



HOLIDAY ACTION

Autumn 2007

Newsletter of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust

First Holiday Ever

Can you remember your first holiday ever? Marshall (aged 4), Jake (7) and Zak (9) certainly remember their's, because it was just this year. They hadn't been able to afford one before but their first ever family holiday said mum Amanda Branch, **'was so good we didn't want to come home.'** We have more about what the Branch family holiday at our caravan at Pentewan Sands meant to them on page three. Another family who came to us from the Torridge Volunteer Centre also tell of their gratitude of being able to stay in another of our caravans, at Devon Cliffs at Exmouth. These act as a reminder that although our caravans are specially adapted to accommodate families with a disabled member, they are also available to others who are otherwise disadvantaged, such as lone parent or low-income families.



• Find out how we helped put the smiles and the paint on the faces of these young girls.

In our last issue we told how one of the caravans at Pentewan Sands was becoming unsafe through corrosion and we are now sad to say that enough funds have not been raised to enable us to replace it. This leaves us with only one caravan at this most popular of sites. The loss of caravans as you can read in the Trustees Report, reduces our income and therefore the ability to purchase more caravans as we need to do to replace those that are aging. This makes it all the more important that we fill the remaining caravans. We have a challenge to our friends in the Scout Fellowship around the country which you will find on page four. The summary of our annual accounts is on page four. If you would like the full version, Lynda would be pleased to oblige if you contact the Trust office.



• Why is our kneeler at this church?

We also tell of an unusual Scouting centenary commemoration instigated by two members of our National Executive Committee, which shows the benefit of never letting go of an idea.

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust is a registered charity, founded in 1969, by former Scouts to provide suitable self-catering holiday accommodation in a welcoming family environment for any family or group who has a member with special needs, families with elderly or frail members, people with any special needs with their carers, single parent families and low income families – in fact any family in which the quality of life is diminished by disability, infirmity or misfortune.

There is no requirement to be a Member of either the Scout or Guide Movements. The Trust owns 13 caravans and 1 chalet on 12 fully commercial seaside holiday parks (eg British Holidays, Haven Holidays, Hoburne Holidays).

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust is managed locally and nationally by volunteers dedicated to the tradition that 'Scouts Help Others'.

Its income depends on Members' subscriptions, voluntary donations, legacies and fundraising by Members and Supporters.

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust

Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW

Tel: 020 8433 7290 Fax 020 8433 7184

E-mail: scout.holiday.homes@scout.org.uk or lynda.peters@scout.org.uk

Website: www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes

Administrator - Lynda Peters

Charity Registration Number 269946

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways you can help the Trust raise funds, often at little cost to yourself. Foreign or British commemorative postage stamps, foreign currency left over from holiday trips, small change collected in a Jingle Jar, badges, money-off coupons, church collections, saving stamps, bequests and so on, all help provide much needed income to continue and hopefully expand the work of the Trust and help those who benefit from the Trust's facilities.

SPREAD THE WORD

Help us to get more people to know about the Trust, not only to those who may become supporters but also to prospective users of our facilities. We have three different leaflets, one for holidaymakers, one for donations and one for Scout Holiday Homes Trust Association. A phone call to the office and we will make sure they are in the next post. 020 8433 7290.

DISPLAY THE TRUST

Why not have the Holiday Homes display at your Annual General Meeting, conference or event to publicise the work of the Trust. We could also arrange for someone to come and talk about the Trust and how we provide holidays for all families with a special need. Phone or e-mail Lynda at the Trust office to make arrangements.

We would like to wish all our supporters a Very Merry Christmas and Peace and Joy in 2008

Sponsored by
Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd
Edited by
Dick Sawdon Smith



Lack of funds means that we are getting close to minimum levels, says the Chairman

Dear Friends,

When I wrote earlier this year it was of our need to find substantial funding for our caravan replacement. Our level of annually generated funds is not great enough for us to be self sufficient. We have decided that the older of the two units at St. Austell will close at the end of the

season and this will reduce us to 14 units a level very close to that below which we must not fall. In addition the ramps at Exmouth are in dis-repair and Lynda is currently applying primarily to Devon based trusts for support for these. The aggregate cost will be in the region of £13,000. We have identified several major trusts to which we shall apply for larger grants for unit replacements and both Lynda and I are grateful for the research done for us by Lynn Hays of the Scout Association. This has been invaluable as has her input on fund-raising generally, I also asked for people interested in coming forward to

join our management committee and I am pleased to say that Dave Mowbray, site secretary at Berwick, is attending our next meeting. By the time that you read this we shall have held a special meeting in order to discuss the future plans of the trust and hopefully set realistic targets for the next 5 years. Thank you for your interest in and support for the Trust, without it the trust would flounder. I would like to pay once more my appreciation to Lynda and Ann who have in a difficult year retained a perpetual cheerfulness.

