



The Unit has had another very busy & active year – numbers have been steady at 24/25 – but four recent additions have

further reinforced our numbers and the fact that three of the four have joined from outside Scouting – is testament to our growing reputation – positive word of mouth from the Explorers is a great “sell”!



**Finishing the Three Peaks at the Pen Y Ghent café... it had just closed!**

As usual the highlight of the year was our **Summer Camp & Expedition** – this year our “Yorkshire Challenge”. Firstly we visited the Yorkshire dales – during which five of our oldest Explorer’s completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge – hiking over 24 miles & climbing the three peaks of Ingleborough, Whernside & Pen Y Ghent in under 12 hours – 10.5hrs to be precise.

Congratulations to Alex Evans, Chris Alden, Ben Tattershall, Adam Van Hoof & Jon Day. Most of the rest of the Unit completed two peaks in under 10 hours. After some caving, we moved across Yorkshire to the North York Moors – where on a remote campsite (no mobile signal!!!) we cooked, played games went Beck Scrambling & finally surfed in the cold North Sea. Another very successful camp attended by 17 out of 25 Explorers...brilliant!



**Receiving their Certificates as members of the Three Peaks**



**Closing Camp Fire at Summer Camp**



**Finland 2015**

Other highlights:

Fergus, Hannah & Will went to **Finland as part of a County Expedition** – joining up with Finnish Scouts – building igloos, x-country skiing and lots of other fantastic adventures. Well done to the three.

Connor, Ed, James, Sam & Becky have just completed their **DofE Gold Practise Expedition** in the Brecon Beacons in quite atrocious weather. Well done to the five of them – four of them now are working toward their qualifying Expedition this summer in Snowdonia.



In October last year 4 Leaders & 8 Explorers went **Narrow Boating on the Grand Union Canal** - a very interesting & different weekend it was – something the Unit hasn't done since its earliest days in 2004/5.



At this point in the report I'd also like to highlight the contribution that a number of Explorers make to the Group as Young Leaders. Ben who has been helping with Cubs & more recently Scouts for almost 4 years, Connor with the Cubs for over two years, Max with the Beavers for almost two years & Luke, Nathan & Alex all of whom have completed over one year's service. Whilst Sam Heydon has now "graduated" from Beaver Young Leader (four years) to fully fledged ABSL – very many thanks to you all.

At a District level we've entered teams in the District Archery Competition, the County Night Challenge & the Great Escape – whilst no honours this year – all participants tried their absolute best – though an alarm clock is required for the Great Escape next year!

Our weekly programmes have included: Gliding, Ready Steady Cook, Night Hike, Survival Skills (Cooking & Gutting Fish), Environment talk, Casino Night, Indoor Climbing, Pioneering, Cycling; along with the annual Community Day at St John's Churchyard.

Also in the year, Hannah, Nathan, Luke & Will achieved their Chief Scouts Platinum Award including volunteering with other Sections & an Expedition on the South Downs

In conclusion I'd like to thank the regular Leader team of Trevor, Paul Irving and Paul Wateridge & Frank who assisted us until his departure to assist the 34th as well as Steve who has filled in on occasions. We really need to find one more Leader to add to the team for 2015/16 as Trevor has stated his desire to "wind down" again!!! If you'd like to help or know someone who would like to – just speak to me...please.

Yours in Scouting **Adrian Jackson (ESL)**

