



Summer 2023

Queens Award for Voluntary Service

At the end of last year's season, we received the amazing news that Nottinghamshire Scouts had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. In the UK, it's the highest award a local voluntary group can receive, and it's the



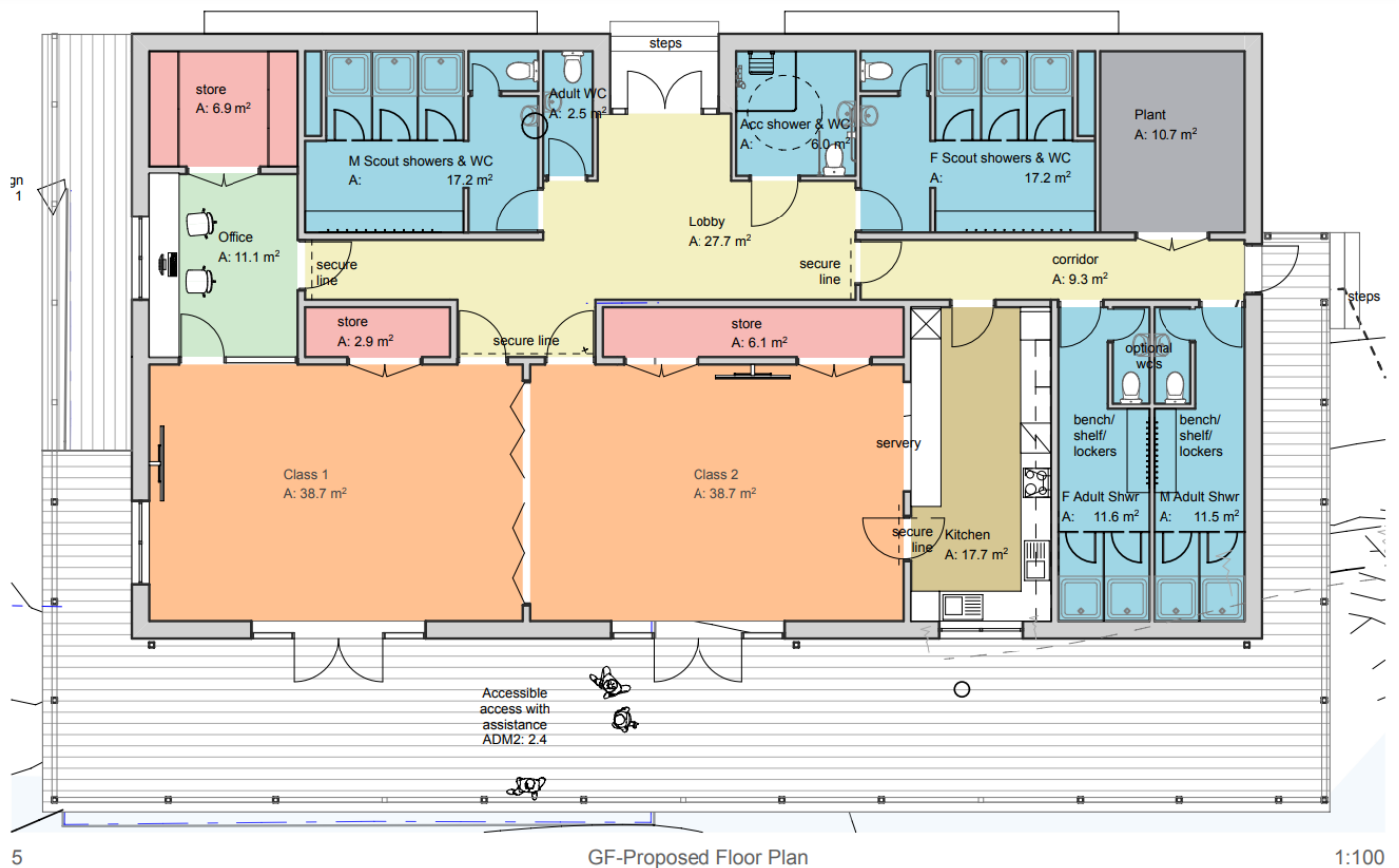
equivalent of an MBE. The citation, which was read at the presentation evening by Sir John Peace, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, highlighted our remarkable water activity centre at Hoveringham which ensures Scouts right across Nottinghamshire can experience adventurous activities on their doorstep. This news was welcomed by our ever-expanding team of volunteers coming as it did just 6 years after the opening of the centre, a well-deserved recognition of all our efforts.



New Building!

