

LIVERPOOL SOUTH NEWS SEPTEMBER 2016 – STOP PRESS!!



We are so proud of the Aardvark Explorer Unit and Unit Assistant, Tony Swindells.

This was part of the Unit's summer trip this year to Snowdonia, The Aardvarks, a determined bunch, went on to wild camp on the other side of Snowdon, at Cwm Tregalan, in some atrocious wind. They came to the assistance of the Parnwell family after their son Bryn, had a nasty accident. And before that had also helped a woman who had shattered her ankle.

What a brilliant example of Scouting and what it can achieve! And being so modest about their actions we have only just heard about this!

Well done to Tony and the Aardvarks!
Brenda Hope DC

I wanted to write to you and your Explorer Unit following a note from the parents of Bryn Parnwell, whom I believe you and your Explorers helped when they had an accident whilst descending Snowdon. I have just returned from holiday and picked this story up.

Your intervention and obvious caring actions have made a significant impact on the family and I am glad to say that Bryn is recovering well.

Please pass on this message to the whole unit on my behalf.
Alan Seeley CC

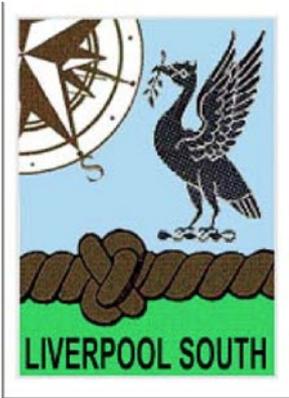
Here's a brief description of what happened on Snowdon and how the Scouts came to our rescue!

After climbing up the Pyg trail up Snowdon (one of the more tricky routes) in August with our 11 year old son Bryn in very windy and wet weather, we were descending Snowdon down the Miners trail. The first part down involves a steep descent through narrow paths, more of a scramble than a walk. Bryn was a metre behind us when we heard him yell in pain. He'd slipped and caught his knee on a jagged rock sticking sideways out across a narrow path. We rushed over to him and within 30 seconds, some explorer scouts were at our side. A young lady (I sadly didn't catch her name) immediately sat with Bryn, got his attention and she checked in with us to ask if we needed help. We did. The wound was down to the cartilage and later that day would need 6 stitches in hospital. She and some other scouts called to their leader Tony who was just coming up the pass with them. He got the first aid kits and helped us clean the wound. He proceeded to dress the wound, ensuring the skin was clean and covered and back in place as best he could - basically sticking my son back together so he was able to make it back off the mountain. Tony also provided us with a Snickers bar to help Bryn regain a bit of energy after the shock - this was also really useful as we decided Bryn would need to have some pain relief - we only had paracetamol in tablet form - Bryn, being unable to swallow tablets, used the Snickers to disguise the tablet taste as he crunched them down.

The Scouts had phone signal and checked in with us that we were OK to make it down off the mountain - they texted ahead to let the people they were meeting know that they were going to be late - not only because of their help to us, but because they'd just finished assisting a woman who had shattered her ankle further down the path. They'd got the Mountain rescue team mobilised for her and had helped make sure she and her family were OK too.

These young people and their leader were staying the night out on the mountain - they were organised, prepared, helpful, knowledgeable and caring. I believe they were from Liverpool South Aardvarks group. We still had 2.5 hrs to go to get off the mountain, and without them, I'm not sure how we would have done it. They were the perfect advert for a reason to join the Scouts.

Mary Parnwell



Liverpool South *Scouting News*

Edition No 4 September 2016

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Scouting News



Editors Note

Welcome back everyone, I hope you have all had a pleasant summer break, rested, recharged and ready to face whatever challenges the forthcoming term has in store for us.

Thank you to all who have sent in articles for inclusion in this newsletter, it is much appreciated. For anyone else who has yet to do so, please remember it is an ideal way to raise your Group profile, share ideas and information and lets the rest of the District know what you are doing.

Just one small point, when including photos with your item could you please send them as a separate attachment and not embed them in the text page.....it makes it easier for me to resize them etc.

