

Kelsall's Duke of Edinburgh Successes, 2009

Fiona Enticott, as St Philips Youth Club Manager, encouraged the 6 girl team to make progress in the skill, activity and volunteering sections of the Bronze D of E. This involved commitment over a long period and took some considerable effort to reach a good standard in each area. This is how the first 3 got there:

Name	Volunteering	Skill	Physical Recreation	Expedition
Freya	Brownie Leader	Piano	Scottish Dancing	Loggerheads 2 days & 1 Night
Leah	After School Club /Crèche	Sign Language	Fitness Training	Loggerheads 2 days & 1 Night
Mairi	Child Care	Piano	Aerobics	Loggerheads 2 days & 1 Night

This left the expedition to do! The team were trained through the winter of 2008/9 in the skills required to successfully complete a '2-day and 1-night' expedition, including map reading, route planning, emergency procedures, campcraft, nutrition and outdoor cooking. In the spring of 2009 they did some practice walks around The Sandstone Trail and Moel Arthur areas, and then, in May, they had a full expedition practice around Cilcain in North Wales - 2 days walking and a night under canvas. The weather wasn't always kind but the team completed this successfully and learned a lot along the way! Finally, in July, they completed the real expedition on their own. There were many incidents and funny events during the 2 days, culminating in the team finishing at Loggerheads in torrential rain feeling very pleased with what really was a wonderful achievement.

Finally, each of the girls gave a presentation on their achievements to a small gathering of parents and leaders on their experiences and what they had gained from doing the expedition - again these were excellently done and a credit to them

We were very pleased and proud to present Freya Lowden, Mairi Enticott and Leah Jones with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh badges on Friday 8th January. They will receive their certificates later in the year at a formal and fairly grand ceremony for all youngsters gaining their awards in Cheshire in 2010. Many congratulations to them - they amazed us with the way they improved during the training period and stuck to the task right through to the very wet and slippery end, carrying all their gear themselves. They have come a very long way in a short space of time.

Thanks to Daniel Gaskarth (St Philips Youth Club Leader & Expedition Assessor / Backup Coordinator) and Elaine Shakspeare (D of E Expedition Assistant & Assessor) for vital support at crucial times. To do this safely we needed reliable back up and a variety of skills which they provided right on cue every time.

Looking to the future, we currently have 11 boys in the Bronze Group and 8 girls in the Silver Group training towards expeditions this year, so we are hoping this first presentation is going to be one of many in the village. Time will tell if the first 3 successes have started something which will continue for many years. The boys have a hard act to follow and the silver gang is, of course, breaking new ground for us.

Pete Moore (St Philips Youth Club D of E Expedition Supervisor/Trainer)