

## Beaver Report - September 2016

We are fortunate to have regular leaders, also one young leader Grady Beckett and Daniel Matthews, a scout who is doing his DofE award. We are also lucky to have Jennie Pass who looks after the waiting list. The waiting list is still very long but we work with other groups in the district to move names about so if a place comes up somewhere else a young person can still join beavers.

Beavers have six programme areas to cover during their time with us and many activity badges that can be gained at home. The six areas are **The Adventure Challenge, The Outdoor Challenge, The World Challenge, The Skills Challenge, The Teamwork Challenge and The Personal Challenge.** We ensure we cover all the requirements in our weekly meetings and occasionally we will cover activity badges.

If the beavers attend regularly, gain all the challenge awards and they do any four activity badges or staged activity badges they will achieve the Chief Scout Bronze award which is the highest award in beavers.

In beavers we tend to do quite a lot through topics and last year we covered topics such as Autumn, international scouting, music, space, animals and plants, safety ,fitness, Burns night and even engineering.

We had many trips and visits out over the year. These included a town treasure hunt, an autumn and spring walk, a scavenger hunt, a visit to the Cats Protection League & a visit to Newbury Museum. This was a very interesting evening and we were lucky to have some of the local weaving group there who talked to the boys all about cloth and weaving and the boys had a go on an old spinning wheel and did some of their own weaving. It was quite special being in the museum in the evening and when no one else was there.

We had a memorable visit to Newbury Fire station and the boys had a good look round the engines, went in the dark smoke room and played with the hoses. This did get a little out of hand and most of the boys went home totally soaked, luckily it was a warm evening. They had a brilliant time, maybe not the parents who had wet boys to transport home. So we are sorry about that!



During the year we did our cooks, international scouting and space badge. On top of this many beavers have completed activity badges at home.

The beavers joined in with the rest of the group on an exciting trip to Brownsea Island on St George's day. The weather was kind and it was fun going on the train and then a ferry. We renewed our promises and then the beavers played on the beach in the sunshine. They paddled, ran around and made sand castles. A great way to spend the day.

The Beavers took part in district events too. They entered the football competition in June, the Archery and took part in Remembrance Sunday.

The year ended with us taking the Beavers away on a sleepover. This is the first time we have done this, as in previous years we have joined with the cubs and scouts on a group camp and parents have come along. This time we took them to a scout centre in Youlbury, Oxfordshire and stayed in a lodge with bunk rooms and a communal area.

Our theme for the weekend was pirates and we did lots of fun activities as well as having a go at a couple of the centre's activities; go carting and the adventure course. Of course we also had a camp fire with lots of singing and marshmallows although most of the marshmallow in the dark ended up on Sue's coat!

For many of the beavers it was the first time away from mum and dad and they were all fantastic. They thoroughly deserved their one night away badge. They all ate and slept very well.

Sue and I viewed the weekend as a huge success. Huge thanks must go to Bruce for all his brilliant cooking and being the best pirate captain, Grady for keeping the boys entertained with games and James Leonard who came along at the last minute to help out.

So ends another busy year. We look forward to more of the same this year.