As well as being the editor of this newsletter most of you will know that I am also the Scout Active Support Manager so don't forget that the SAS unit is there to assist with any activities that you need help with.

Please send items for the next terms newsletter by the end of December for publication in January .

Please send to gordon.scott31@btinternet.com



Scouting News



25th Allerton Beavers

The 25th Allerton St Mary's Scout Hut, in Garston, was chosen as a Jaguar Land Rover Halewood mini summer community project in August. Over a period of five days a team of workers from Halewood transformed the shabby scout hut into a building to be proud of.

Exterior work to the gutters and a paint over caused locals to comment and admire their work. Inside, kitchen walls were stripped and painted, radiators were sanded and painted and walls were transformed from spider cobwebs hell to fresh coat of paint heaven. Beaver Scouts called by with cake and chocolate to encourage the men and when the group returned to sessions in September a thank you buffet was held and parents and children admired the transformation. Huge thanks to Jaguar Land Rover. Let them know about any mini projects for shutdown week next year!

25th Allerton Beaver Scouts give 'Thank You' tea and certificate to Jaguar Land Rover men after their mini summer community project fixing and painting the Scout Hut.

Jane Leadbetter ABSL



Scouting News



4th Allerton – Hawkins Pack

At the end of May we enjoyed pack meeting appreciating the great outdoors. The evening started with a hike through Allerton Tower Park and the Golf Course, finishing at Calderstones Park. The cubs took full advantage of the playground area and also enjoyed the hospitality and (pre-arranged) taster session on the park's Bowling Greens. After having the rules explained, and being shown the correct technique, they all enjoyed a game of bowls (some spurred-on by the 50p for closest to the 'jack' being offered by one of our hosts).

As part of the Home Help and Our Skills challenge we welcomed two ladies from the Wavertree Community 'knit and natter' group, who showed the cubs how to 'cast-on' and complete some knitting stitches. The ladies then took the knitting the cubs had started and made comforters (called 'twiddle-muffs') for dementia sufferers. During the following weeks we collected buttons, ribbons, badges and buckles, which the cubs then sewed on to the finished items. They were then donated to Redcourt nursing home for the benefit of their residents.



During June and into July we entered the pack in the 'Beat the Streets' challenge. Some South Liverpool Schools and community groups entered as teams to promote exercise for themselves and their families. Fobs/cards and maps were used to visit designated locations in the area (from Booker Avenue to the far end of Speke, and from the Prom to Woolton Village and Hunts Cross). These points had boxes with sensors that registered your visit, the more visits, the more points gained for your team. There was an overall league table and an 'average' score league table. After a sterling effort (much walking, cycling and few well-walked dogs) we managed to gain top-spot on the 'average' and third place overall, for which we are being awarded sports vouchers for 'Decathlon'. A small group of us have been invited to attend the presentation, next week, at the Cathedral Crypt.



Scouting News



THE SCOUT BAND

So, you've come to join the band, eh lad?
"Yeah, I want to play a drum".
Well, you'll have to play the bugle first
'cause you're only 4ft 1!

We practice on a Monday night
march up and down to the beat,
trying to get left and right hands
to co-ordinate with left and right feet.

Cor, to get those high notes
that really was the worst.
I'd raise me eyebrows, look skyward
And blow like me lungs would burst.

Polish it, you're jokin,
I'd rather go out and play,
Woe-betide you if it wasn't gleamin
When it came to church parade day.

Then, when you can hold a half-decent tune
We'll move you on to the drums.
It'll be like starting all over again,
You'll be all fingers and thumbs.

Fingers, thumbs and two left feet
"Follow my lead – as you're shown."
That's easier said than done you know
When your drum's got a mind of it's own!

I got better at marchin (and playin) in time
And me heart it swelled with pride
When instead of being hidden on the centre row
They moved me to the outside.

Parents and families would walk alongside
And people came out to their gates.
But I used to try and hide under me hat
Whenever I spotted me mates.

Been in the band a while now
And I'm close to 6ft 2
Sleeves on me jumper creepin up me arms,
So, "It's the big bass drum for you".

played the big drum loud and strong
As you really should play the bass,
Till a deep pot hole rolled me over the top
And I decided to take up the mace!