When we opened the centre in May 2017 we always envisaged that we would develop quickly and potentially out grow our temporary accommodation fairly quickly. It soon became apparent that we would need to expand our facilities. Our original five-year plan didn't consider the slow grind of bureaucracy so it is with great relief that earlier in the spring we received news that we had been granted planning permission for a purpose-built centre. Now of course we need to raise the finance to fund it! We have set up teams whose task it will be to oversee the design and construction of the building and the quest for the finance. These teams draw on the wealth of experience from within our pool of volunteers as well as calling on the services of others from the wider scout community. If anybody has good contacts within Nottinghamshire's business community or associations with local charities please let us know.





As you can see from the plans the new building will be offering so much more. We will have two classrooms which will not only be teaching spaces but will also open out into a single room to act as a venue for meetings and social gatherings, with a servery opening off a catering kitchen, What the new classrooms will not be is storeroom, office and corridor so even though the each of the rooms will be about the same size as our existing classroom, they will offer much more teaching space. Our indoor teaching spaces will spill out to our outdoor lakeside decking, offering fair weather, outdoor, classroom space

The changing rooms will also be considerably bigger then our current ones and alongside the boys' and girls' facilities there will be leaders changing rooms and also an accessible toilet and shower room.

Our administration will also be easier to manage with a decent sized office and plenty of storage room for equipment and teaching resources.

Overall the building is roughly two and a half times the size of our current building and constructed from sympathetic low maintenance materials including an environmentally friendly sedum roof.

New opportunities

We are of course, first and foremost a water activity centre. However, with such a fantastic site it is only fitting that we use it to its full potential. Last summer we managed to secure a climbing tower at auction and this has recently been installed at the back of our camping field in its own enclosure. It has already been used by a number of groups as well as for running a leader training course and permit endorsement. Another string to our bow!

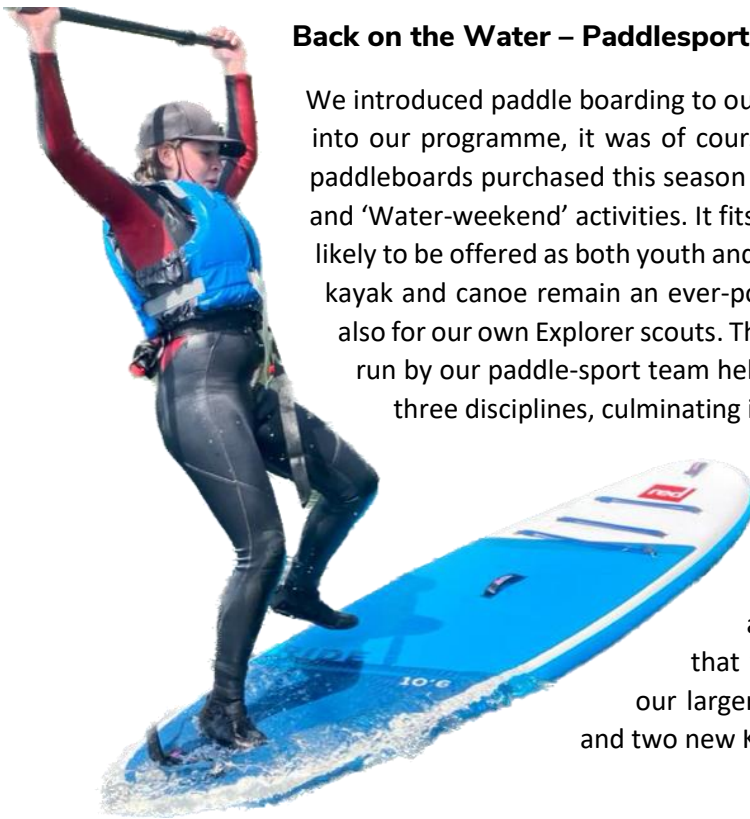
Speaking of which our archery range, now kitted out with a secure storage unit and seating area for the groups, has been used to its full extent with a dedicated bunch of merry men (and women) undertaking range permit courses. This has enabled them to not only run activities with their own groups, but also help to run the twice weekly come and try it sessions at Hoveringham. With its lakeside view of the busy water activity sessions as a backdrop the Archery Range is proving to be a very popular activity!





Back on the Water – Paddlesports!

We introduced paddle boarding to our Explorer group last year to assess whether it could fit into our programme, it was of course met with enthusiasm. With a further 15 stand-up-paddleboards purchased this season we are now offering it as part of our 'Come and Try It' and 'Water-weekend' activities. It fits in perfectly with the canoeing and the kayaking and is likely to be offered as both youth and adult centred courses at some time in the future. Both kayak and canoe remain an ever-popular choice both as activities for visiting groups and also for our own Explorer scouts. The past six weeks has seen a succession of courses being run by our paddle-sport team helping to develop both personal and teaching skills in all three disciplines, culminating in a weekend long assessment with a mixture of twelve young people and adults gaining their Paddle-sport Instructor awards. Congratulations to all!

