



The Trail



The Newsletter of 1st Chesham Bois Scout Group

Edition 85, November 2014

We're Back!

For many of you this will be the first edition of The Trail that you've read, but as you can see in the header this is in fact edition 85.

The Trail was originally published during the First World War to allow the Scouts and ex Scouts of 1st Chesham Bois to keep in touch with what was going on back at home. It was also published during the Second World War and afterwards

We also published several editions between 2004 and 2006, which was our last edition.

The aim has always been to allow members of the group, their families and other interested parties to get to know what the Group and the various sections that make it up have been up to.

So here is our re-launch edition. We would welcome your feedback, future articles and suggestions.

As we are now publishing electronically there is no limit to how big and how much we can publish so if you have something you think others would be interested in please send it in to us

Dave Honour



County Orienteering 2013

The County Orienteering was held again in Wendover Woods last Autumn. The Pegasus Pack team of three Cubs won their section (42 teams). Scouts from Griffin Troop working in pairs finished 10th (out of 85 teams). Explorer Scouts from Columbus ESU finished 3rd and 5th out of 17. There is also a Leader Competition where Mark Firth and Dave Honour finished in a very respectable 4th and 5th. (This sounds better if I don't tell you how many leaders took part) In the Group competition we finished 4th. Many congratulations to all who took part especially the Cubs for bringing home a very nice trophy.

Bluffers Guide to 1st Chesham Bois



Make sure you are an expert in the component parts of our Scout Group by reading this complete guide.

We have two Beaver Scout Colonies. Beavers are 6 – 8 years of ages. Midnight were formed in 1986 and meet on a Monday evening under the leadership of Dave Spikings and Timberlanders (1988) meet on a Wednesday evening with Dan Rose.



We have two active Cub Scout Packs. Cubs are 8 to 10.5 years of age. Pioneer Pack is one of the oldest Cub Packs in the world, formed way back in 1916 when the section was launched. They meet on Tuesday evenings with Margaret Arnold as Akela. Pegasus Pack is our newest Pack launched in 2003 when demand for Cub Scouting was very high, they meet on Thursday evenings under the leadership of Andy Honour. We also have a third Cub Pack – Tiger Pack which is currently not active, but they traditionally meet on a Friday evening.

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We have two Scout Troops. Scouts start at 10.5 years and leave at 14. Phoenix Troop meet on a Friday evening, they were formed in 1908, the second oldest Troop in Buckinghamshire, their leader is Doug Miller. Griffin Troop meet on a Wednesday, they were formed in 2005 under the leadership of Mark Firth.



Explorer Scout Units are for 14 to 18 year olds and are controlled at District Level. Columbus ESU meets at Pioneer Hall on a Monday evening under the leadership of Andy Honour, this unit was formed in 2002 when the section came into being. We have also hosted Shackleton ESU on a Thursday evening, they are currently not active due to a shortage of leaders, however demand for Explorer Scouting is high so we would like to restart this unit.



The Group is lead by our new Group Scout Leader – Donald Campbell-Brown with his Assistant John Hummerstone. There are also Assistant Leaders with each section along with a number of Young Leaders many of whom are in Columbus ESU who assist in the running of the other sections. In addition we have the support of our Quarter Masters who do a fantastic job of keeping our camping equipment in good order.

The role of the Uniformed Leaders is to provide Scouting activities to the young people in their care but they could not do this without all the facilities we have at the hall. Our Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Jeremy Ensor look after all the practical issues of raising funds and other administrative tasks. Without them the Group could not function. We are always looking for more members of the committee. Contact Jeremy if you are willing to help out.

Chairman’s Update

The Group hosted our second Family Quiz Night on Saturday March 30th. This proved to be as successful as last year, with 84 people attending and enjoying a fun evening of chips, sausages and questions for both adults and children. The evening raised a tremendous profit of £421.

At the bi-annual Chesham Bois Fete, on June 14th, the Group once again ran our Pot Hole (‘Tunnel of Doom’) to raise valuable funds for the Group.

Our AGM was held on Thursday 3rd July at 8pm in the Pioneer Hall. At this meeting a special presentation made to Sheila Harley to commemorate her 50 years of working in Scouting.

Any parent is welcomed to join the committee and help out with fund raising activities that help provide new equipment for the young people to enjoy and to help maintain the hall. Please contact me if you are able to spare a small amount of your time.

