

Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre



NEWSLETTER

WHAT A SUMMER!

July 2008

Issue 4

This summer, Grangewaters has welcomed more clients than ever before despite the inclement weather!



The schools and groups have had a great time and the residential villages have been very busy.

During the autumn and winter there will be more up-grading to the residential villages. The metal bunk beds will be replaced by wooden beds and there will be extensions to some of the cabins.



The marquees which currently house the kitchen and dining area will be replaced by rigid wooden structures.

We are also hoping to have a water supply taken up to the residential villages which will make our users lives a lot easier. Don't forget to book early for 2009 as dates are already going fast and we already have bookings for 2011! We have great catering as well if you don't wish to

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PRODUCED BY
VIVIEN
WELTON

**NEW FOR
SCHOOL
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS 2008**

**“Wild
Wednes-
day”see in-
side for more**

*“Thanks, as always, for a great 3 days—
unfortunately for you we plan to do it all again
next year!”*

Quotation from Herringham Primary School who enjoyed a residential at Grangewaters during June

Winter/Spring at Grangewaters

Article submitted by: Lee Brock—Receptionist/Admin Assistant at Grangewaters
Winter Wonderland and Glorious Spring at Grangewaters

*In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;*

(Poem by Christina Rossetti, description of a winter, but it beauty of the winter land-



puddles, diamond dripping glory of brilliant red sunrises & sunsets. Stark black trees not only emphasise the beauty of winter at Grangewaters, but give us the chance to see the small birds easily. Chaffinches, gold finches, wrens, green woodpeckers (their bobbing flight makes a wonderful flash of limey/yellow on cold dark mornings) and of course the robin, a true winter classic. His song greets us on cold grey mornings & cheers us on freezing evenings. You might think that Grangewaters is not a good place to be in winter, but oh yes it is, just different.

carol by Gustaf Holst). A classic de- does not let us appreciate the scape. Grass like crystal, shining spiders' webs, secretive mists & the

Much controversy surrounds the Grey squirrel, but few can see the cheeky Grey & not smile as he rushes between thin branches, jumping with wonderful athletic grace. Greys do not hibernate, they slow down staying tucked up in their drays than usual, but do not sleep the whole winter. Hazel nuts, pinecones are their mainstay food through the cold times. bury them in various places while the fruits are in abun- ing for themselves' a winter larder. Sometimes they forget spot where their treasure is buried; this often results in a trees. It's a good way to keep up your food stocks for the



a little longer acorns and Squirrels dance, creat- the exact new crop of future!

Early morning mists at Grangewaters are a truly magical sight, rabbits dart around, just visi- ble through the mist, mournful sounds reverberate from the lake as coots & cormorants call. Swans, looking like ghostly shadows fly across the lake. Our wild rabbits do not have the lux- ury of changing to white fur, so have to be very careful & alert during this time as they become easy prey for owls, kestrels, foxes & human hunt- ers alike. Wild rabbits only live for approximately 1.5 years and although are known for their breeding habits, the high mortality rate (only 5% of young rabbits make it past the first year) numbers rarely become a prob- lem, certainly not at Grangewaters. Rabbits are very sociable creatures; when they do feel safe and the sun comes out they will often sit together as if they are at a meeting, while others munch quietly on grass & leaves.



COMPETITION

What date was the high ropes course and climbing tower “officially” launched:-

- A) 12 September 2006
- B) 30 October 2007
- C) 12 February 2008

Please e-mail grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk with your answer and contact details. All entries will be “put in a hat” and drawn by the editor. The winner will receive 1 extended day acti-fun school holiday voucher worth £28.00.

GRANGEWATERS CLUBS NEWS AND INFORMATION



Thurrock Aqua-Lung Club

In July 2008 after an absence of several years, Thurrock Aqua-Lung Club returned to use Grangewaters as a site for scuba diving training. Our Club, which has been around since 1964 is a Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club. We have about 70 members and meet at Belhus Pool for training at 8pm every Friday, and afterwards at the Capability Brown pub for a social gathering.

The Club regularly trains people of all ages, from 12 years and above and once qualified our members join in on the dives which we do, which take place all over the UK as well as overseas in places like Egypt and Turkey.

Due to the number of people we have learning to dive, we approached the staff at Grangewaters and have agreed use of the lake on Saturdays and Sundays from 7am to 9am. This enables us to progress our trainees, once they have finished their pool lessons, in a safe local open water environment. We are always keen to hear from people interested in joining the club, both beginners as well as experienced divers, for further information please call Keith Furze (01375 892922) or Colin Couchman (01708 227258).