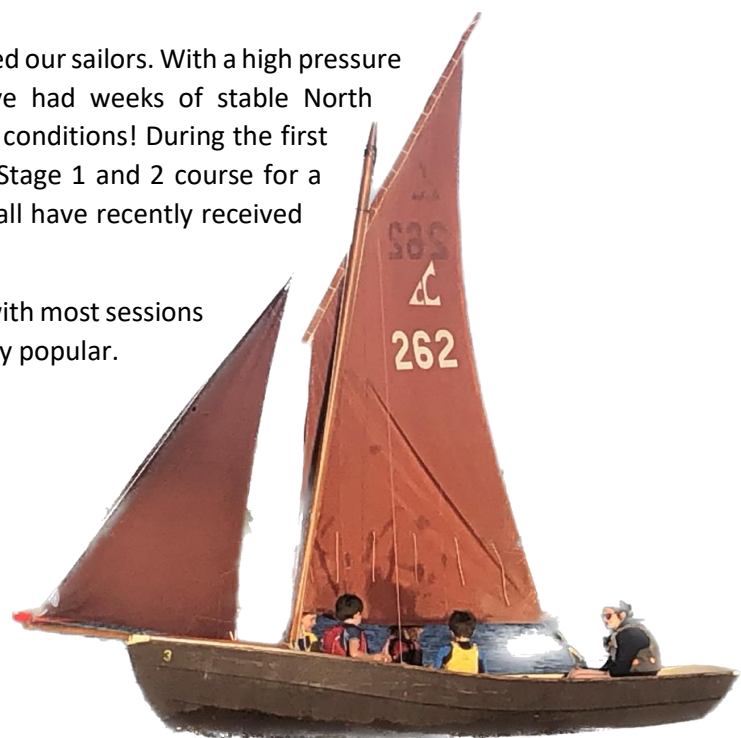


It was not only new paddleboards that were bought for the new season as some of our older canoes were also beginning to show their age! Additionally we found that we needed more adult sized kayaks to accommodate our larger people, and so we have purchased two new canoes and two new Kayaks.

Sailing

It is interesting how this season the weather has really favoured our sailors. With a high pressure system stubbornly sitting over the north Atlantic we have had weeks of stable North Easterlies providing us with cooler, but more reliable sailing conditions! During the first half of the season we have been running a beginners RYA Stage 1 and 2 course for a group of young people. This has gone down really well and all have recently received their certificates. They are now progressing on to Stage 3.

The come and try it sessions have proved as popular as ever with most sessions fully booked and all the Beaver and Cub days proving similarly popular.



It's not just for the Kids!

With our summer programme in full swing and over 1000 young people visiting the centre since the beginning of June you could be forgiven for thinking that this is just about the children! To run this centre with such a busy programme we have a huge team of volunteers running activities, overseeing compliance, organising maintenance schedules, tending to our many acres of beautiful countryside, helping to meet and greet our many visitors and keeping the team fed and watered over our hectic weekends. The team has grown steadily over the past few years and this year we passed a significant milestone with there now being over 100 adult volunteers!



During the latter part of the season we run courses for adults, not only to let them have some of the fun, but to build skills in our many disciplines and, hopefully, to encourage new volunteers to join our team. Last September Will and Miriam joined a group of like-minded adults on our RYA Level 1&2 Start Sailing weekend, during the course of the training they realised that we offered so much more and as a result are now regular volunteers, not for sailing but as Archery instructors and helping to run our Winter Hillwalking programme!

Dates for this year's adults programme are the weekend of 2nd and 3rd September, Wednesday evenings on the 6th and the 13th and then the weekend of the 16th and 17th September. There will be both a Sailing course and an introduction to Paddle-sports course which covers Kayak, Canoe and Stand-up Paddleboard. For further information on both the sailing and paddle-sports as well as all the other opportunities offered scan the QR code or go to the website at <https://adventure.notts-scouts.org.uk/adults/>



Nottinghamshire Scouts Adventure

Adventure is at the heart of Scouting, and in Nottinghamshire we don't do it by halves! Whether you're looking to find an activity to challenge or excite your young people, or you're looking to gain a new skill in gaining an activity permit, we're here to help. Notts Scouts Adventure is a team of over 100 adult volunteers who are passionate about the outdoors and adventure. Each year the team delivers over 2,000 activity places for Scouts in Nottinghamshire, whether that's on the water, out on the hills, up a climbing wall or down on the archery range, we've got something for everyone. We hope to see you on an adventure with us soon!