Jeremy Ensor

Chairman



Tepee Fun



Pegasus Pack held their winter camp in March at Paccar Scout Camp Site at Chalfont Heights. Rather than the usual indoor accommodation used for Winter Camping they used Roy’s enclosure

which has some permanently pitched American Tepees. As well as enjoying a different style of camping the Cubs also earned their Cyclist badges with the paths on the campsite being marked out with bags of flour to show the road markings. This was a very successful weekend, helped by the glorious weather and we are already planning to visit the Tepees again!





“Moz” Noyes

1936-2014

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Moz Noyes. Moz was a member of the Group for many years, a stalwart of the Gang Shows and an ACSL with Pioneer Pack through the 1970s.

Moz was not the name given to him by his parents, but by the Scouts. He played a part in a Ralph Reader play that the Group was producing when the young Horace was in the Troop, his part took the name “Moz” and the name stuck. This was more than a mere nick-name, Moz or Mozzie became his name. He was a lovely man and our thoughts are with Evelyn, Ian, Helen and the rest of his family.

Many friends and family gathered for his funeral and the entire congregation were treated to some wonderful photos of his life including many on the stage at Pioneer Hall accompanied by the music of Ralph Reader he loved so much. At least one of the congregation was singing along.



Amersham at War

During the autumn a special exhibition hosted by Amersham Museum is appearing at various locations around Amersham and Little Chalfont. 1CB has donated some relics from the era including a drum and some early copies of The Trail magazine. If you want to see the exhibition details can be found at:



www.amershammuseum.org/wwi

50 Miles in a Day

A look at Endurance 80 2014



Endurance 80 is a 50 mile (80km) competition hike that takes place each year around the beginning of March. The challenge is to walk the route in 24 hours. Walkers, over the age of 14, are in teams of between 3 and 5 walkers and they carry all their own food and safety equipment with them. There are 22 check points manned by volunteers and the event is very professionally run.

First run in 1980, 1st Chesham Bois have a long association with the event, with numerous members of the group taking part, many victories and the course record.

So in 2014 we had 6 teams with a total of 23 walkers. Most of the teams had a mix of experienced walkers and some who were entering for the first time. The walk took place on the 1st and 2nd March, the day after very heavy rain fell across the Chilterns which turned the course into one of the muddiest and therefore trickiest any of us could remember.

The route starts in Missenden, it runs a huge loop taking in Chesham, Wendover, Coombe Hill, Princes Risborough, Stokenchurch, Bledlow Ridge and Lacey Green. The route is largely off-road and makes little attempt to avoid the steep hills.

Congratulations to all those who finished which despite the conditions included several walkers taking part for the first time. Next year’s event takes place on the 7th and 8th of March.

Skern Lodge 2014

Andy Honour reports on Columbus Explorer Scout Unit's summer trip to the coast:

Skern Lodge is an adventure centre on the north Devon coast. We have visited a number of times before, but this year it felt like the fullest programme we have ever had.

It started Sunday afternoon with surfing. The wind was in shore and making loads of great waves for us amateurs to ride. We took the largest group ever, there were 18 of us and everyone stood up on their board even if only for a brief moment.



That evening we did the tunnels. This was something we have not had as an evening activity before, so day one already felt full. The tunnels system is claustrophobic and designed to test our courage. Everyone got stuck in and tested themselves, some going into spaces they had not previously managed.

After a good night's sleep and cooked breakfast Monday morning was river Kayak and bridge jump. There was a great sweep of confidence as everyone jumped the bridge three times with barely any hesitation; of course there were plenty of screams.



We had the two man sit on Kayaks, great fun to paddle, but we also spent plenty of time falling or jumping off of them as well. The slalom race between the bridge arches demonstrated a wide range of skills with plenty of action between the boats.



The afternoon event was high ropes. There are many events on the high rope and we seemed to get through so many events including our old favourites of crate stacking and the trapeze. We also did the scramble net the low and high bar and the caterpillar climb.



In the evening we had team building games. Brad our instructor worked really hard to find us a ton of entertaining stuff to do. An old favourite game, Place the Egg, gave us all plenty to think and laugh about. The Zen wrestling games were also new to us and great fun. We finished the evening with six man ski racing, where the leaders team demonstrated terrible coordination.



Tuesday was our last day and we were back in wetsuits and down on the river in inflatable rafts. The activities included some paddling but with the usual silliness, boarding other boats and generally messing about. A new game with the rafts was to slide from the bank. So much fun from such a simple game.





