industries, including a collection of Douglas bikes. We have now moved on to drama and are creating a play about local history, including the notorious Cock Rd gang - our chapel where we meet was planted right next to their headquarters in Wesley's work to tame the Heathens!



1st Isle of Axholme Spring Camp was held at Trent Valley Gliding Club. A great time was had by all.



Seniors and Rovers from all over the country and even from Ireland attended the Discovery Award in the Yorkshire Dales this summer. The expedition included hiking up and down dale in Swaledale and Wensleydale as well as a 26 mile bike journey to Tan Hill where the UK's highest pub is located. Who planned that?



Bothying is brilliant!

Ever had your Scouts stay in a bothy? If not you should! The Mountain Bothy Association is probably the better known of the different associations and has bothies throughout Scotland, Northern England and Wales (see www.mountainbothies.org.uk for more information). However there are other organisations such as the Border Bothies Association who do not promote themselves online but still offer excellent facilities for hikers. At present the



Association maintains four bothies, all in the Tweed Valley, three within walking distance of each other and all within cycling distance. All now have Calor Gas cooking facilities, open fires and various forms of lighting. One boasts a running water system with hot baths available! All are very special places where folk can relax and enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Border countryside.

Seniors from 1st Flodden recently stayed at one of the bothies that the BBA run in the Scottish Borders as part of a hiking weekend in the Cheviots. The cooker and lights are fuelled from bottled gas, you need to supply your own wood or coal for the open fires and to get running water or to flush the lavatory you need to pump water. This really makes it an adventure, getting away from the luxurious facilities that we expect in most places.

The bothies vary in size but generally sleep about 12 people, though camping is also allowed in some locations. During lambing season there may be restrictions on the use of some bothies.

What is great about them is that they provide a fantastic base for some excellent hillwalking in the Cheviots or Southern Uplands. Alternatively, they provide a great location to turn up to at the end of a long day's hike when the last thing you want to do is to pitch a tent. Cooking facilities are ideal for the needs of a small group with pots, pans, crockery and cutlery provided.

However, the BBA don't like the idea of a hoard of rampaging Scouts descending from the hills to requisition one of their buildings so adult supervision is required.

As for cost, all that is required is a donation with a recommendation of £2.50 per person per night. That's cheaper than most camp sites!

For further information please contact David Dickson on 01875 812985

The Bothy Code

Respect Other Users

Please leave the bothy clean and tidy with dry kindling for the next visitors. Make other visitors welcome. If they are not MBA members set a good example.

Respect the Bothy

Tell us about any accidental damage. Don't leave graffiti or vandalise the bothy. Please take out all rubbish which you can't burn. Avoid burying rubbish; this pollutes the environment. Please don't leave perishable food as this attracts vermin. Guard against fire risk and ensure the fire is out before you leave. Make sure the doors and windows are properly closed when you leave.

Respect the Surroundings

If there is no toilet at the bothy please bury human waste out of sight. Use the spade provided, keep well away from the water supply and never use the vicinity of the bothy as a toilet.

Never cut live wood or damage estate property. Use fuel sparingly.

Respect Agreement with the Estate

Please observe any restrictions on use of the bothy, for example during stag stalking or at lambing time. Please remember bothies are available for short stays only. The owner's permission must be obtained if you intend an extended stay.

Respect the Restriction On Numbers

Because of over crowding and lack of facilities, large groups (6 or more) should not use a bothy nor camp near a bothy without first seeking permission from the owner.

Source: www.mountainbothies.org.uk

Reflection's on 'Rovering To Success'

Part 2: Success = Happiness

Clive Gray
HQ Commissioner
Rover Scouts

In chapter 1 B-P compares life to a canoe trip with rapids, big waves and dangerous rocks to avoid, all to be navigated by using your resources, a canoe, a paddle, intellect and spirit so that you will eventually slide successfully 'into a sheltered landing place, the happy campfire and the sleep of tired men'. B-P sees success as the achievement of happiness on life's journey.

He also says it is not gaining position, power and riches at another's expense' which bears further thought. Athletes may lose a race but it is not really to their detriment as they accept they are there to compete and not winning is a spur to work harder (unless somebody is doping). Ethical business only survives if the product or service fulfills a need and people recommend it or repeat their purchase. B-P wants us to strive to be better human beings ourselves and part of that is to avoid the abuse of others. This is a philosophical argument but science also has a term for gaining, without any detriment to others, 'Pareto Efficiency'. There are people who 'succeed' and we say 'it couldn't have happened to a nicer person, well done'. Now there is an aspiration.

Happiness, in my mind, is no easier to attain today than in B-P's day. Research also shows that the wealthier a country is, the less happy people are. So what is this illusive happiness that B-P is talking about? He makes it clear that it is something that has to be worked hard for by an individual. It is not a passive exercise which he says would simply be 'pleasure'. By selecting a nation as an example, in his case Burma, but perhaps Bhutan today, which measures its economy on Gross National Happiness (something I can attest to) he is also clearly suggesting that it is more than just an individual undertaking. It must include human interaction. Something we individualistic, post modern westerners may struggle with.

