

THE GRIFF

3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scout Troop Newsletter

Issue 2 ~ July 2013

From the Editor.....

June was a busy month for the Troop, with plenty of activities kicking off the summer!

In this issue of The Griff we get to see what members of The Troop were up to from duck races to sleeping aboard an active Royal Navy warship.

The Troop will still be running throughout the school summer holiday but this issue will be the last before the summer holiday, so from myself and the rest of the leader team we hope you have a great holiday and if you're going away we ask if you can bring back some sun!!

Enjoy! ASL Peter Jacob 'The Jimmy'

July Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthday this month in The Troop, have a great day!

Theo	13 th July
Oscar	14 th July
Joshua P	16 th July
Jon W	18 th July
Robert B	19 th July
Calum H	23 rd July
Chris D	26 th July
Josh D	26 th July
Joe D	26 th July
George H	29 th July

Dates for Your Diary

Group Jumble Sale – 13th Jul
Summer Camp - 27th July – 3rd Aug
Guzzler's Recruitment Day – 24th Aug
Old Leigh Regatta – 21st-22nd Sept

Leigh Lions Duck Race ~Sunday 16th June

On the 16th some boys from the Troop helped out at the Leigh Lions Duck Race which took place in the Creek while the tide was slowly coming in. Starting from Bell Wharf hundreds of plastic duck were released onto the water and the tide carried them down to the finish post all the way to The Billet. The boys who helped out assisted in collecting all the ducks that passed the finishing line. Each year we help out at this event and we get a small donation for doing so, so thank you to the boys who helped!

ASL Peter Jacob 'The Jimmy'



Troop Weekend Camp



On the weekend of the 21st to the 23rd of June, a group of 22 scouts and 8 leaders took part in a troop training camp at Thriftwood Campsite in Brentwood. The camp itself is used

as a training aid for the upcoming summer camp event. At the camp the scouts learned, or brushed up on, making and cooking on fires, putting and taking down tents, using axes and saws and many more skills required to make summer camp as successful as it always is year after year. The Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders especially learned essential leadership skills in order to make sure their patrol is the best at summer camp.

But the camp wasn't all work. There were activities that let the scouts and leaders blow off a little steam after the hard work. On Saturday, the troop took part in crate stacking for the first time, which proved to be great fun with one team apparently reaching 13 crates, although many of the scouts didn't believe it. In the evening there was a joint campfire with the Sea Rangers a few sites down, which saw both sections getting very involved with the usual campfire songs and especially, the dances.



Lastly, as a Sea Scout Troop, our main focus is water so having a water sport seemed like an ideal activity. The last day was a two hour session of canoeing which the scouts thoroughly enjoyed with not many of them making it back to the site dry.

The training camp was a great success and I hope that all the scouts learned a great deal of skills that can be applied

to summer camp. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the leaders that helped and I'm sure we are all, scouts and leaders, looking forward to the challenge and fun of summer camp in the next few weeks.

ASL James Francis 'Pilot'



(More photos can be found on the closed Facebook page)

Did you Know.....

that 3rd CB did their part for the country during World War 2. Well when war broke out in 1939, Scouts from the Troop volunteered for the Port of London Thames River Emergency Service.

The Scouts were assigned to vessels with a signal tower, with all vessels manned with a Sailor and machine gun, and had special buoys which were used for mine spotting (mines were dropped by German planes into the estuary at night). The crews used to watch during air raids from the anti-aircraft gun barges moored in the estuary. The Scouts wore Naval bell-bottomed trousers, Sea Scout jersey, navy blue donkey or bridge jacket, their Sea Scout caps and a white 'Discovery' scarf, tied with the 'Discovery' knot, this is the knot we still use today.

Other duties involved monitoring shipping and keeping vessels, especially sailing barges, off the Blyth Sands which were heavily mined. Scouts were present when the Shellhaven Oil Tanks were bombed. One crew was commended by the Admiralty for its part during and after the raid the signaller was PL Eric Lowen... this happened during the Battle of Britain in 1940. The Scouts were also involved in fire fighting. These Scouts had seen a great deal of active service, and indeed the Battle of Britain had largely been fought over their heads, including as already mentioned the bombing of the oil refineries and Canvey.

