



Annual Review 2014

SMOKE SIGNALS

The Newsletter of 2nd Farnborough Scout Group

“From The GSL” Annual Review 2014

This time last year Skip announced that I had just taken on the position of Assistant Group Scout Leader little did I know that within a month things would change dramatically and by the beginning of the Autumn term I would be the new GSL of the group. Skip remains with the group as a Skills instructor and attends some of the weekly meetings, he also maintains the grounds and keeps them looking nice great job Skip. In April he completed 40 years with 2nd Farnborough, which we celebrated with a gathering of both past and present members of the group. We presented Skip with an embroidered scarf to commemorate this fantastic achievement.

My first task as GSL was to get the damage to the roof assessed which had been caused by the storms and a previous attempted break in. The roof had to be replaced asap and the kitchen and storeroom would need complete renovation. We secured funds for the roof repairs, which



were completed in December just before the storms at Christmas. In January we were given a grant by Rushmoor youth forum to refurbish the kitchen, store room and toilets and with the excellent work carried out by the Monday Crew the toilets and store room are almost complete and the kitchen is well on its way.

In order to keep the hut in its new state we will need to continue our once a term fundraising. We had 3 successful events this year the Christmas raffle, a bucket collection at B and Q and a very wet Donkey Derby. A very big thank to everyone who contributed.

Everyone has worked really hard over the past year and it has just flown by. We are a thriving and successful group which is at full capacity in all the sections for the amount of leaders we have. It would be great if we could recruit a few more then we could expand the group even further which is something I would really like to do.

All 3 sections have had success this year - the Beavers 1st place in the Miniature Garden Comp and third in Sports Day, Cubs a 2nd in the Chess and 3rd in the football and the George Duval competitions, and the Scouts gained individual placed certificates in the swimming gala and Sports Day. The whole group was also credited with coming 3rd in the Alex Roberts Trophy which is based on everyone's achievements including leaders well done .2nd Farnborough.

I was really proud to attend the Chief Scout Award Presentation evening where we had recipients in all 3 sections the first time since it began, Well done to Michael for gaining his bronze, Emily Daniel, Malachi and Alfie for gaining silver and George Nick and Alex for gaining the gold. In order to gain these badges the boys and girls work really hard but without the work done by the leaders in planning the programmes and activities required it would not be possible. I would like to thank all my leaders Steve (Akela) TK and Alex, their helpers Emer and Skip and our young Leaders Abbi and Verity for all the work that they do. I would also like to thank all the members of the committee Emer (Chairperson) Sheila (retired treasurer) Coral (new Treasurer) and Wendy (Secretary) for all their hard work supporting me with the day to day running of the group. I would also like to thank the District Team for their continued support of the group.

Finally I would like to thank all the parents who have helped during meetings, with transport and by supporting our fundraising activities. I am looking forward to many more successes in the coming year.



"The Beavers Log" Annual Review 2014

With last years AGM being at the end of the Summer term the new years activities started in September. 3 new Beavers joined us and we also welcomed Abbi our new young Leader a new venture for us as we hadn't had a young Leader before.

In October our local PCSO's came along to tell us about their jobs and let us try on their uniforms - they were a bit big. Also in October Ikki (a past leader) brought along some of his bionic arms to show us which helped us realise how difficult it is to do simple things with only one arm. At the end of the month several Beavers attended the District Beaver Fun Day. We experienced cake decorating, blindfold trail, parachute games, leaf placemat making, broom making and a scavenger hunt. Chip - the Beavers Mascot - joined us around the campfire for songs, hotdogs and soup. We were very lucky with the weather as it poured with rain all morning but the afternoon stayed fine. We all had a great time.



After half term, the Beavers spent an evening with 1st Aldershot for Archery. Many had not done this before and found it was not as easy as it looks but by the end of the session all the Beavers had hit the target - a great achievement! The rest of the month was spent gaining the 1st Aid badge. Who would have thought a bit of tomato sauce would cause so much of a stir!

December is always busy making things to sell to raise funds for the Christmas party. This year we did tie-dye handkerchiefs. Also we attended the District Campfire carols at Runways End. Each colony sang their own song we did We Wish you a Merry Christmas. Term ended with a joint party with the Cubs where we played party games and ate lots of Pizza ending the evening with the annual Christmas draw where most families went home with a prize.

January is a lean time for our birds so we decided to help them by making bird feeders out of coconuts it was very messy but very enjoyable.

There was a last minute change to the programme in February. We joined the Cubs at Halfords for an evening of cycle maintenance. I must have known a new cyclist badge for Beavers was being introduced. Two weeks later the Beavers visited Rushmoor Fire station and learnt about how the station operates. Yet again both appliances were called out while we were there, so we experienced the crew responding to a real emergency. Luckily they were not gone long and we were able to continue our visit had time to all have a go on the hoses.