Bob Panton

LYNDA'S JOTTINGS - News from the Trust Office

Welcome

To a new face at Prestatyn

A warm welcome to Phil Stansbie who has agreed to help Denis Ward keep an eye on our caravan at Prestatyn. Phil has already visited the caravan a few times during the summer to check inventory items and help with the maintenance.

And a familiar one on the National Executive

Dave Mowbray has kindly agreed to join the National Executive Committee as well as being the Berwick Local Management Team Secretary – I hope that he will enjoy this additional role. We are indeed looking forward to his input in forming the Trust's future policies.

Goodbye and Hello at St Austell

Holly Pipe who helps clean the caravans at St Austell has gone to University, and her mother, Karen, has taken over. We wish Holly lots of success and happiness in the future, and hope that she enjoys everything that life can offer. And, of course, we welcome Karen onto the St Austell team.

A thank you at Great Yarmouth

Gillian Mays is now in full time employment and is unable to continue with cleaning the caravan at Great Yarmouth. She has generously agreed to carry on as the Local Management Secretary, and we are hoping that her Scout Fellowship can organise a rota for the cleaning. Gillian has been helping the Trust since the caravan was purchased on Seashore Holiday Park in 2001.

And speedy recovery wishes to Ted Terry

All of us send our best wishes to Ted Terry, Management Team Secretary at New Milton, who is due to have an operation on his spine. Our thanks go to Anne and Nigel Davies who have offered to help us at Hoburne Naish, New Milton while Ted is recovering.

AN APPRECIATION OF ALL OUR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

A HUGE THANK YOU FOR ALL OUR TEAMS WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR THE TRUST DURING THE 2007 HOLIDAY SEASON – AND WITHOUT WHOM WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE OUR HOLIDAYS. I appreciate their help especially when it is given at weekends, Bank Holidays and in the evening. It would be impossible to run the Trust without you.

The members of the National Executive Committee are looking forward to visiting the caravans and chalet for the end of season meetings and inspections. This is a perfect opportunity to personally thank the members of our local volunteer teams for all the care and attention they have given to the Trust's holidaymakers and the units during the 2007 season. It also provides Ann and I with some excellent feedback about the teams, holidays and units. The huge majority of our holidaymakers do take care of the units but we do get a few families that are not so considerate. Our local teams excel themselves at these times of crisis and in many cases perform miracles in getting the units ready for the next holidaymakers - you are all truly marvellous.

Volunteers still wanted for National Executive

We are looking for anyone who thinks that they could contribute to the Trust by joining the National Executive Committee. Please do not hesitate to ring me if you want more details.

FUND RAISING 2007

Big from Biggleswade

We are about to receive a huge donation of £4,500 that was raised in September at the St Andrew's Country Fayre in Biggleswade – it was a brilliant event and they were lucky enough to get the sunshine that we missed during the summer!

A Big 'O' brings donations

Our Treasurer, Martin Payne, had a special "0" birthday this year – and he generously asked his family and friends to give a donation to the Trust instead of a present. The Trust received a grand total of £820. A wonderful contribution to our funds, Martin, thank you.

In Memorium

We have also received donations in memory of Mrs Marjorie Hurditch, Mrs Beatrice Wilson, and Mrs Dorothy Hammond. It is so generous of the families to agree to these donations being made, when their lives are devastated with the loss of the one they love. I always regard these donations as very special indeed.

Money from Recycling

Our thanks also to John Le Warne who continues to make large donations to the Trust from the items he is able to recycle.

Thank you to each and every one of our fundraisers – large and small – especially when we have to rely so heavily on supporters to help maintain our service to provide holidays for all families with special needs.

And a disappointment - unfortunately the Trust was not successful in its grant application to Awards for All for the new ramp and veranda for A94 at Devon Cliffs Holiday Park, Exmouth.

MORE FUNDS NEEDED

Essential Renewals at Devon Cliffs

The Trustees now consider it essential to renew the ramps and verandas to both our caravans at Devon Cliffs – and this work will be carried out before the start of the 2008 holiday season. They cost £6,187 each.

