

## Beaver Report

### 4<sup>th</sup> Newbury Group AGM



#### September 2012

First of all a little bit of background as to what we aim to achieve at beavers.

At beavers we try to ensure we cover a balanced programme. The emphasis over recent years has been to ensure that the young people experience a quality programme covering a wide range of subjects relating to all aspects of their lives.,

The programme areas are:

**Belief and attitudes, community, Fitness, Creative, Global, Outdoor and adventure.**

Linked to these are the **six challenge awards** and by making sure we cover all programme zones we ensure the young people achieve these badges if they attend regularly. If they achieve all of these then they have achieved the highest award in Beavers the **Bronze award**.

The boys are only young so we have to make sure there are lots of **games, craft activities, chatting and visits** so they are always busy.

There are **twelve activity badges** that the beavers can do and we do try to cover some of them during meetings. We have a very keen bunch of beavers at the moment who love to do badges so this year we have incorporated a few into our meetings. Many of them are busy doing that home as well which is great.

It's always quite nice to think back over the last year and to remember all the activities we have done with the young people.

In the autumn last year all the colonies from Newbury went to INTECH science museum in Winchester. It was a perfect environment for young people of this age and again a great opportunity for them to mix and make other friends.

During this term our theme was animals. First we learnt about pets then dinosaurs. We had two great visits. One to the Vets and the other to **Pets at Home** in Newbury. The boys learnt so much about animals and how to look after them with a real first hand approach.

We had a first for us in this term and the boys got involved with some fundraising for a local cause. They came up with their own idea which unsurprisingly involved food. The boys decided to see how many biscuits they could decorate in ten minutes. You would be amazed how many they can do!! We had so many we decided to sell them to the cubs and scouts as they arrived for their meetings so boosting our funds. We were very proud of the boys and they raised £150 for a local charity **Swings and Smiles**.

Each term we link with the cubs as its important for the beavers to become familiar with the cub leaders before they move up. Last year our linking involved going up to snelsmore for a trail ,shelter building at Ashford Hill, jubilee games, BBQ and wide games at Snelsmore and we also had the very popular chip walk where we go round and rate the chips from various establishments in town.

During the spring term we are confined to the parish rooms more due to winter weather. At the beginning of the term, we covered Chinese New Year and I think all the youngsters tasted some Chinese noodles and made dragons.

We focused on the **Promise challenge** during this term which also involves the boys doing their **Faith** badge. They have to look at rights and wrongs, Fair trade, water aid and ways in which they can keep their promise.

We ended the term with a visit to the bowling alley which is always very popular.

In the summer we try to get out and about as much as possible. We joined 3<sup>rd</sup> Newbury for some grass sledging at Northcroft which was most enjoyable and a rare dry evening last summer.

We covered the first aid badge with the youngsters and that was great fun bandaging each other up and learning how to put plasters on someone else. ..not something your 6 year old usually does.

Of course this summer there were some events that we had to mention....the Queens jubilee and the Olympics .So the rest of the summer was taken up going out and having our own Olympics and thinking about how we can all do our best. Also thinking about how different we all are and recognising individual achievements.

We looked at other countries and what Beavers is like there and we were very lucky to have a dad come in and talk about his homeland Venezuela. A country I don't think many of the boys had heard about before.

As well as all we do on a Monday night we took part with the rest of the group in **Remembrance day and St Georges day**. We believe it is important for the beavers to be a part of this as they are big dates in the scouting movement.

Our aim through beavers is to introduce the young people to a taste of scouting through craft activities, games and trips out. We hope that we instil in them a love of adventure and a *have a go* attitude which hopefully allows them to be prepared when faced with the more challenging activities that the cubs and scouts are able to do.

