



# THE WWESU HOWLER

Wild Wolf Explorer Scout Unit's termly newsletter.

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ISSUE 2 - Spring Term 2017



It's the end of another busy term, and that means it's time for the second issue of our new termly newsletter, 'The WWESU Howler'. Written and put together by Explorers in the Unit's very own Publicity Team, our newsletter keeps you all up-to-date on everything we've been getting up to! From canoeing down the River Medway, to heading up to Yorkshire for a chilly weekend of hiking, we certainly got a lot into the term! Our Wednesday nights have been pretty eventful too: cooking for local MP Catherine West, visiting the incredible Banff Mountain Film Festival, continuing our youth-led focus with Explorer-run DofE training sessions, and more! Read on to find out about all this, and many other amazing activities...

We've also made a new video to get the word out about all the things we get up to!



## COOKING FOR CATHERINE

This January we were honoured to invite Catherine West, MP for Hornsey & Wood Green, to one of our weekly meetings as the esteemed judge of our Patrol Cup cooking competition. The Patrols prepared a number of dishes for her to sample, ranging from fancy fajitas to stylish salads, complete with either a starter or dessert. The competition was tight, but eventually the Whales Patrol were declared victorious! A huge thanks to Catherine for coming, and we hope she enjoyed seeing a bit about what makes Wild Wolf so special.



## A WILD WOLF WINTER CAMP

On the last weekend of January, the Unit headed up to the Yorkshire Dales for two days of exploration. On Saturday we split up into different groups, all the Explorers bracing themselves against the hail to tackle one of the Yorkshire Three Peaks, before returning to the hostel for an evening of haggis and ceilidh dancing in honour of Burn's Night. The next day saw us travelling to York to experience the wonders of the National Railway Museum and York Minster.

[Read more about our trip on our blog post!](#)



## SOUTHERN 50 2017

For nine members of Wild Wolf ESU, the first day of their February half-term holiday was spent hiking through the snowy Chiltern Hills as part of the Southern 50 Challenge. All three teams did amazingly well, with one (Thomas, Max and Lawrence) winning the 30 km event, while the other 30 km team came 10th (Carina, Ellie and Zuza). Our 50 km team (Esme, Megan and Leah) was also incredible and completed the event in an impressive 17 hours. The entire event was an amazing experience that taught us some extremely valuable skills, and all the hikers particularly appreciated the warm welcome from WWESU-run Checkpoint 16!

[more...](#)

## BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Popcorn and blankets at the ready, Wild Wolf convened in the Union Chapel to enjoy Banff Mountain Film Festival, the showing of a collection of adventurous short films which has become an annual event for the Unit. For a short time we were whisked from North London and immersed in everything from skiing in the Alps, to free running in Nepal. Certainly, watching a team kayak down the Beriman River with its sheer cliff faces made our DofE expeditions look pretty tame! We can safely say that we all also aspire to be as enthusiastic about life as Mike Woods is about salmon in 'Super Salmon', or as dedicated as the climber Paul Pritchard in 'Doing It Scared'. The achievements showcased within the film festival were truly inspirational, showing us what can really be achieved with willpower, courage and a love of the outdoors.

[Take a look at our blog post to hear about some more inspiring films...](#)



## MAYHEM ON THE MEDWAY

Flowing through Kent and Sussex, the River Medway is a great place to go canoeing and spend some time on the water, so we strapped some boats to the minibus and headed down! A Saturday 6am start is never normally met well, especially if it is followed by a solid day of physical exertion. Yet, as usual, the Wild Wolf Explorers

after a few hours of campfire banter and Uncle Ben's rice we settled in for the night. The next day was again met with typical WWESU enthusiasm. Canoe chutes, multiple capsizes and intensive discussion over boat names were all the highlights of Sunday; at the end of the day, we returned victorious with 14 exhausted and (only slightly) damp Explorers.

[Find out what else we got up to on the river by reading our blog post!](#)



**CANOES, CAMPING & CAPSIZING: DofE TRAINING**

the River Medway Trip, and gave us some more practical uses for our paddling abilities. After arriving late on Friday night, we set up camp and prepared for a big day ahead. Saturday mainly consisted of refining our strokes and technique, and the day ended with a nice, refreshing capsized drill, leaving all the Explorers cold yet invigorated. Late on Saturday evening we were dropped off at our camping destination for the night and left to set up tents and prepare food, in preparation for Sunday's expedition. The day began with an early rise, straight on to the water, where we began an 18km paddle downriver towards our destination at Longridge. Overall, we all gained some vital canoeing experience, yet more importantly we built a strong friendship within our teams, ready for the big challenge that lies ahead!



## MINIBUS MASTERS

Back in February, Phil went to the Minibus Training School to complete his D1 minibus driving licence. Having self-funded the medical and theory tests himself the Unit was pleased to be able to support him in getting his minibus licence. Congratulations are also in order to Marlon, who recently received his minibus licence as well! We are always short of minibus drivers and so having extra people is excellent news.

## SOME FAREWELLS

WWESU is a dynamic family and as much as we love investing new members, we are also often forced to say farewell to some of our veterans. Tilly, Rosie, Lily and Dearbhla will be shortly turning 18 and whilst they will be leaving the Unit and moving up to Network, they will still be Wild Wolf through and through. All have made valued contributions to the Unit and will be fondly remembered. After all, we can never forget Dearbhla's exceptional ability to fall over in any situation!

However, we've also invested lots of new people into the Unit this term, including the 100th Explorer to be invested into WWESU! We hope they enjoy being part of such an amazing Unit.

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter to see how they all get on!



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