

Not Smoke Signals September 2021

Its that time again when I would usually be producing a large report we call Smoke Signals (Annual Review Edition) celebrating all our achievements over the past year. Although we are back to some normality we have decided to hold our AGM via zoom again this year on a non scouting evening. Two reasons our Beaver Cubs and Scouts have missed so much "scouting" in the past year and to comply with policy our hut will not hold enough people to make the meeting compliant. Again this year we have not yet been able to celebrate 2nd Farnborough's 65 years or Blackwater Valley's 20 year celebrations but the latter has been arranged for June 2022

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 back Bosun and gained 2 new section Assistants Ellie (Mowgli) in Cubs and Tom in Scouts who is still deciding on his scout name, and a new Treasurer Teresa. At present we are Leaders down in Beavers and in Cubs and we have a waiting list, I would like to increase numbers but to do so we would need more Adults to join the team.

At last year's meeting we were preparing to go back to face to face, it was going to be challenging with different rules and regulations but it was exciting. We continued with zoom sessions as not everyone was ready to meet outside at the hut. The Leaders adapted their programmes played favourite games in a new way and did badgework that could be completed outside. We managed 4 enjoyable weeks before we were back on zoom again for November. December came and we were back meeting again but it was only for 3 weeks all outside and no complaints of it being cold. Zoom continued until Easter when we were back face to face again and able to meet indoors I am happy to say that we have been meeting every week since. I hope this will continue

Although most of the year the group met by zoom Luka, Tyler and James were able to complete their Chief Scout Bronze Award and these were presented at the end of last term by Mike and Ellie in their District role. We have 2 Cubs who are close and 1 scout who is very close to achieving their awards. The group has been able to stay solvent with a grant from the local authority which has paid the bills, insurance and capitation. All external fundraising has been cancelled for 18 months, so I am glad that the Fright Night Hike went ahead this year. Gift aid is essential to boost out funds 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 purchase the group gets a share we get a share of the fund and you can win too. Details in this pack.

Up until recently there had not been any work done on the hut apart from putting a tarp up on the flat roof to stop the water coming in and deep cleaning making it ready so we could meet face to face. I am really happy that we were able to have a working weekend to spruce up the hut and grounds. It now looks clean and tidy and ready to see us through the Winter. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped.



The Beavers have had some great sessions this past year On zoom the Cubs and Beavers joined up and have made ice cream, launchers, pizza, snowmen, cards for Gracewell care home residents chocolate truffles, Christmas Biscuits, fireworks, fist drawings and Christmas Fleur Di Lys drawings. Everyone completed the spy escape room The Beavers completed their disability awareness, space, air activity and 1 night away badges, Both sections attended the District virtual Egyptian sleepover, celebrated Remembrance Day, Chinese new Year and St Georges Day, They also did a virtual tour of a fire station, and had visits from Paul the space engineer, Will who taught us karate, Jet showed us magic and circus skills, Sam showed us her reptiles, Joe brought along his birds of prey and we had a tour of an Alpaca farm and adopted our own Alpaca Joseph.



During our 7 weeks of face to face meetings last year we kept the Beavers and Cubs together. During this time the group played team games took part in teamwork, problem solving and firelighting activities. After Easter the 2 sections were split and we welcomed 6 new Beavers. With restrictions easing everyone was able to go donutting, canoeing, on a litterpick, spend an evening at Frimley Lodge Park and complete the Fright Night Hike is some great costumes. The colony planted seeds and made miniature gardens for Rushmoor in bloom competition. We started our 35 challenges for 35 years of Beavers, made smores, bubbles and got wet on the water games evening.



3 beavers gained the Chief scout Bronze and together with another Beaver have moved up to Cubs.





The Cubs had joint zoom meetings and face to face meetings last year with the Beavers so completed the same topics and badges. After Easter the Cubs did firelighting , cooked smores, followed a blind trail, laid a route using tracking signs, built a shelter, a boat that floated and took part in a water activities evening, All the Cubs gained the Athletes badge and few the Athletes Plus. The Pack also took part in donutting, kayaking, a litterpick an evening at Frimley Lodge Park and their Fright Night Walk. Our 2 eldest Cubs had a great time at the Scouts water Camp at The Quays last weekend giving them a taster of to expect when they leap across to Scouts and another step towards achieving their Chief Scout Award.



During their zoom meetings the scouts earned their Craft and artist activity badge and worked on their challenge badges. They also joined 5 other troops for a virtual Crystal Maze evening took part in several escape rooms and played games like Cluedo and Among Us. The visit from CSI was a popular evening also popular was the Circus, Birds of Prey, Alpacas and reptiles. The troop also celebrated remembrance and St Georges Day. The scouts love to cook so baking an Easter cake and decorating it during the meeting was really enjoyable the concentration was emmense. The results were amazing.

When we returned face to face after Easter all the scouts we had not seen March 2020 rejoined us we also welcomed 5 new Scouts and they all have been kayaking and donnutting. The Young Leaders also returned. At the hut we have done firelighting, whittling , cooked smores, quesedillas, toffee apples, toffee bananas, pizza, donuts and burgers. The troop has also taken part in Nerf Wars, archery and built a raft to practice their knots and paddling skills



Last weekend The Scouts attended a brilliant 1 night camp at the Quays. During the weekend they did kayaking, fire lighting, bouldering, archery, backwards cooking, played wide games, completed a low ropes course and a lazer line maze. Some scouts were new and completed their 1st Nights Away Badge.

2 of our Scouts have moved onto Explorers near where they live.