It was Maslow who put forward a building block model to 'self actualisation'. The point in somebody's personal development where they have grown beyond basic need, beyond self understanding and start to live for and through others. The Buddhists forward similar views

around the journey to enlightenment, which is the happiest of places, were self interest is left behind. Christians would attest to the same through the spiritual journey of faith centred on trying to become more Christ like.

B-P offers two keys to happiness:

1. 'Not to take things too seriously, but to make the best of what you have got.'

This speaks to two points: being able to be living fully now rather than awaiting a future that may

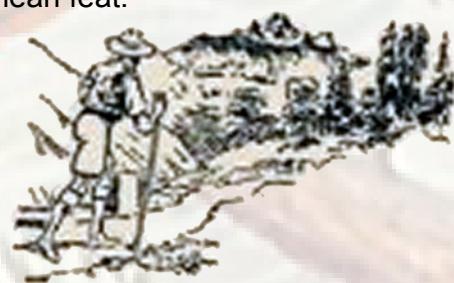
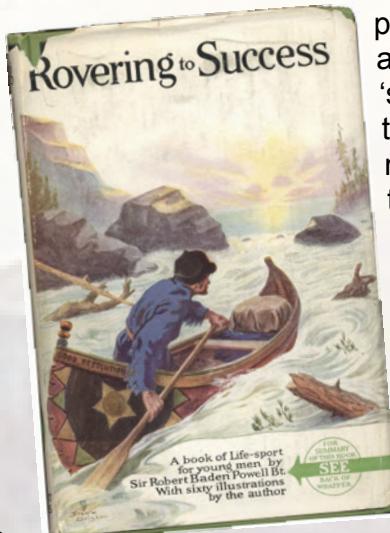
never happen; and the fear of failure problem that many of us have. Sports and business coaches talk about 'skating to fall'. In other words, to grasp the joy of life, not being afraid to make mistakes and to learn from them. It is the only way to personal growth in B-P's eyes and underpins his view that the attainment of happiness is an active process. It takes courage though, and B-P is giving us a way to step back from fear, and take the risk.

2. 'To let your actions and thoughts be directed by Love'.

This is the central theme on which every faith hangs, Judaism,

Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as secular philosophies such as Humanism. Christians believe that through the loving forgiveness of God we are released to do things differently in future, transforming our lives and those around us through love. The Dalai Lama says in the book 'The Art of Happiness' (using compassion as his word of love of others), 'It is my firm conviction that human nature is essentially compassionate' and thus argues that "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

So B-P suggests a way to have the courage to face our shortcomings and focus us on a transformative process based on love and compassion. No mean feat.



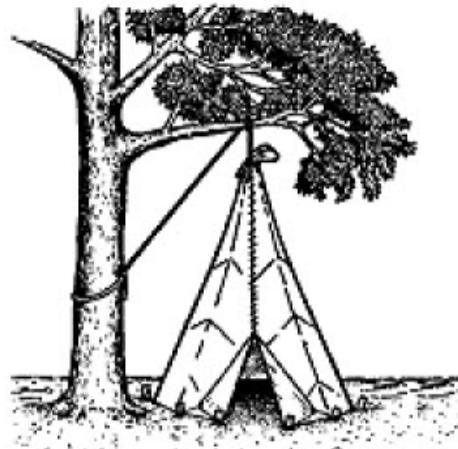
Have a go at:

making a parachute shelter

Parachute shelters are not only easy but they are great for giving an excellent sense of adventure and excitement when at camp, especially in the backwoods! They can be used as a work area to instruct in or for a patrol etc to sleep in.

Although the parachute material is not waterproof it will channel rain down the material where it will run off usually at the lowest point round the edge. In heavy rain a certain amount of fine spray is likely to go through the canopy but it still gives better protection than not using it! To ensure maximum protection if rain is expected is to have very steep sides and once inside don't touch the sides.

One of the simplest ways to make a shelter is to attach a length of paracord or rope to the centre of the parachute then throw the end of the cord (tied to a stone or stick to make it easier) over a strong tree



branch, or rope that runs from one tree to another. The parachute can then be raised to the required height.

Either the edges of the parachute can be pegged down directly to the ground or using

'guy ropes'. Surrounding trees or bushes can be used to tie off to. Aim for an angle of about 60 - 70 degrees for the sides.

However, be prepared to adjust the shelter eg you may wish to have one side of the shelter pegged down at ground level to protect from wind and the other side higher up for easy access etc.

If the parachute is high enough, a small fire can be built inside. It provides a great place for enjoying company round the fire in the evening, I find such a parachute shelter very useful on a static camp.

Mess about with different types of shelter eg base it around a single pole or fold the parachute in half and wrap it around a tripod or teepee structure.

Old parachutes can be purchased from some army surplus stores or on sites such as ebay for around £30.