That kind of makes me the leader now
And I find that it's my turn
To welcome newcomers into the band
And help them grow and learn.

"So, you want to join the band, eh lad?
I remember when it was me
I was only 4ft 1 at the time,
At least you're 4ft 3.

We haven't had a band for a while
But I wonder if we might
Try to reform and 'old boys' band
To play for just one night.

It wouldn't be the full repertoire
Just a medley of a few
Dictated by the number of minutes
Out of practice lips could do!

Maybe Royal Naval Inspection
Or the re-union night that's planned?
It would only take a few sessions
To form an old boys band.

Don't be scared it's like riding a bike
It will all come flooding back,
In the name of Bob Manley, Ken Milton and Co.
Perhaps we could give it a crack...

Come on then old boys, answer the call
Get out your sticks, polish and duster.
Join the band just one more time
For the 4th Allerton Centenary Muster

Kim Fraser
Akela Hawkins Pack
4th Allerton

Scouting News



25th picton Cubs

The summer term started with prep for Winging. We had a lot of new cubs joining the 35 strong Pack with 31 signing up for camp, many not having camped before. The tent erecting sessions highlighted up and coming sixers whilst the bag packing and first aid sessions were an eye opener to what was expected of the facilities!

Winging gave them opportunities to challenge own expectations and the crafts and skills to enrich the cub experience. Badges were gained towards the Challenge badges. Other badges achieved in the term were Road Safety and Local Knowledge. Four of the cubs gained the Chief Scout Silver award before moving on to Scouts next term.

The cubs had a coaching session in Gaelic Football within the hut grounds which we will continue next term possibly moving to The Mystery for more space.

The term was completed by 4 hours, over 2 Pack nights, canoeing and kayaking at Friends of Allonby Canoe Club at Collingwood dock. This involved rafting in open canoes and kayaking with all being encouraged to join the Go canoeing sessions the club run each week. An 'on the water investiture' took place standing up in the canoes resulting in Akela being sabotaged and sunk!!!The event ended with a bbq at the dockside attended by the cub Pack, their families and a BRAVO for the club coaches.

The Pack will take 4 new cubs in September reaching numbers back to 35 cubs, 5 over their agreed quota with many Beavers having to wait for cubs to leave or move on to Scouts. The Scout Group are working together to manage the situation.

Brenda Webster GSL 25th Picton

Scouting News



25th Picton Scouts

On a warm spring evening the 25th Picton Scout Group attended a Dragon Boating session at the Water Sports Centre, Queens Dock. During the evening our scouts acquired the necessary skills to complete the Dragon Boating Badge. All had fun and even the rain stopped for the hour and a half that we toured the various docks. All stayed dry (unusual in itself). Many thanks to Patrick & Elliott who helped arrange the event and who skippered the two boats



Saturday 11th June St Stephens Church held their annual Summer Fayre, which the Scouts attend and run numerous stalls to raise funds, both for the church and our group. The weather looked ominous, but after a shower an hour before we opened and a downpour 15 min's after we finished (someone was looking out for us) we had a great day. We ran over half a dozen stalls, including splat a rat, guess the number of sweets in a jar and everyone's favourite and the big money spinner, Soak a Scout or parent or leader (when that became the norm I don't know). Still money was raised, fun was had counting down the days till revenge can be had next year.

Sunday 12th June attended the Summer Church Service which was held by our minister. Many thanks for the scouts who attended the service especially after the previous day's efforts.

Scouting News



31st June we attended the annual Water sports weekend held at Tatton Park, Cheshire. We took 22 scouts with us (should have been 23 but a broken arm put an end to their participation – disappointment and pain not a happy pairing). As usual all had a great time, weather was ok, investitures were carried out on the water and for many it was their first scout camp. I am sure we will be taking more again next year as they all came back happy, safe and exhausted. Many thanks to Brian for organising again and many thanks for the hard working catering team, and all the leaders who ran bases and helped out.



