

1st Henllys Scout Group 2011 AGM

Scout Section Report

2010/2011 has been yet another great year for Henllys Scouts. Our numbers are now at 32, the highest yet recorded, and we continue to attract not just Cubs moving up, but also young people with no prior scouting experience who have heard about our programme through friends and Scouts from other Troups who were on the point of leaving scouting but again through friends realised that Henllys would deliver what they wanted from Scouting.

In the course of the year 3 Scouts achieved their Chief Scouts Gold, the highest award achievable by Scouts, and one they carry forward to Explorers. We now have 7 Scouts working towards the Gold before they leave us at the end of the Summer term.

Looking back over the years programme, highlights were:

- Kane Roberts gaining a place at Bear Grylls survival weekend amongst massive competition. Only 8 places were available to Scouts from across the UK. The weekend was, by all accounts, awesome!
- We camped at the All Wales Camp at the Welsh Show Ground in Newtown. A first for us and a fun camp with many activities.
- Another first was Wintercamp 2011 in January. This was at Gilwell Park in Essex and might have been better known as Mudzilla. Despite the 6" of ooze, a good time was had by all.
- Other camps during the year include:
 - Survival camps (building shelter etc.)
 - Gwent Trek challenge
 - St. Georges Camp
 - Camps as part of night hikes
- Three sessions delivering Henllys Heralds, providing a service element to the programme, and keeping Henllys Scout Group in the eye of the Community Council. And earning a contribution towards funds
- Service at the opening of the new Village Hall handing out orders of service and providing Guard of Honour.
- Bag packing sessions to raise funds for the Group.

I am especially pleased to report that the above service activities were well supported with Scouts demonstrating that they are prepared to put work in as well as do the fun things. A good lesson for life.

- We also attended a very interesting talk on Nepal, and the work of a charity building hospitals and schools there with string links to Scouting. A fantastic opportunity in the future for any Scout looking to gain the Explorer Belt.

- As part of the lead up to the Commonwealth Games we learnt about Commonwealth Countries, tasted food from around the Commonwealth and had our own games.
- We also had a visit (planned) from the Police and PCSO who explained about community policing, and demonstrated the variety of equipment they have available.
- Sports have also featured with taster/coaching sessions
 - Swimming (with many gaining higher stage badges)
 - Cycling skills (a chance to finish the Cyclists badge for those who missed element the previous year)
 - Skiing
- The District Swimming Gala is worthy of special note, where despite a reduced turnout (due in part to the day of the competition coinciding with Bag Packing and Village Hall opening) Henllys had a clean sweep of the Trophies, bringing all back where they belong!
- During the Spring Term, we, like other sections were busy preparing for the Gang Show but in parallel to this have undertaken a series of fitness sessions helping Scouts to achieve their fitness challenge.

On the Leader side, Andrew Spencer gained his Wood Badge (completion of training), Andrea Fairless is now (finally) fully warranted and amongst a variety of training and skills undertaken, I have gained my climbing wall supervisor authorisation, so can authorise three pitches which will be useful on future activities. We have all undertaken a food hygiene course, so will only poison those we plan to in future!

If any Group parents, friends etc. have specific skills / qualifications that would permit them to lead an adventurous activity, we'd love to hear from you. This could be on a one off basis with no hint of becoming a leader!!!

Yours in Scouting

Diesel (Rob Symons) SL

Wendy (Mustow) ASL

Sonic (Andrew Spencer) ASL

Aunty (Andrea Fairless) ASL