

## **Intro**

The Eyot Centre is a registered charity, number 1093261.

It's home to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Section, the Henley Canoe Club and Henley Dragon Boat Club all of which serve their members in accordance with the aims of the Charity.

Membership of the Eyot Centre is open to anyone.

## **Objectives and activities of the Eyot Centre**

(an extract from the Constitution)

The objectives of the Charity are to help people develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities through leisure time activities and to provide a centre for meetings, lectures, classes and other leisure pursuits.

We place an emphasis on the development of young people and are actively seeking to grow membership, especially for younger people though that's not exclusively.

## **Achievements and performance of the Eyot Centre.**

**The Duke of Edinburgh Section** has a fully subscribed membership of 90 for the current year and has provided a full programme of activities including expeditions. The participants contributed almost 1,200 hours of voluntary community activity which was valued at £4,800. Six members achieved the gold awards during the last year while the group as a whole achieved a 71% pass rate compared to the national average of 57%. Three of the youngsters participated in D of E training courses and are now qualified to run or assist on courses. The volunteer staff are appropriately qualified and offer their expertise free of charge. Kevin Nutt the group leader was invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his contribution to the D of E scheme.

**Henley Canoe Club** offers a full programme of events throughout the year. The junior section is divided into a beginner's group, all 17 of whom earned their British Canoeing "Passport" award and an improvers group of 13 members 8 of whom earned the "Discovery" award, the five others having earned it last year. The Youth group comprises 30 members who continue to develop their paddling skills but also enjoyed activities such as a pumpkin carving competition at Halloween, a pancake race on Shrove Tuesday and frequent post-paddling BBQs on the warm summer evenings of 2018. The adult members enjoyed trips to Lechlade, Mundeford Harbour, the River Dart as well as the regular Tuesday evening local paddles. The club hosted a

successful marathon race in the autumn with over 230 competitors participating and provided staff and equipment for Phyllis Court Regatta for the Disabled.

**The Dragon Boat Club** competes successfully in the National League Premier Division. In 2018 the Juniors won the National League and the National Championship. The Ladies team won the National Championship. The Senior crew won the Dragon Boat section of the Great River Race and were 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Championships.

Four seniors and five Juniors represented GB at the European Championships in Germany and two seniors also represented GB in the World Cup held in China. The club hosts the Henley Winter Series which comprises four events during the winter months where up to 18 crews enter each event. It also runs Pangbourne Regatta on behalf of the Rotary Club of Pangbourne.

The club is actively seeking new membership and has a program of visits to local schools and colleges

### **Eyot Centre Management**

The Eyot Centre's Trustees, Thamesfield Youth Association, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary when its property was originally purchased with money bequeathed by Viscount Hambleden for the young people of the Henley area.

During 2018/19 the Eyot Centre was awarded a Capital Grant from SODC of £52,984 for the redevelopment of its waterfront although beaurocracy is holding up delivery of the grant.

The Henley Town Council loan of 2007 of which £67,200 was outstanding was repaid in full in January this year.

Further improvements in the pipeline include replacing and upgrading the boat storage sheds.

The facilities of the Eyot Centre are used by many local community groups, including D of E, Sea Cadets, Scout groups and schools who hire the equipment, the Coaches or sometimes camp there

The Centre is available for corporate team building days, private taster sessions, or as a venue for wedding receptions, parties or formal meetings or functions.