Scouting News



For the first time our scouts (8) joined up with our Beaver Colony for a combined day at Freshfield's on the 16th July. The Beavers go every year from Liverpool South Parkway with a packed lunch, have a small walk through the reserve, & finish off with an ice cream. This year we thought it would be nice if all 3 groups, (Beavers, Cubs & Scouts) met up to increase relations between the three. Unfortunately no cub leaders were available on the day due to work commitments, however we had a great day with an 7 mile walk for the scouts, a BBQ in the picnic area, games on the beach & in the dunes and an ice cream to finish of the day. Hopefully this can turn into an annual event.



Due to increasing troop numbers and work commitments with some of our leaders we are desperate for helpers. Please, if you can spare some Thursday's (7:30-9pm) you will be made more than welcome.

Darren Smith
ASL 25th Picton

Scouting News



24th Picton Scouts

The Scouts have been busy during the summer period. Activities have included - Gardening (Fruit & Flowers) - Athletics Badge - Cycling with an obstacle course - Building Bivvys (see photo) - Fires and Extinguishers and finally a grand BBQ.

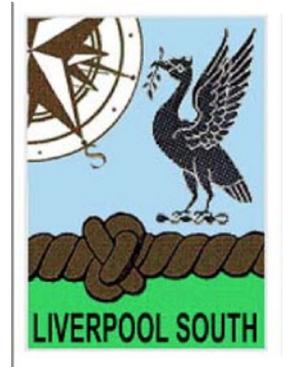
Although we are currently low on Scout numbers we are visiting 3 local schools in the next few weeks and inviting any interested young people to an "Open Night " early in November .

With high numbers in our Beaver Colony & Cub Pack we hope the Scout Group will grow over the next 12/18 months.



Gordon Hodgson GSL 24th Picton

Scouting News



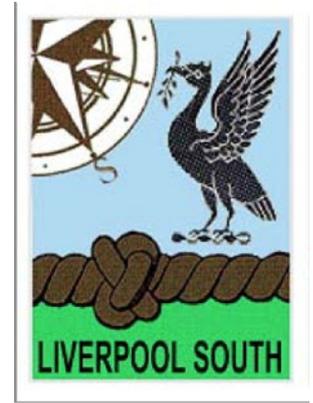
Group News

26th Picton Group Camp

26th Picton Scout Group had a joint camp with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts camping at Tawd Vale for a weekend in May. We camped on the Ladies field and hired the activity barn for the weekend. The barn has excellent kitchen facilities and is fully equipped with all cooking equipment and utensils you would need. The children took part in lots of activities including rifle shooting, archery and abseiling. We rounded off Saturday with a BBQ which went down a storm with everyone – even the District Commissioner was impressed. The scouts made hammocks and slept out in them on Saturday night. Luckily the weather was good to us and we even went home with a suntan! All the children enjoyed themselves and it was great to see all three sections mixing together and having fun. Thanks to all the leaders for their hard work, time and support. Thanks also go to Tawd Vale staff and instructors.

Dave Collett GSL

Scouting News



District News

Liverpool South Scouts Night Hike 2016

This year's night hike is planned for **Friday 25th November** and has been prepared for Scouts age 10-13 years although older Scouts are welcome to come along.

The hike follows a circular route around the village of Maeshafn, near Mold, North Wales (OS Explorer Map 265 – Clwydian Range) and in parts (or probably most parts!!!) will be muddy. Scouts taking part should have waterproof boots or wellingtons as well as a waterproof coat and (if possible) waterproof over-trousers.

The hike is approx 6 miles in length and with a short stop at the half-way point, should take no more than 4 hours to complete. Ample parking is available at the starting point. A map and a detailed route plan will be available in time for the November Scout Leaders Meeting.

The hike will start between 7pm and 8pm and will be cancelled if the weather is unsuitable.

I will need to know your "approx" numbers prior to the hike along with your nominated "emergency" mobile telephone number. Refreshments (drinks and biscuits) will be available at the half way stop but suggest the Scouts bring their own sandwiches.

Hope you will be able to join us at this popular annual event.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Gordon Hodgson

GSL 24th Picton Scout Group