Rover's 24 hour challenge



On 6th April 2013, the first International 24 Hour Rover Survival Challenge to be hosted in the UK, took place at Bisley in Surrey. Bravely inaugurated and set up by Jay Dodson and supported by our Friends from Denmark (who have been running events like this for years) a rugged group of teams of 2 settled in to 24 hours of bush craft and survival challenges under competition conditions.

Without giving too much away, (for those contemplating entering the next one) I can honestly say that it stretched my 44 years of Scouting and survival experience and taught me some new stuff as well. It was good natured (Ninette and I are still Married!) and great fun, especially aiming homemade bows and arrows with fletching and sharp ends at one of the organisers prized T Shirts. Those with less experience will testify to the support and guidance available from the organising team to help them develop and grow.

We got to fell trees, make bivi sites, cook things you would never think possible on a camp fire, build unusual contraptions and compete in camp Olympics with our own bush made equipment. I became better known as Fred Flinstone after the size of the stuff I made and ensuring Ninette (the only Girl in the competition! Come on Girls!) had to do a Wilma and sort me out.

3am was the low point, splicing ropes together by lamplight for another task, but a good dose of sugar and lots of liquids got us through (as well as the occasional burst of machine gun fire from the military ranges!). It was worth it in the end though. The sense

of achievement in seeing it through was equivalent to completing a marathon or Iron man competition.

Ninette and I were very grateful to the other teams for gallantly allowing us to win and we shall now be adding the first leather tassel with our names embossed upon it, to the trophy.

This is really something that every Rover should do at least once in their lives and clearly can be done just as well by the girls as the boys. You'll have stories for dinner parties for years to come and have a great experience to boot.

So the challenge is laid down, if we can persuade Jay to set up another one? Watch out for the advert and be there for the next one.



Rover Adventure Weekend

An exciting Rover adventure weekend with caving, hill walking and possibly climbing or kayaking if you want it, centred in the beautiful North Yorkshire village of Clapham. From Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th November 2013. We have found a very smart bunkhouse in the village and there are great pubs, an excellent outdoor shop and easy access on to the hills. Sign up through Rovering to Success or just tell Ninette or I direct (with a cheque please!).

Caving will be provided by our recently qualified Cave Leader (through our bursary scheme) Graeme Hodgson and will entail a full day cave on Saturday and a half day cave on Sunday for those who are less sure about it. For caving, you will need wellies and if you want to be really comfortable, Wet Socks (which are about £15 and if there is enough demand Graeme will order in bulk to save us a few quid). The full caving kit list is below but you will be provided with clothing and we will hire helmets and lamps for £3.25 for the weekend.

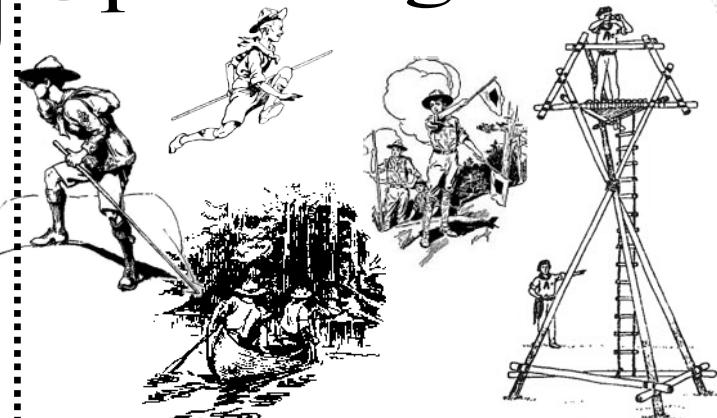
We will eat in the pub on Friday night as people turn up at different times and Ninette and I will provide breakfasts and Saturday night dinner (you know that will be good!). Please bring your own lunches.

The bunkhouse provides a bottom sheet and pillow case, so please bring a Sleeping bag or duvet and a towel.

The cost of the weekend is £40 for Rovers and Leaders (+£15 for non members for insurance and registration) but we do need your confirmation and money by the AGM on 5th October to secure our booking at this price. Sadly, if you don't pay we can't accommodate you this year.

So please let Clive or Ninette know ASAP along with payment as quickly as possible please.

Upcoming events



Date	Event	Contact
27-29 Sept	Scouts/Seniors Badge Bonanza - North Lincolnshire	Jay Dodson/ Norman Boxall
5 Oct	AGM, Owleywood	
22-24 Nov	Rover adventure weekend	Clive or Ninette Gray



Scout / Senior Scout Badge Bonanza

27th – 29th September

See p7 for more information



Caving Equipment – clothing / kit list

- Warm clothing (to change into on return to transport)
- Change of underwear
- Towel (optional)
- Wellies (don't have to be anything fancy)
- Wet socks
- Rubber gloves (Optional – thick Marigold gloves are ideal)
- Flask (for coming out of cave or leaving on the surface) if you want to take one underground it must be small and unbreakable.
- Small drinks container
- Small sandwich box
- Waterproof and drop proof camera (optional)

