

Ridgway Ramblings (Scouts)

Another year in Scouting, and what a year!

Ten Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award and were presented at top of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Many congratulations to Patrick Allen, Matthew Brember, Tom Hyde, Louis Sams, Joel Mitchell, Georgina Mollison, Chris Purdie, James Thornley, Sam Walker and Bradley Wright.



The troop has once again been camping in lots of places and has been away for 21 nights since the last AGM. We had a very successful summer camp at Silver Cross Scout camp site in Wales where we did lots of activities including climbing Pen-y-fan. Our new venture was to run an APL/PL training camp for the weekend at Bromham. All our camps are recorded on the web site at

<http://www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway/camps/camps.htm>.

In the previous twelve months we have attempted the Fitness, Expedition, Global, Creative, Adventure, Outdoor and Outdoor Plus Challenges. We are struggling with the new Promise Challenge, but some Scouts are now attempting it. The new regulations for the Chief Scout Gold Award require Scout to gain eight of the nine Challenges ... quite a task. All Challenge work can be found at

http://www.stotfoldscouts.org.uk/ridgway/archive/challenge_archive/index.html.

Some of the highlights of this year have been rowing on the Great Ouse with Bedford Rowing Club, an activity organised by Graham, skiing at RAF Bassingbourne, climbing at Rocknasium in Kempston, Quasar in Bedford, clay pigeon shooting with John Hyde, roller skating – a joint activity with The Guides, and a fantastic Outdoor and Outdoor Plus Challenge camp at Thriftwood a couple of weeks ago.

We once again ran the Master at Arms badge, this time in archery, and I am very grateful to Steve Davies, the Explorer Leaders for running the six week course.



Last weekend 24 Ridgway Scouts went to London to take part in JOTT, the Jamboree On The Trail. We travelled by train the Kings Cross, then

Underground to Westminster and walked along the

River Thames, crossing the river every time we came to a bridge. Ending up at Tower Bridge, with lunch on the grass outside the Tait Modern, we finally had a look round HMS Belfast before heading home.



There are presently 42 Scouts attending both Monday and Tuesday evening meetings. Ten girls are now attending the troop, with both evenings now being mixed. These Scouts benefit from the dedicated and enthusiastic contribution of seven warranted leaders and two warranted assistants (helpers). Peter Evans and Nick Peace are Scout Leaders with Anton Allen, Gary Field, Mark Mollison, Graham Watson and Brian Way as Assistant Scout Leaders. John Barrett and Stuart Purdie are Assistants. Our endless thanks to all these people for their help and support.

Steve Jackman has left us and moved to help with the Explorers and Shaun Simmonds and Rob Thornley completed their stint with the Scouts. Also Jane Sams and Amanda Comely have seen their Scouts move to Explorers. Our grateful thanks to all these people for their contribution to the success of 1st Stotfold Ridgway Scouts.

Finally many thanks Lyn Way for all her administrative work in organising paper, keeping the books and getting the cheque book back from Peter!

Peter Evans & Nick Peace, Scout Leaders, 1st Stotfold Ridgway Scout Troop