

## Beaver Report 2013



It is amazing that another year has passed at Beavers.

We are still running with 18 beavers, two leaders and a young leader. Our waiting list is now under control and we are able to offer places as the young people turn six which is great.

We started the year in September with one of the highlights in the Beaver calendar, the group camp. This year we went to Walton Firs with the cubs and the scouts. The beavers bring along a parent, and this is usually dad but we did have two mums this year which was great.

The beavers get to experience a camp but with the comfort of a parent with them. This year they took part in caving, an activity maze, a campfire and lots of activities around the camp are including a great hockey match and relay games involving the parents. The parents were fantastic and worked hard washing up after every meal. The beavers get to see that everyone has to help and get involved, valuable lessons for when they camp as a cub and eventually a scout. They have a lot of freedom in a safe environment which is can be unusual for some of them.

The district archery competition took place a couple of weekends later and we had a decent turnout with the boys enjoying a taste of archery.

The term then continued with us covering themes such as **fish**, which included a visit to Maidenhead Aquatics in Thatcham, **transport, the police and road safety** where we walked the streets practicing our skills. The beavers took part in the **Remembrance parade** in the town and we had a great turnout.

It is important that the beavers have a smooth transition to cubs when they are eight so we have a joint meeting with the cubs once a term which gives the beavers the opportunity to meet the cub leaders and see what it is like at cubs. In the autumn term our link meeting saw the return of the popular chip walk.

Before we knew it, it was Christmas and the beavers were involved in making Christmas decorations and truffles. A very messy evening was enjoyed by all.

We tend to be stuck indoors during the spring term and we often try and cover badges which our current beavers are very keen on doing. We decided to do the **Experiment badge** and that involved a very entertaining nutty scientist evening. The beavers were encouraged to dress up and share experiments as well as learning a few new ones. We also looked at **recycling** through games and craft activities which we hope got across a serious message in a fun way. One of the highlights this term, for both beavers and leaders was a visit to the fire station. Unfortunately they had a shout and had to leave half way through but that actually proved very exciting as the beavers watched the engine leave, return ( as they were not needed )only to be called out again 5 minutes after returning. We were then admirably looked after by a fireman who had been left so despite not being the evening we had planned I think they loved it anyway. We also had a **beach party** to cheer ourselves up with the cold weather. The beavers had to dress up as if going to the beach and I think it was one of the coldest days in March!! We soon warmed up with fun beach activities.

We celebrated Chinese **New Year** in our link meeting with the cubs this term and saw the beavers making lanterns, trying new food and playing games.

The summer term always starts with **St George's day** and again we had a very good turnout.

The **District camp** took place over the first bank holiday and we had ten beavers come along and take part in all the fantastic activities. It really was a good day and all those that took part behaved brilliantly and had a super time.



We covered our **healthy eating and Health and fitness badge** this term as the two are closely linked. This involved thinking about and making healthy foods and taking part in fitness activities.

We believe it is important to introduce the beavers to scouting activities and with this in mind Bruce our jolly scout leader came along one evening to introduce the boys to knots. He brought along some very long rope and the boys loved it. Not sure how much of making knots they remember but it introduces them to a useful skill.

Continuing this theme our link meeting with the cubs this term involved going up to Fuces farm and making fires and cooking bread twists on sticks.

We have also looked at how you pack bag for a hike and taken part in a short hike up at Snelsmore .

Another highlight this term was taking part in the **District Football Competition**. Sue and I know nothing about football so we recruited one of the dads who was fab. He had the boys motivated, working well together and all taking part. It was a very exciting morning with Sue and I doing our bit by cheering very loudly and trying to shout instructions. The result was we won without conceding a goal!!

So congratulations to all those who took part and to Freddie's dad.

So that is it, another year nearly done. Thanks to all those who come and help when we go out and for encouraging the beavers to bring along things when we ask and encouraging them to do badges at home. We love hearing how they have got on.



*.The Beaver team*