

1st Stotfold Ridgway Scout Troop

The Scouts have had a very successful year, taken part in lots of activities and events.

Seven Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award during the year. Jack Simmonds, Chris Thornley, Chris Amos, Darren Ballard, James Welch, James Jackman and Tom Baines.

To celebrate this achievement we will be spending a weekend in London staying at Baden-Powell House. We intend to visit the Natural History and Science Museums, and present the Gold Award badges at the top of the London Eye.

We have spent a total of twenty three days camping including 100BC at Phasels Wood, a couple of night hikes, District Hike and Survival camps, Outdoor and Outdoor Plus camps and our summer camp at Hampshire 2007. Details of all the camp are on the web site <http://www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway/camps/camps.htm>.

Last year we attempted the Creative, Expedition, Adventure, Outdoor and Outdoor Plus Challenges. Once again all the details are on the web site. http://www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway/archive/challenge_archive/index.html.

One of the night hikes out of Bromham camp site gave us the opportunity to award the new Hikes Away badge, and we also had a go at the new Emergency Aid level 2 badge after Christmas.

The Easter holidays saw us at Boyd Field building bridges. This was the culmination of several weeks practicing knots and lashings for the Pioneering badge. http://www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway/archive/activitybadge_archive/index.html.

Another new venture for us this year is the Master at Arms badge. We utilised the spare slot of Wednesday evenings in the Scout Hut for a six week air rifle shooting course for eight Scouts. This was run by Rob Thornley.

I was very fortunate to have an email from John Ridgway, whom our troop is named after. He sent his congratulations on our work and had looked at our web site. He was abroad at the time and I hope to contact him again when he is back in this country in May.

The troop has moved forward and strengthened. We have forty three Scouts at present, with twenty attending on Monday evening and twenty four on Tuesday. Girls have joined, and thrived, in the Tuesday group, but Monday has remained all male. We have three warranted, uniformed leaders for both evening with Nick Peace (SL) and Brian Way and Mark Mollinson (ASL) on Monday evening and Peter Evans (SL) and Graham Watson and Anton Allen (ASL) on Tuesdays. We continue to plan and carry out the same programme on both evenings.

Steve Jackman, Shaun Simmonds, Stuart Purdie and Rob Thornley are warranted helpers and Jane Sams, Amanda Comley and Anne Webster help regularly at meetings.

Lyn Way keeps us all organised by calmly keeping the books for both evenings.

My thanks goes to all these people for their dedication, support and commitment. Without you 1st Stotfold Ridgway would not be the wonderful success it is.

Finally my thanks goes to the young people who are 1st Stotfold Ridgway. You are a great collection of youngsters and a credit to us all.

Nick Peace
Scout Leader

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