Beavers don't get together as a District as often as the other sections, so this year a District Beaver Hike was held

in March. We started at Camp 45 and hiked to Ceasars Camp and back. About 100 Beavers completed the walk and gained both the Explore and the Hikes 1 badges. The view from the top was magnificent and we could see for miles. While waiting to be picked up, football and parachute games were played on the field. The Beavers had another energetic evening at the end of the month donutting at Alpine Ski Centre. Once again we were lucky the rain stopped just before we started.

The St Georges Day Parade was in April and there were some very smart and well behaved Beavers. I wonder though if any of them had seen a bishop before or such a large Swiss army knife. The weather was not kind this time and we all got soaked during the march, all the District were a credit to Hampshire Scouting.

The hot spell in May gave us a chance to get the tents out and for Skip to show us his Scouting Skills. I hope we remember how to do it in July. We also started work on our miniature gardens by planting some seeds. In June The Beavers Fundraised for Farnborough Foodbank for Scout Community Week. After a night of torrential storms the morning of District Sports Day was surprisingly fine. The Beaver events were closely contested we had 3 x 3rd and a 2nd place well done to James, Ryan, Bayley and Thea who came a brilliant 3rd place overall.

In June we went canoeing at Aldershot Lido which, for most of the Beavers was their first time on the water so they only used small canoes. I was really surprised how well they did and think some surprised themselves. Judging



by all the smiling they all had a brilliant time and have already asked to go again. At the end of June we finished off the miniature

gardens. The top 3 will go forward to Rushmoor in Bloom for Judging good luck to Owen, RJ, and Luke lets hope we are successful again this year.

The first weekend in July saw the District Beaver Sleepover. Eight Beavers attended for the day and history was made as Thea and RJ where the first Beavers from 2nd Farnborough to sleep under canvas. After putting up the tents everyone took part in activities based on the theme of Cowboys and Indians. The rain came down so we were inside but it didn't stop us from making Totem Poles, Tomahawks, Dreamcatchers, Headdresses and Cone Teepees. We did get outside for a little while to experience tin can alley, archery, horseshoes and we even had time to build wigwams out of bamboo canes and sheets and painted them with finger paints. The evening was rounded off with themed campfire songs. The sleepers spent the morning working for the Camp Craft badge before heading home shattered but a great time was had by all.

"Cubs Howl" Annual Review 2014

It was great to welcome 2 new Cubs to the group at the beginning of term. Their first activity was to make dragonflies out of a piece cord and 2 beads. Ikki came along to help us complete the task it was a really good way to teach the Cubs knots and the results were brilliant.

October was a really busy month it started with a visit from our PCSO who talked about the difference between their duties and that of a Police Officer and how we can help them in the



community. On the first Saturday the Cubs assisted with bag packing at Asda in aid of the Childhood Liver Disease Foundation and raised over £700. Ikki came along again to talk about disabilities and brought his many arms and attachments for us to try out. We also tried making sandwiches and cutting paper with only 1 arm and found it more difficult than we thought. The second Saturday some Cubs attended the Jamboree on the Internet at 2nd Aldershot's premises, they communicated with Cubs from Canada, France, Spain and USA. The following Saturday we entered a team in the Night Hike where they had to complete tasks connected to scouting skills. The Cubs had a great time and enjoyed hot soup and hot dogs at the end of the evening.

In November the Cubs attended an Archery session. For some of them it was their first time and they did really well. We also entered a team into the Swimming Gala and everyone swam to their best all reaching their final well done Cubs. As part of the Global Challenge Abbi our Beaver young leader gave a talk about the Swedish Jamboree she attended and taught the Cubs a game she played there.

At The beginning of December some of the Cubs attended the Young Leaders weekend Training course where the YL helped the Cubs gain their Emergency Aid 1 and 2 badges. The Carol service theme this year was the modern day Christmas story, Ryan and Daniel took part in the play on behalf of the pack. At The end of term The Beavers joined us for the Christmas party at the hut after the games we ate loads of Pizza and garlic bread which Dominos kindly delivered.

The Cubs joined the other sections in January in a very successful bucket collection at Band Q. Chinese New Year was also this month and the Cubs learnt about the traditions that surround this festival.

We had our first success of the year in February when Daniel entered the District Chess competition and came 2nd well done. The following week Halfords ran a course on bike maintenance which we attended. The Cubs learnt about safety checks and finding/mending a puncture as part of their Cyclist badge. Once again on a visit to the Fire Station both appliances were called out but one soon returned and we

continued learning about the various community events the service gets involved in and how we can help them do their jobs. The District Team came down to talk to us about CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection). The Cubs took part in several scenarios and found out what to do if anything makes them uncomfortable while online. Congratulations to Emily, Daniel, Alfie and Malachi who received their Chief Scout Silver Awards at the District Awards Ceremony.

There were 2 District Events in March. First the Football where we got to the semi final and won the play off, second was The George Duval Entertainment Competition where we did our version of The Witch Doctor and again we had success coming third well done Cubs. We ended the year with a group visit to the Ski Centre for some donutting.

The Cubs looked really smart at St Georges Day in April luckily Conifer had taken all the pictures before we got drenched.

