

Henllys Scout Annual Report 2019



“Feeding time at the Zoo” (otherwise known as breakfast time at summer camp)

We have enjoyed a lucky and successful year. We have returned to having 4 leaders most of the time, but as Billy has commitments with college and work, we are running with 3 full time and 1 more when available. Scout numbers are stable at around 16 each week, with a few coming up from cubs soon, and some new members from outside scouting joining us recently as well.

Behaviour has often been challenging, but we are actively encouraging the young people to be proactive in this area, with some success. There’s a long way to go... Parental support in this area has been appreciated.

Camps

We have camped at least 12 nights this year, with a further 12 on offer from the Dragon camps and a Patrol Leaders’ weekend.

Our main camp week was at PACCAR, just outside London, with activities mornings, afternoons and evenings (sitting around the camp fire enjoying a spectacular lightning show – but no rain!). Day time activities included climbing, abseiling, caving,

high ropes, zip wires, archery and axe-throwing. We also enjoyed a day out at the Air Museum at RAF Hendon, celebrating the RAF centenary.

Gwent Trek 2018 was based from Cwrt-y-Gollen army camp, and our team of 8 were hiking, map-reading, camping and cooking – and the obligatory campfire – as part of an enjoyable weekend. Our unofficial results were quite good (we weren't officially included in the scoring because our team was too big).

Christmas camp was a craft-based weekend at Botany Bay, where we each made bird boxes (Wendy's has wrens nesting in it at the moment), Christmas trees and table decorations, using various techniques, including power tools, glue guns, floating dye and carving with knives.

Most recently we've had the very successful Portcullis camp – 13 scouts as part of the 37 young people taken by 1st Henllys – with far too many activities to list. The scouts also played their part in assisting the leaders with cooking, cleaning and supervisory duties – as well as doing a STAR turn at the campfire.

Other Activities

As leaders we have tried to provide a balance of activities for scouts to develop through a variety of skills being taught, and we have moved most on towards their ultimate challenge of achieving the Chief Scout's Gold award. These have included: climbing, abseiling, sailing, fire-lighting, cooking, first aid, puzzle solving, pioneering, navigation, sewing, woggle making, tent pitching and pancake tossing!

A similar range of activities for the remainder of the year are planned, with 2 evenings at Llandegfedd reservoir, some more climbing (Sonic and Chef are now close to completing qualification to run climbing wall sessions), and a summer camp at Silver Cross (Swansea) with a theme of 'back to basics' – simple scouting techniques such as cooking on open fires, sleeping out (bivouacs or hammocks) and much more (including the muddiest assault course in the UK!)

We're looking forward to a happy, but busy, time ahead, so we will welcome anyone who wishes to join us either as an occasional helper, or, even better, as a new leader.

Thanks for all your support this year,

Wendy, Chef, Sonic and Billy.