

Issue 1

January 2013



Pathfinders Times

Welcome to the Pathfinders Times

Welcome to the first edition of the "Pathfinders Times".

share with us, or any articles, poems, or pictures you would like to share.

The aim of the newsletter is to try and keep people up to date with news that might be of interest to past, current and future Pathfinders.

If you have any ideas or want anything specific included in a newsletter, please let me know at sam.dunn@virginmedia.com or via Facebook.

It would be nice to hear of any fundraising you are taking part in or planning, any life events you want to



A beautiful sunny day at Pathfinders 2012

2013 camp forms
will be sent out
mid-February

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Pathfinders 2013—book it in your calendars now!

Those of us who were at Pathfinders 2012, will know that the dates for Pathfinders 2013, for those of you who weren't at Pathfinders 2012, the dates for next year are

17th—24th August

Application forms will be sent out mid-February, so if you can come to camp, please send your forms in as early as possible.

Please also remember to spread the word, share with your guiding, Duke of Edinburgh or university groups, we are always after new helpers!



Street Party 2012

Please remember to keep Jane & Dave up to date with your contact details at jane.pyzniuk@btinternet.com.

Gavin Stenning—Ironman for Woodlarks

The ever-so slightly hyper Gavin Stenning is going to be taking part in the Ironman France race on 23 June 2013 in order to raise money for the Woodlarks Camp Site.

For those of you not familiar with ironman competitions, the race consists of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike race then a marathon (26.2 miles) all to

be completed under 17 hours.

Gavin will be training throughout the year, competing in triathlons and half ironman races.

Gavin completed a half ironman competition in September, placing

29th overall and third in his age category!

To donate towards Gavin's fundraising go here:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/gavinstenning1>

Announcements

Congratulations to Shelley Dyer who got engaged in September.

Congratulations to Kelly & Kevin Metcalf who had a baby girl on 17 November, so of course congratulations also to Jill & John on their 4th grandchild!



Patrol Challenge 2012

The Patrol Challenge was hotly contested as usual, and this year only 12 points separated the patrols.

The winning patrol with 122 points was Green patrol, with Indigo and Violet in joint 2nd place with 119 points.

Many thanks to all of you for working hard throughout the week at Pathfinders 2012, you are all what makes camp a success each year.



Patrol Leader, Sharron King, posing proudly with the winning cup

Views of a new helper—by Fliss Thompson

Pathfinders camp enables people with various disabilities to have an action-filled holiday, that they may not have otherwise had. Once there, it is set out like a guide camp, with a number of patrols. Each patrol has a patrol leader, which is one of the people with a disability, and the patrol second is the helper. These two people go to meetings and then report back to their patrols on that day's activities.

When I first arrived, I was really overwhelmed and just felt really out of my depth; there were so many new people and you were thrown in the deep end straight away. However, everyone had been in the same boat as you at some point, and they were all happy to help you out in any way they could. Everyone was really supportive, especially my patrol second, who definitely helped a huge

amount throughout the week.

There were a number of activities during the week, which ranged from quizzes, movie nights, swimming and going on a zip-wire! Each patrol had a task to undertake each day, including cooking for the camp, doing any laundry, and cleaning. We had patrol games, which were set out like a mini Paralympics games. There were a number of craft activities where people could make something to remember their time at Pathfinders, such as a memory box or mobile phone holder, and also making decorations for towards the end of the week. Each patrol also had an outing on one of the weekdays, and each patrol chose where they wanted to go. Some went ice-skating, bowling, to the zoo and many other places.

“Pathfinders is like a huge family.”

In the evenings, we had quizzes, campfires, a movie night, and a disco, which were all great fun for all.

Pathfinders is like a huge family. Anybody is welcome, whatever their disability or age. At the beginning of the week, I was clueless, and just didn't know what to do. But by the end of the week I had been made to feel as though I had been going for years. It was such a rewarding time, just knowing that I helped someone to have a holiday that they may not have had. If asked to choose my favourite part of the week, I'd be spoilt for choice. I met so many amazing people and made friends I'm sure I will have for life. It is definitely a worthwhile experience and something that I hope to return to year after year.

Themes, activities and fundraising.

Themes & Activities

If anyone has any ideas about future themes or activities, please let us know.

We can't promise that we can include all of your ideas, but we can certainly look into them!

Fundraising

Please all have a think about how you can raise funds to help run Pathfinders, any small amount helps, whether it's collecting your coppers (I'm sure Nicky will love counting the coppers), baking a cake and selling it to your work colleagues, making crafty items (such as cards, jewellery or knitted items) and selling them, or anything else you can think of - lots of little amounts of fundraising soon adds up!

For those of you working, lots of companies have community support funds that can be applied to for funding for groups such as ours, have you thought about asking at work about this?

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Woodlarks Campsite are linked into easyfundraising.org.uk, this means that many places where you buy things online will make a donation for purchases you make, this is a nice, easy way of raising money for the campsite.

You can find us on facebook, just search for "Pathfinders Camp", our website can be found at <http://pathfinderscamp.org.uk/>.

Woodlarks can also be found on facebook, search for "Woodlarks Camp Site" and their website is <http://www.woodlarks.org.uk/>