After completing half the cyclist badge at Halfords, in May it was light enough to do the practical riding test we did this by cycling around the estate. The following week we gave the tents an airing ready for camp. Also in May in preparation for Sport Day we started the Athletes badge.

Scout Community Week started on 2nd June Our whole group was involved with fundraising and collecting food items for Farnborough Foodbank. Beforehand we asked friends and family to contribute and during the week The Cubs fundraised at the Coop. We raised about £180 and 10 crates of food. The Cubs did really well at Sports Day everyone got to their final and by doing so gained the Athletes badge. We also gained 2 x 3rd places in the relay and the 3 legged race. The Cubs joined the Beavers and Scouts at the Lido. After trying canoeing and kayaking the more confident were able to try boarding we had a few navigational issues as steering was far more difficult than it looked. Most found their own way of getting around either by standing kneeling sitting or lying but some cubs spent most of the time falling off but that was part of the enjoyment.

Next week our Cubs are joining 3rd Farnborough at a weekend camp in Frimley Lodge Park. For many it will be their first Camp and first experience of sleeping under canvas. There are loads of activities planned here's hoping for a lovely Summery weekend.



"Scouts Adventure" Annual Review 2014

It was great to welcome 3 Cubs up to Scouts and one new scout at the beginning of term. We also welcomed Verity a Young leader to the group. When the Scouts were planning the activities for the Autumn term on checking the badge records, three of them found that they were very close to gaining their Chief Scout Award.

The first week in October all the Scouts spent an evening at St Johns on their shooting range. Everyone improved their aim during the evening but it was clear that George was the crackshot of the troop. As part of the Community Challenge, the Scouts alongside the Cubs spent an afternoon bag packing at Asda for the Childhood Liver Disease Foundation. A representative of the charity gave an insight into the extent of the disease, the work that they do and how the money is spent. The Scouts then did individual projects showing what they had learnt. Jamboree on the Internet was held at 2nd Aldershot's HQ. From our Troop, Tom found out the most information but everyone spent time chatting to Cubs, Scouts and Leaders from all over the world. Afterwards the Scouts ran an evening's programme for the other Scouts on what they had found out.



November was Fitness Challenge month each scout was set an individual target for 5 different tasks and each week for 4 weeks the target was increased. Also they tried to improve their diet, get more sleep and discovered how harmful drugs smoking and alcohol are. We entered a small team into the swimming Gala and came away with 2 certificates well done.

Skip helped the Scouts practice their pioneering skills but as it was December and Winter they did an indoor mini catapult using small sticks as part of the Creative Challenge. The last week of term was party night. Inbetween the computer games, darts, snooker and table tennis there was a KFC supper. Most Scouts stayed overnight not much sleep went on but three of the new ones were able to experience a night away. All departed after breakfast on the Saturday.

Some of the Scouts were able to complete their Community Challenge in January by spending an afternoon Fundraising at B and Q.

Verity ran the programme in February and decided to do the Photography activity badge. The Scouts produced and edited 2 excellent films one about Zombies and the other was a stop motion about Harry Potter. They also learnt how to care for their camera how to use its functions and how to set up different techniques.

The Fire Station visit in March was planned with the Fire Safety Badge in mind. Once completing all the requirements there was time to view the new training area where we were able to watch and listen to a crew searching a smoke filled room and afterwards we were shown how the heat sensing camera works. We practiced a right hand search in the main building and also had a go at firing the hoses. Well done to George, Nick and Alex for gaining their Chief Scout Awards in time to receive them at the Awards Ceremony. At the end of term a very enjoyable evening was spent donutting with the other sections at the Ski Centre in Aldershot. We had a good turnout at the St Georges Day Parade in April.

In June, the Scouts also got involved with collecting food items and fundraising in the Coop for Farnborough Foodbank as part of Community Week. The week after, Mick from Foodbank came to collect the proceeds and to talk about his work. We helped him sort out all the tins packet foods and toiletries into special boxes and then loaded it all into his van. The troupe were not able to field a full team for Sports Day but everyone tried their best in their events and entered and completed the 1500m race with Alex coming out on top in 1st Place. The Scouts also



spent an evening at the Lido kayaking, canoeing and boarding I think they spent more time in the water than on the board but by the end most had mastered the technique. It was far easier to stay dry

kayaking and canoeing except in the large canoe which tipped over quite often, good job it was a lovely Summer's evening.

Our Scouts are looking forward to an adventurous Summer Camp in August at Tolmers. For some it will be their 1st Scout Camp I am sure they are going to really enjoy the experience. Look out for the report in next year's edition of Smoke Signals.

Join The Adventure @ 2nd Farnborough

Every year Scouting helps 400,000 young people in the UK enjoy new adventures, to experience the outdoors, interact with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

2nd Farnborough always has it's doors open to new

members, whether they want to be a Scout, volunteer to be a Leader or join the Executive Committee. If you would like more information about joining, please speak to a Leader who will then be able to give you more information. Alternatively, you can email us at: info@2ndfarnborough.org.uk.

About This Issue

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