

4th Newbury (St Johns) Cub Section

AGM 2016

Cubs at 4th Newbury continues to offer an amazing scouting opportunity for young people aged between 8 to 10 years old.

At the start of the scouting year the pack had organically grown to 30 cubs with 5 leaders and one young leader. We allowed this growth to try and maximise the chance for as many as possible young people to enjoy scouting and reflect the fact we had had 5 adult leaders fully trained with wood beads. However it soon became clear that this number was too high for the Richard room where we meet and was impacting on the quality of the program we could offer while maintaining a safe environment and it times it was chaos.

Reluctantly therefore, to give the most benefit to the young people, the pack was managed down to its current number of 24. The only alternative would be a venue move and that is not currently an option for the group.

As parents will have seen, the pack continues to enjoy an amazing balance of activities and fun around the Scouting programme zones. You can follow the program via the Cubs tab on the group web-site and pictures under the gallery. We try hard to limit the indoor sessions and get out into the environment around us as much as possible and the weather or seasons will allow. This includes our trips to Fuces Farm, Headley and Womble's Farm in Ashford Hill. We enjoyed a short camp last October and as you will know sadly had to abandon camp this month part way through due to the extreme weather conditions.

Other highlights of the year included a fantastic very smart turnout at the Remembrance Day Parade in Newbury where the cub paraded through town and King Louie found himself in the Market Place as a parade marshal. This year the Cubs did not attend the local St Georges Day event but instead choose to join the rest of the group on a day trip to Brownsea Island the home and birthplace of Scouting. The trip was in the cubs words "simply amazing". It was fantastic to see the Cubs running round and enjoying the site where it all started and a special moment when the whole group renewed their Scout promise around the BP memorial stone where it all began 109 years earlier.



2016 has been the centenary year for the Cub Section which we started with a day out at Mole Valley Country Park and the highlight so far was the District Cub Camp at Rushells Farm in May. During the weekend camp the Cubs enjoyed a wide range of activities mixing with around 200 other Cubs from the Newbury area, many of which they knew from School or other clubs like rugby and football. As well as running as base on rope making the 4th Newbury leader team also found themselves in charge of catering for the whole camp so lots of effort by the leader team and indeed a small organisation committee of District Cubs leaders.

Our local MP and neighbour of the site popped in over the weekend and was amazed to see so many happy young people enjoying being out in the countryside without an electronic game or mobile phone in view. So much so he tweeted this very fact on his House of Commons Twitter account later that day. The Cubs will round off this centenary year on the 16th December with a special promise ceremony, details will be out in the near future.



Other events during the year have included packing Christmas parcels for the local over 80's with Sainsburys and visits from an Author and staff from Metrobank who invited us back to the bank for an evening, an evening learning about Guide Dogs, food evening, science evening, grass sledging, Wide Games and challenges as well as many badges.



Oh and who can forget the wonderful effort of our Cubs in the Bayer 10k junior event raising money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Thank you to you the parents for all the support you give us to make cubs at 4th such a success and I can safely say it is one of the best if not the best Cub pack in the District.

Gerard
King Louie