



SPLASHDOWN – Issue 2 (November 2011)

For those of us who didn't know you even had a club we are the Wimbledon & Sutton Districts Scout & Guide Canoe Club (try getting that on a nametape) and this is an occasional newsletter (now extended to a second page) covering water activity opportunities that we have either run or experienced with our Units and/or the Canoe Club.

As an introduction, we are a small group of canoe coaches who run or know a man who does run, boating activities that may be suitable for either you or your young people. We cannot guarantee to have all the answers and please remember that we all have families, jobs & scout/guide units to run. The canoeing is done in our spare time.

Our main aim is to increase the number of canoe instructors in the area which in turn will increase the opportunities for the young people and we are grateful to Sutton and Wimbledon & Wandle Districts for their support. Also, by sharing ideas and best practice we may be opening up opportunities for your Young People. Please take time to read this newsletter and we hope to hear from you or see you at one of our events.

For further details contact

Pete 07793 552477 Treagustpt@aol.com or

Keith 07964 764008 Keithaxbey@btinternet.com

Canoe Pool Sessions

These take place in the Wimbledon College Pool, Edgehill, SW19 4NS from 1-2pm on **15th Jan, 19th Feb & 18th March 2012** — split into U14s working towards the Scout (& Guides) Canoeists Badge and 'Roll & Rescue' for the O14s. We again intend taking both groups outdoors in the summer.

Access is through the Sacred Heart Church Car Park. Bring swimming kit, t-shirt & towel. Places are limited and must be pre-booked through Keith and paid for (£6.50 ph).

We are also looking to provide hour long sessions for groups on a second weekend each month but we need to know if there is sufficient interest. Please let us know if your Group would like an hour's tuition or fun activities for £80 (Max 18 participants)

Summer Activities

The club ran BCU Paddlepower & 1* trainings during the Summer Months together with a weekend in the Wye Valley in July (below) which included a BCU 3* Assessment.

Next Year's Wye Valley trip runs from **13/15 July 2012**. Contact Pete for details



Kayaks for Sale— contact Richard Hunt (Warspite Sea Scouts) rcfehunt@gmail.com for details

BCU 2 & 3* Activities and Adult Training

Andy Amer of the Paxmead & Wraysbury Instructors is running **2 & 3* sessions** for over 16s on the first and third Sundays of each month 9.30—12.30 at Paxmead Guide Boating Centre, Docket Eddy Lane.

To book places contact Andy on 07802 230922 or email Andrew.amer@openreach.co.uk

The Club & 2nd Malden Boating Team are running two **BCU 2* & 3* Training weekends in 2012**

19/20 May 2012, at Paxmead for 13+ Guides, Senior Section and Leaders with some spaces available for scouts & Explorers. Cost £20 per day—Further details from Keith

2/3 June 2012—venue tbc, Cost £20 plus transport Further details from Pete



In 2011 Spelthorne District ran **FSRT & Level 1 Instructor courses**. Since Spelthorne launched their campaign to recruit and train more Instructors over 36 coaches have qualified. Congratulations to Phil Gregg & Matthew Axbey (2nd Malden), Paul Littlechild (14th Wallington) and Sarah Toogood (1st West End Guides) who all passed this autumn. It is hoped similar courses can be provided in Autumn 2012.

For further details contact Colin Ashworth 07714 899759 or email colin.ashworth@me.com

Syllabus at <http://www.canoe-england.org.uk/coaching/bcu-qualification-courses>

DofE Trips by Canoe

This was our big success of 2011. Ten Guides completed their Bronze Expedition by Canoe in the tidal waters of Chichester Harbour and our joint Explorer/Senior Section Group of 8 paddled the Caledonian Canal from Fort William to Inverness for their Gold Expedition, following a practice trip on Lake Bala. A full account can be seen at http://www.royalkingstonscouts.org.uk/Oct_2011.pdf

We are intending to put a Senior Section group out to complete their Silver Expedition on the Upper Severn in 2012 and there is the possibility of a further joint Explorer/Senior Section Silver trip to the same area depending on demand. Participants need to be at 2* standard, although we can provide training during the summer months.

Contact Simon Keen (simon.keen@suttonscouts.org.uk) for further details



Sixers Water Fun Day

Congratulations to 2nd Norbiton Cubs who won the Ark Shield after a day of kayaking, line throwing, power boating, pillow fights and canoe jousting. We're still trying to set a date for the 2012 event, possibly in September—aimed at teams of 5 Cubs. Contact Keith if you're interested in entering a team.



Other Trips in 2011

This is the River Dee at Llangollen—we drove all the way there in February before putting our Safety brains on and settling for a cup of coffee instead. We did however pick up details about canoeing courses & DofE being run in that area (when the River isn't in spate) by a former scout leader—Andy Turton. See his website for further details.

<http://www.paddleworks-courses.co.uk>

In July a group of us paddled the Wey Navigation at Send (right) ending up in The New Inn which is definitely a trip worth repeating.



The man who does....

The following are Boating Centres or facilities that we have used this year that may be able to help you

Wimbledon Park— Erica.Bishop@merton.gov.uk

Thames Young Mariners, Ham— jo.prior@surreycc.gov.uk

Aqua Sports Redhill— info@aquasports.co.uk

HOAC, Hillingdon— groups@hoac.net

Bury Lake (GLMW Scouts) - chriskershaw1@ntlworld.com

Albany Park, Kingston — albanyparksb@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Cobnor, Chichester — sail@cobnor.com



Boat Inspections

Just a gentle reminder that if you own your own boats and they are used for scouting in any way, they should have a regular inspection and carry a Scout Boat Sticker. This applies to personal boats as well. Both Pete (GLSW) & Keith (Surrey) are registered County Inspectors if your boats need an Inspection. For further details please see <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120627.pdf>