Our presence at Pentewan Sands is in danger

It was essential to replace F93 at Pentewan Sands Holiday Park at St Austell, Cornwall for the start of the 2008 holiday season as this caravan's chassis was considered unsafe. Unfortunately the Trust will not be able to afford to buy a new caravan, and therefore we will have to scrap it at the end of October 2007. We will only have F92 next year. Pentewan Sands is such a popular holiday destination and we are all upset that we have had to make this decision.

The Trust needs to expand its fundraising during 2008 so that caravan F92 at Pentewan can be replaced for the 2009 holiday season. It would be devastating to lose both caravans on this park.

2008 HOLIDAYS

The 2008 prices have mainly been kept to those listed for 2007 – making our holidays extremely good value for money.

In addition, we will be offering our usual special offers of £25 off two-week holidays, 3% discount off all holidays paid for in full before 31 January 2008 and £10 vouchers have been sent to all 2007 holidaymakers. We will also continue to offer last minute deals on the Trust's website – or you can phone or e-mail me about 10 days before you want a holiday for the latest price and availability.

New Brochures for 2008

Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd, through Dick Sawdon Smith and Don Honey has made a superb job of speedily producing an excellent new brochure. Also thanks to Evert Baker of the Baker Press Ltd at Ferring, West Sussex for printing it so quickly and at a great price.

I would also like to thank the Scout Association's Creative Services Team for all their help over the last two years.

Ann will be sending these out to our previous holidaymakers during October 2007. If you would like a copy or know anyone who would like a copy of our new eye-catching brochure, please let her know.



FAMILY HOLIDAY TALES

Letters show how much our holiday homes are appreciated

Our holiday homes have long been recognised for their availability to families who have a member with a disability and indeed they are specially adapted for that reason. However, they can also be used by families who are otherwise disadvantaged when it comes to taking holidays, including low-income and lone-parent families. The Trust office has received a couple of letters from such families this season that we would like to share with you.

Amanda Branch said, 'I would like to start by saying a big thank you to you all, you really made our first ever family holiday a great one. It was that good we didn't want to come home.' Amanda's three boys joined the Pentewan Pirate Club and this provided them with fun and games the whole week. One evening the club held a parent/child dancing competition which was great fun said Amanda. Jake, the middle son, was she told us, very reserved at home but the holiday really brought him out. He not only volunteered to take part in the circus (juggling) but also got up on stage with the karaoke. Also brilliant, Amanda told us was their trip to the Eden Project. By coincidence, the family in the next caravan were from the same town so they joined up. Both sets of boys got on really well together and 'I enjoyed the company and some adult conversation'. 'As you can see', she said, 'it was a fantastic fun filled week and my boys needed the break as much as I did. We can't wait to put our names down to come again next year.'

Colette Anstey took her four children to Devon Cliffs and wrote to say 'a big thank you, to the Scout Holiday Homes Trust.' The three girls especially enjoyed meeting the animals, Bradley Bear, Anxious Elephant, Polly and Ned, but Colette thought that secretly Daniel (aged 16) did as well. They all found the shows and pantomimes very entertaining. The pool, Colette told us, was just the right depth that the smaller girls could play and be safe. The beach was also fun and 'we even got Diane (3) into the water which she had been scared to do before.' The best bit for her was relaxing, knowing the children were happy and enjoying their holiday at the sea. Spoken like a true mum. Colette closed her letter saying 'I have enclosed a cheque for your charity, it's not much but I hope it helps.' We thank you for it Colette and we're glad we helped you have 'a great holiday'.



• The Branch brothers with the boys from next door on the walk to Mevagissey.

Here are brief extracts from some other letters received in the Trust Office.

Would like to thank you for the help given when booking holidays when you have to include a relative with disabilities. It has been really useful to be able to contact you and book a holiday at short notice.

The Savage Family, Leicestershire

We have used your caravans for our annual holidays and enjoyed the facilities that your Trust has been able to offer over the past six years or more.

The Hillier Family, Somerset

Just a quick note to say 'thank you' for an enjoyable time at Rockley Park. The caravan was really nice and what a wonderful facility for families to use who don't normally have this experience. I have written to Brian to thank him for greeting us.

The Macdonald Family, Berkshire

We had a most enjoyable week. The chalet was perfect for us. The restaurant and bar were good.