They did hard work during the Dunkirk period in dealing with the requirements of hundreds of small and other craft fleeing from the Continent, being stretcher bearers and also policing the estuary. It was a twenty-four hour service in all weathers.

[Scouts in British Pathe Movie on River Emergency Service](#)



Boating Down The Den

The Den is open most weekends for Open Boating, Open Boating is for those boys who aren't taking part on courses and would like to come down to practice their sailing and rowing or just to have a fun out on the water. You don't need to ask to come down or to sign up, just turn up when The Den is open which is shown on the weekend programme or notified at the end of a Troop meeting and turn up before the briefing.

Old Leigh Regatta Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets have been issued to all members now, monies made from us selling the tickets goes straight to our share of the total made at the Regatta and is a good fund raiser for us. If you have sold any tickets please return the stubs and money to us ASAP, if you don't get round to selling all the tickets please return them back as they need to be logged.

Want to be Up to Date?

For up to date news and information please visit the group website, www.3rdCB.org.uk or join us on the closed group Facebook page '3rd Chalkwell Bay Group' for photos and up to date info on if The Den is open or closed for boating /activities on weekends.

Next Issue – September 2013

If you would like to put an article in for the September issue of The Griff please send to theden3cb@btinternet.com before the end of August.

Visit to HMS RICHMOND ~ 25-26 June 2013

As 3rdCB's affiliated warship, HMS Atherstone is forward deployed to the Arabian Gulf for the next few years, Chris managed to arrange for a small group of Scouts and Explorers to visit his ship, HMS Richmond, as she made the overnight journey from Portsmouth to London at the end of June 2013.

SPL Laurence, PLs Sam & James and Explorer Jacob, accompanied by ASL Lyle, set off early Tuesday morning to get take train from Leigh to Portsmouth, then boarded a specially arranged boat from the Naval Base, to join RICHMOND at anchor at Spithead in the Solent. After a quick safety brief and being shown to their cabins, it was off to the fo'c'sle to watch the ship sail from the Solent.

Once into clear water, the group received a brief on the ship and her capabilities, then split up into groups to keep watches in the ship's



three key control centres. In the Operations Room where the ship is fought from, they learnt about the different weapons and sensors that the ship carries, and were shown how to monitor shipping and aircraft in the area using the ship's state-of-the-art combat system. In the Ship's Control Centre they saw where all the engines & machinery is controlled from, then got a tour of the engines rooms (there are 4 of them!). On the Bridge they were shown how to steer the ship, and took turns on the helm driving her up the English Channel at 28kts (that's faster than any of the Group's RIBs can manage!).

Wednesday morning, after a good night's sleep, the Scouts were given a more extensive tour of the ship, including access to the 4.5" gun bay and the chance to handle some of the ship's small arms, including the 5.56mm SA-80 assault rifles (without the bullets of course). There was also a demonstration of firefighting and damage control techniques, and a look at the ship's huge Pacific 24 RIBs used for boarding operations.



The ship started the long transit up the River Thames just before lunch, passing Southend Pier and Old Leigh at around 1430, then arriving at West India Docks at 1600, giving the Scouts a unique view of Southend, The Thames and the approaches to London.

As soon as the ship was safely moored under skyscrapers of Canary Wharf it was time to depart and get the train back to Leigh. The ship remained in London for the rest of the week hosting numerous receptions and tours for affiliates, politicians and the local community, returning past Leigh on Sunday morning just in time to watch the start of the Nore Race at Southend Pier.



HMS Richmond is a Type 23 "Duke Class" Guided Missile Frigate. Based in Portsmouth, she is the seventh ship to bear the name (named after the Duke of Richmond, not the brand of sausage), which along with her 12 sister ships makes up the backbone of the Royal Navy's surface fleet. She is due to start a 7 month deployment on Atlantic Patrol Task (South) supporting British Dependencies and interests in the South Atlantic in August.

ASL Chris Daly 'Navs'

(More photos can be found on the closed Facebook page)