

Smoke Signals September 2020

Usually at this time I would be producing a 6 page report we call Smoke Signals celebrating all our achievements over the past year. This year is slightly different we are having to hold our AGM via zoom and since March all the section meetings have also been via zoom. This year 2nd Farnborough was 65 years old unfortunately our Circus trip was cancelled also Blackwater Valley's 20 year celebrations were also cancelled.

Instead of Smoke Signals I am writing this report so we can still celebrate what has been going on in each section over the past year. 2nd Farnborough have had another brilliant year. We now have an average of 12 boys and girls in each section which is great and we have more waiting to join Beavers. We have welcomed Sarah and Megan as YL's. At present we are 1 Leader down in Beavers and 1 in Cubs and we have a waiting list, I would like to increase numbers but to do so we would need more Leaders. All sections have attended at least one camp. All sections have taken part in district events with some individual successes. As a group Beavers gained 1st place in the Miniature Gardens Competition and 2nd place in the swimming Gala, the Cubs came 4th in the football and the Scouts gained 1st place in the blow pipe section of the Master at Arms Competition.

The DC presented Evan and Matt with their Chief Scout Bronze Award, and Phoebe and Reece with their Silver at the Cubs Carol Service. Since then 2 more Beavers have gained the Bronze Award and I am hoping to present them at the Review. Dan and Em, 2 of our Young Leaders completed their training and gained their YL's belt and buckle this was presented to them at the hut in February by Mike from Hampshire Scouts The group organised some successful fundraising sponsorships this year but need more especially as most have been cancelled. Gift aid is essential so if you pay tax and have not signed up please ask for a form. Rushmoor lottery has not been as successful this year we win in 2 ways, from your ticket and we get a share of the fund and you can win too. Details were put on our facebook pages last week.

The work on the hut has been minimal this year but we may have a leak in the flat roof which was only replaced 6 years ago. Maybe it got damaged when the vandals tried to get into the building last year.

Its been a very challenging few months with all the weekly meetings being held via zoom which means I have learnt something new. Its not ideal as we have many members from each section who don't want to take part, but it has enabled us to keep some of the group meeting up together although in a different way. It has also enabled us to keep the group open as when we went into lockdown I don't think anyone realized how long it was going to be before we could meet face to face again. I am hoping that this will be very soon.



The Beavers have had some great sessions fishing, making lego models, musical instruments, dragons, bird feeders, trying experiments, caving, a reptile experience, Canadian canoeing twice, completed a hike, the Beaver sleepover, the experiment and International badges and visited the Police Station, Ninja kids and Lazer Run at Xmas. On zoom the Beavers have made boats, helicopters, kites, launchers, mud cakes and armpit fudge. They completed their hobbies and collectors badges, the great Indoors badge, celebrated St Georges Day, VE day, The NHS, the annual Beaver picnic. The colony did virtual tours of a fire station, a wildlife garden and the life cycle of an earwig and had visits from The Blue Cross, Hearing Dogs and Bricktopia. 3 beavers moved up to Cubs after gaining the Chief scout Bronze



The Cubs were also busy visiting the Police station, Ninja kids and the Leisure Centre they took part in a sleepover, JOTI, 1st Aid scenario, a hike, a sleepover, caving course, a reptile experience, made soap carvings, a collage of the scout logo and completed their scientist, International, and swimming badges. Lazer run was the Christmas treat. The Cubs had joint zoom meetings with the Beavers so competed the same topics. 4 Cubs moved up to Scouts after gaining the Chief Scout Silver



The Scouts took part in 2 brilliant Camps one Summer and one in the Winter at Tolmers where they did lots of adventurous activities. During meetings they built fires, did backwoods cooking, archery, caving, nerf wars, glow stick bowling, made candles, models. 1st aid with the YL's and completed a hike and the Communicators badge. They visited Gymfinity, JOTI, supported CSSEF by attending their Quiz, Bingo and helping in their shop Just for Kids and went Lazer Shooting at Christmas.

During there zoom meetings the scouts earned their hobbies, collectors, and 1st Aid 3 badges. They also joined 3 other troops for a virtual sports evening took part in an escape room and played games like bingo and battleships, first and last and Tenable. Also popular were the virtual extreme sports evenings where they tried amongst others roller coasters, flying and skydiving. The scouts love to cook so mud cakes were a must.