The Kitchin Family, Devon. (The Kitchins stayed at Kidwelly where we have our only chalet)

A wonderful donation from St Andrew's County Fayre

St Andrew's County Fayre in Biggleswade had a strong Scouting theme this year. So much so that Wayne Bulpitt, Chairman of the Committee of the Council, the Trustee Board of the Scout Association, travelled from his home in Guernsey to open the event on a scorching hot day. There were many Scouts in attendance demonstrating such activities as 'pioneering' with zip wires and rope walkways between trees. The national Mobile display Unit made its first visit to Bedfordshire at the Fayre and in the church there was a stimulating exhibition, celebrating 100 years of Scouting. There was plenty else to do, (and eat) especially for the youngsters.

The day raised the astounding sum of £9,600, which the Country Fayre committee decided to split between two charities. Half to UNICEF to assist them achieve a protective environment for children around the world and half to the Scout Holiday Homes Trust. Douglas Black of the committee thanked all the Scouts, their families and other residents around Biggleswade who supported the Fayre and contributed generously. We in turn would like to thank Douglas and the Fayre committee for thinking of us with this fabulous donation.



The Scouting Centennial Kneeler Project for St. Mary's, Brownsea Island

One of the 2000 plus suggestions made by young people to celebrate the centenary of Scouting was the creation of a Bayeux Tapestry depicting the development of the Scout movement from its beginnings to the present day. It proved impractical as it would have needed enormous resources and a large permanent home. Nevertheless, the suggestion stayed with David and Lesley Roberts and when they visited Brownsea Island in 2005, it gave Leslie an idea. Brownsea Island is of course where Robert Baden-Powell held his experimental camp in 1907 and it remains a place of pilgrimage for Scouts and Guides from all over the world. St Mary's church on the island was in need of new kneelers for worshippers. So bearing in mind that 'Scouts help others', with ecclesiastical approval and the support of Brownsea Island Scout Fellowship, David and Lesley commissioned the kneelers and invited Groups, Fellowships, Districts and individuals to sponsor and complete them. As David and Lesley are both members of the Trust Executive Committee they thought a Holiday Homes kneeler would be appropriate and invited the Local Management Teams to contribute.

On Sunday 17th May, a service of presentation, attended by over 70 representatives of the groups involved, was held at St. Mary's. Thirty-one kneelers were dedicated, including our own and those of other groups, as well as all the World Jamboree badges. Each one took hundreds of hours work but it's not too late as there is still room for a few more.



• David and Lesley Roberts display some of the kneelers with representatives of Scout Fellowships, Trefoil Guild, Scouts, Guides and the Scout Holiday Homes Trust outside St Mary's, prior to the service.

THE SCOUT HOLIDAY HOMES TRUST (ABRIDGED) TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

The Trustees present their annual report for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

The Trust currently provide 14 holiday home caravans and one holiday home chalet at 12 locations around England and Wales, available for booking at weekly rates at an average 25% less than the standard holiday park prices.

The Trust has previously made investments of £41,139 in Charities Aid Foundation investment funds with a view to funding the purchase of replacement holiday homes. These were valued at £40,517 at the start of the year. The Trustees closed the investment funds in the first quarter of 2006 and received £44,586 on closure, an increase of £3,447 on the original investment. The Trust endeavours to maintain liquid funds in high interest bearing accounts in order to maximise the interest earned on available funds.

In 2006, the Trust was unable to achieve the same level of letting income as prior years due to the reduction in the number of letting units. This was anticipated in 2005 however a larger than expected reduction in income has been experienced - of more than £11,000, a reduction of 13.1% (2005: increase of 2.6%). At the end of the 2006 season, 307 (2005: 401) holiday weeks had been booked for 241 (2005: 331) families.

Donations from individuals have reduced from the 2005 level. The Trust has received donations in memory of Mr Eric Barrett, Mrs Joan Hilton, Mrs Georgina Humphrey, Mr Bert Read and Mr Bernard Secord. Our thoughts, and gratitude, are with their families for remembering the Trust. The Trust received £3,200 from the National Lottery's Awards for All for a ramp and veranda on Hoburne Torbay, Paignton, Devon; £5,000 from the National Lottery's Awards for All towards a ramp and veranda on Hoburne Naish, New Milton, Hampshire; and a donation of £1,700 from Colin Sheldon and Barry Bevington from their fundraising by touring with their restored fairground organ. The Trustees are very grateful for this support to help finance the £73,500 cost incurred to replace two of the four caravans at these Holiday Parks.