Muddy Paws Working Newfoundlands

Muddy Paws Working Newfoundlands was established in 2002. The main aim of the club is to promote natural life-saving instincts of the breed, doing so in a structured but fun way. The Newfoundland's history is thought to date back to a tribe of Canadian Indians who harnessed the dogs' size, strength and obedience to haul timber on shore in carts and work in boats where their swimming ability was utilised to

take lines from boat to shore and vice-versa, assist with fishing nets and rescue any person who may have fallen overboard.

The Newfoundland, "Newf" or "Newfie" as they are often referred to, are a family loving dog, extremely loyal and despite their great size very gentle. They have a form of webbing between their front toes which has evolved to assist their swimming ability. The male is usually slightly larger than the female of the breed. A fully mature adult male weighs in around 12 to 14 stones.

Some of the dogs in the group are regularly shown at Championship Dog Shows up and down the country and most take part in Water Tests which are graded and it is for these tests the training and various exercises takes place at Grangewaters.

For further information please contact Graham or Janice Hill on 07719317532.



NEXT ISSUE.....

More from other Grangewaters clubs

GRANGEWATERS NEWS AND INFORMATION

NEW FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

In addition to the already fun packed activities offered throughout the school holidays for children aged 8 to 16 years, we are now running "Wet & Wild Wednesdays". These Wednesdays' include a full day of activities combined to make a team challenge event, guaranteed to get the youngsters tired and wet. Sounds great, why not give it a try !

PADDLE FESTIVAL 2008

Grangewaters proudly hosted its second annual kayaking paddle festival on 24 June this year. The winners were The Jo Richardson Community School with Campion School in second place. The day included water polo and kayaking competitions which proved to be a great day out and fun for everyone participating. There were very few Thurrock Schools amongst the competitors so we hope to see lots more next year. The cost is to be confirmed per entrant but includes use of equipment and instruction. Put the date in your diary - its **23 June 2009**.

ASSAULT COURSE REVAMP

During winter and spring the assault course has had a makeover. It now has new fun obstacles with a completely new entrance. The area above the assault course has now been fenced off.

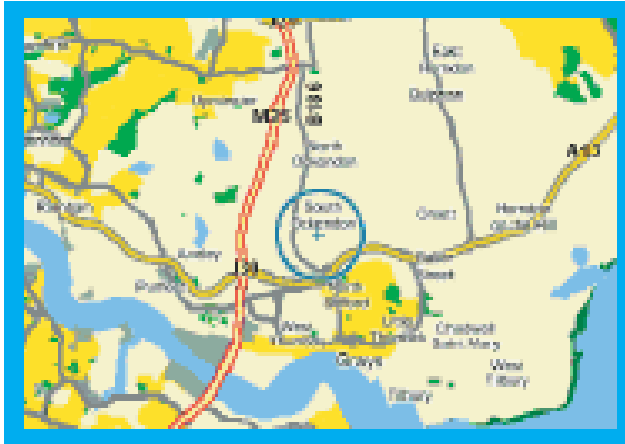
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is aimed at young people aged between 14- 25 to learn new skills, make new friends and achieve new challenges in a safe environment. The award includes everyone from all different backgrounds, ages and abilities.

For the past two years a special needs school has taken on the challenge for the students to achieve their bronze award. At the end of both the years the students have successfully completed all the different parts of the Duke of Edinburgh award and achieved their Bronze. Some students will be working towards their silver award in September. The Duke of Edinburgh Award encourages the students to work together and bond and produces some strong friendships.

For the students to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award they had to successfully finish four different sections. The sections are skills, physical recreation, service and expedition. The school completed their service at a farm. The students spent three months helping and working on the farm. They worked closely with the farmer and all his animals. As part of the daily tasks the students would have to muck out the horse, brush and clean the horses, put the horses out in the field and then make the new beds. The students also looked after goats, sheep, ducks, hens, cows, pigs and the entire environment around them. The students completed a two-day walking expedition with one night stay over. The students learnt how to read a map and navigate their way around the country paths to the campsite and then to the pick up point.

Report from: Jenny Scott—Instructor



CONTACT DETAILS

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- Kayaking
- Open canoeing
- Improvised rafting
- Sailing
- Abseiling

- Rock climbing
- Hill walking & mountaineering (summer conditions only)

