



1st Charltons Sea Scout Group



1st Charltons Sea Scouts had a busy summer this year. The academic year ended with lots of time out and about with the staff from Quantock Orienteers helping us develop our navigation skills using the local orienteering sites. We managed to throw in some expedition skills – such as making parents a cup of tea on an expedition stove at pickup time.

After the schools broke up for the summer we put all that training into practice. We started with a day walk with 'expedition load', followed by a 2 day expedition. The expedition aim was to survey the public rights of way in Keinton and Barton Parishes. Owen and Bethany were working towards their Expedition Challenge Award, so they carried everything they needed for the 2 days, as did the older explorer scouts who treated it as their practice Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. Everyone else carried a load dependant on their age.

Later in the summer 5 of our explorer scouts (Alex, Chris, Josh, Peter and Tyler) planned and completed an unassisted (no adults!) 2 day expedition covering Keinton and Charlton Parishes, again surveying the public rights of way. The team overcame many adversities to impress the independent assessor and achieve a pass. They presented their expedition report as a powerpoint presentation to the Chair of Keinton Parish Council, who was very pleased to see such community commitment from local young people.

With the new term we have started a number of new topics. First up is 'The Heritage of the Fleet Air Arm' – after all the reason we are **SEA** scouts is due to our historic links with RNAS Yeovilton. In recognition of this FAA link, we have re-named our explorer scout section, which is now called **Keinton Sea Kings** explorer unit. Our scout section will choose new names for the individual patrols at half term, expect a naval flavour.

We are also working towards our Adventure Challenge Award, with climbing at strode college and sub aqua diving at strode pool to combine with the orienteering and hiking we have already completed. Our programme is designed to ensure that we all earn the Chief Scout's Gold Award by the time we leave scouts, and the Queen's Scout Award and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award by the time we leave explorers. As well as having great fun, that should set us apart on our CVs and UCAS applications!

This month's article was written by Alex Flack from Keinton Sea Kings explorer unit.

We are recruiting boys and girls from 10 to 18. If you think you might want to try a free taster session, contact us at 1charltonsseascouts@gmail.com