The Trust's charitable expenditure has increased due to the increase in site rent and rates, following a one year 'rent free' period for the two new units, and an increase in the non-cash element of depreciation. Depreciation is higher in 2006 than 2005 as a result of the purchase of the two new units. Other costs have, of necessity, been tightly controlled by the Trust.

In overall terms, the Trust has managed its activities to end 2006 with a broadly similar financial resource position to that as at the end of 2004.

As a result of the reduction in letting units, the management and administration costs, excluding depreciation, of the Trust in 2006 were unable to be met solely by the income from lettings. Donated funds have therefore been used in 2006 to cover the general running costs of the Trust. This is permissible except in the event of any restriction being placed on any donation (such as those from the Hedley Foundation and Awards for All) which would be adhered to by the Trustees. Support from individuals, on an unrestricted basis, both through lettings and donations, is very much appreciated by the Trust.

The Trust will need to renew the remainder of the holiday home caravans over the next 14 years, requiring available funding of at least £45,000 each year to achieve this. This funding must, of course, be in excess of the general running costs of the Trust of approximately £100,000. With letting income being reduced by the number of units available, donations and other income sources must be increased significantly to allow the Trust to continue.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Robert PANTON
Honorary Chairman

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

	2006	2005
Statement of Financial Activities	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Holiday Lets	74,595	85,770
Donations - unrestricted	25,312	20,803
Donations - restricted	-	3,000
Other Income	5,872	4,732
TOTAL INCOME	105,779	114,305
Resources expended		
TOTAL EXPENSES	122,416	99,541
Net Movement in Funds (Restricted and Unrestricted)	(16,637)	14,764
BALANCE SHEET		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	132,546	86,142
Investments	-	40,518
Current Assets		
Debtors	35,926	34,720
Cash at Bank and Stock	17,967	40,079
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	(7,450)	(5,833)
Net Assets	178,989	195,626
Funds of the Charity		
Opening Funds	195,626	180,862
(Dec)/Inc in Unrestricted		
Funds	(13,637)	11,764
Closing Unrestricted Funds	181,989	192,626
(Dec)/Inc in Restricted		
Funds	(3,000)	3,000
Closing Funds	178,989	195,626

The above figures have been extracted from the full Financial Statements which have been independently examined. A copy of the full Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 has been filed with the Charity Commission and is available on request from the Trust Office.

Martin PAYNE FCCA
Honorary Treasurer

National Executive Committee

Trustees	National Commissioner
Bob Panton - Chairman	Sue Burton
Martin Payne - Treasurer	
David Roberts	
Committee	Scout Fellowship
Val Drew	Glenn Walker
Dave Mowbray	
Lesley Roberts	
Rex Stevens	Office
John Le Warne	Lynda Peters - Administrator
Special Needs Rep	Ann Standing - Assistant
Laura Spafford	

A New Fellowship Challenge



Find us more clients

We know that many Fellowships around the country regard the Scout Holiday Homes Trust as their own charity and we are most grateful for all that has been done over the years. However, we would like to issue a new challenge. Not to raise money this time, although if you read our annual report you will know that we do need to increase our funds urgently. We have been unable to replace some caravans, reducing our income from lettings.

Although the eight weeks of the summer holidays are generally fully booked, it would be useful if we could fill more of the other dates during the year. Remember our caravans are available from April to October. To do this we feel we need to make a whole new set of clients aware of our holiday homes and what they have to offer.

The challenge would be for Fellowship members, either individually or by groups, to undertake the task of finding out addresses of clubs or organisations which cater for people with disabilities, in your own town or neighbourhood. The details should be sent to Lynda in the Trust office and she will gladly send out one of our brand new sparkling 2008 brochures. We appreciate that this would take a little time and involve some detective work but the results would be greatly appreciated.



Local Management Teams

Our Local Management Team Secretaries are:

Berwick-on-Tweed	Dave Mowbray
Burnham-on-Sea	Colina Hine
Clacton	Carol Kerridge
Exmouth	Barbara Gover
Great Yarmouth	Gillian Mays
Kidwelly	Mary Davies (cleaning/overseeing)
New Milton	Ted Terry
Paignton	David Roberts
Poole	Brian Leaver
Prestatyn	Phil Stansbie and Denis Ward (overseeing)
St Austell	Ann Gibson
Skipsea	Derick Wilson