



# 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Village Scouts St Lawrence



## No. 107

## 1SV Groundsheet June 2014

I love the summer months – long days, short nights and occasionally – some decent weather ! And lots of camps to escape to...

### Survival Skills

Three Scouts from Swindon Village (**Jakub Kubinak, Daniel Mitchell** and **Joshua Williams**) and two of our former Scouts (**William Lancaster & Oliver Smith**) took part in the County organised Survival Skills weekend held up in woods near Duntisbourne Abbots over the last bank holiday weekend. They joined around 100 Scouts and Explorers from across Gloucestershire, Hampshire & Greater London who came to take part in one of the most challenging weekends that you can have as a Scout. This course took them through a real "Bear Grylls" style survival challenge and after several hours of training & instruction, with a knife as their only tool, they set about their survival exercise. This included building a shelter out of natural materials, foraging for wild food (including eating nettles) and preparing & then cooking rabbits over a camp fire without utensils. William and Oliver were back for their third year on Survival Skills and were taking part in the "Advanced Survival" course – which involves even less equipment and no sleeping bag for the weekend ! Needless to say - they all came home very tired and in need of a good bath – but happy and wiser for the experience and thrilled with their achievements ! **Congratulations** & well done lads.

### Scout Activate Camp - Kidderminster

Just four Scouts from Swindon Village took part in this activity camp based at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site – right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. This is a beautiful woodland campsite with small grass clearings for camping and we were blessed with gorgeous weather throughout the weekend. On site the Scouts tackled: Climbing, Abseiling, Air Rifles & Archery. Off site - two had a flight in a light aircraft right over the camp site and the safari park, one went caving in the Forest of Dean while others went off mountain biking around the local area. Water activities included Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting, and Power Boating. This was an excellent weekend with quality activities and instructors that we hope to repeat next year.



### 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Camp at Cranham Scout HQ

The first full weekend in June saw us all celebrating the Groups 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a group camp up at Cranham. The Cubs and Scouts camped together over the weekend and the Beavers came up to join us for the Saturday afternoon. The weather forecast was for heavy thundery showers throughout Friday night and Saturday, but somehow we managed to miss most of it – we were woken by thunder on the Saturday morning but only had a couple of hours light rain towards lunch time. All quite amazing when we heard how much rain fell on both Cheltenham and Gloucester ! Activities on the camp included air rifles, wide games, a string trail, crafts, an obstacle challenge course and archery for the Cubs and Scouts on Sunday morning. The Scouts also planned and ran bases for the Beavers during Saturday and the day was rounded off with a barbecue and camp fire together with a huge 50<sup>th</sup> birthday cake. On camp we had 11 Cubs and 16 Scouts together with a dozen leaders and helpers, who were joined by 15 very excited Beavers on the Saturday. All in all - a lovely weekend enjoyed by everyone. Here's to the next 50 years !

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Scouts outside again !

This coming Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June, the Scouts will be outside around the village for the evening. Meet at the Village Hall in **smart uniform** (shirt & neckerchief) **at 7:15pm** and remember to bring waterproofs if it looks like rain. We should be finished by **8:30pm**.

### Summer Camp – Titley 2014

Details of this year's Scout Summer Camp are now out. It takes place from: **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**. We hope you can join us.

### Leader Contact Details

You can contact Sos & Rachel by E-mail: [svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk) and our website is: <http://www.1stswindonvillagescouts.btck.co.uk/>

### Dates for Your Diary (County Events in Green)

Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Scouts outside for the evening
4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sun Run (Explorer Scouts)
11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July	London Nautical Skills Weekend
18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Chelt Explorers Overnight Camp: Cranham
26 <sup>th</sup> July – 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Summer Camp at Titley
10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Operation Bald Eagle 2014