The last activities were the climbing and abseil wall and the zip wire. Alex and Ali provided us with great entertainment pulling everyone up to the top of the zip wire. After the all-important team photo it was time to say another fond farewell to Skern until next time.



Does it fly?

You may have noticed that the Amersham Carnival did not take place in 2014, but that did not stop our team of float builders continuing our tradition of building something to impress the people of the town. With the various events commemorating the centenary of the start of the Great War we were approached by Amersham Town Council to see if we could help them. They wanted a WWI aircraft, so discussions started and Andy and Doug decided it should be an SE5a, one of the most successful fighters of the war and naturally they would be making it exactly the same size as the original.

And so the 'back room' became an aircraft hanger and gradually it appeared, made from wood and cardboard and covered (like the original) with painted fabric. Detailed plans were used to make it as authentic as possible, the only real change was the cockpit had no seat or floor to allow visitors to climb in from below to have their photo taken.

The plane made three public appearances in Amersham and the leaders looking after it had constant praise from visitors.



Watch our video on YouTube here (Ctrl + click):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzeWlcZqyiw>

The plane has been stored in Amersham by the Town Council as it has been very hard to transport, but we are delighted to say that it will have a permanent home in RAF Halton. Where it will appear in some of the events they are staging to commemorate the First World War. If we get any details of where it can be seen we will let you know.



Farewell to the Van

It is with great sadness that we must say farewell to our mini-bus.

She was formerly the property of 2nd Amersham Common Scout Group (and still carried their name on the side) and they decided that they wanted to upgrade and gave her to us.

So we had for the first time since the days of Trek Carts our own permanent transport.

She was a bit scruffy and there was some light moisture seeping in during periods of heavy rain.

OK, well I should be honest, she was very scruffy most of the seats had been ripped and she leaked like a sieve giving rise to an interesting odour. The clutch was so heavy I once strained a muscle driving her. But we loved her, we took her to camp loaded to roof with equipment and with lots more tied to the roof and sometime even more towed behind on our trailer.

She even went all the way to Scotland in 2013 11 hours each way!

The van also leaked electricity and we frequently had to top her up from a younger vehicle before she would start. But she has served us well.

No longer mechanically sound we have been forced to upgrade too and our new van is much loved, but it doesn't smell like the old girl.

Dave Honour

Timberlanders Beaver Colony



Experiment Badge

The Beavers who meet of Wednesday evenings worked on their Experiment Badge in the Spring. We started by looking at what makes plants grow by doing experiments with cress. We also attempted to make rockets using vinegar and baking soda whilst we didn't get the height we wanted they were still fun. For this badge we also looked at static electricity which resulted in some wild hair styles and we wrote secret messages using invisible ink (Lemon Juice).

Dan Rose



Griffin Troop Summer Camp

On Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend six Griffin scouts joined another six from 7th Malvern to camp at Rough Close just outside Coventry.

We pitched camp on a fine afternoon and the sunshine continued as the Scouts took part in shooting and archery on Sunday, but in true Bank Holiday fashion the remains of Hurricane Cristobal dropped in on Monday. By 6pm a new stream had appeared and the Wombat patrol's tent was hastily moved as the stream headed straight for it. Fortunately we were able to obtain the key to a small hut and the heaters were soon hard at work drying wet clothes.

Having spent Tuesday preparing, the whole camp set off for a day's hiking on Wednesday, well almost. Having dropped the day hikers I returned to camp to find that the Warden (who was in sole possession of the codes for the locks) had left site, marooning the overnight hikers in the car park. They quickly transferred to the minibus and we set off for their drop point somewhat later than planned. I returned and met up for lunch with day hikers just in time to hear the scouts singing "One pound beef" to a herd of bullocks (from the safety of the other side of a gate).

Thursday found us (and a layer of mud from the campsite) in the swimming pool in Coventry, before the (now clean) scouts went shopping to buy ingredients for the meals that they had planned for the next 24 hours. Back to camp for some tasty and creative meals, with extra points for the week long patrol competition on offer and the scores neck and neck, the scouts were eager to find ways to impress the leaders.

Friday night is 'bivvy' night with the scouts sleeping out in shelters that they build in the woods around camp, with Monday night's downpour on everyone's minds and more rain in the forecast, the shelters were constructed with great care.

When the final scores were added up on Saturday the patrol competition had been won (by the narrowest of margins) by the Malvern Eagle patrol.

Mark Firth

