



SMOKE SIGNALS



The Newsletter of 2nd Farnborough Scout Group

"From The GSL" Annual Review 2016

Welcome to this year's edition of Smoke Signals. This is a special year as the Cubs are 100 and the Beavers are 30 years old and there are lots of special celebrations going on throughout the year. I am pleased to say that 2nd Farnborough have had another brilliant year. We have welcomed Blackthorn as Assistant Cub Leader, Bosun as Assistant Scout Leader, Kodiak and Tom as Young Leaders and Mang and Mayo as helpers. Verity, our other Assistant Scout Leader, is taking a break at University for the next 4 years but has promised to come back to us when she graduates. Numbers are up again and we are at capacity in all sections. In September we have 4 Beavers moving up to Cubs and have a healthy waiting list of people to take their places. We now have 10 girls in the group 7 in Scouts, which outnumbers the boys, 2 in Cubs and 1 in Beavers.

I am delighted that all sections have entered all the District competitions over the past year and had many successes. Beavers retained the Buttercup Cup and both Beavers and Cubs came 2nd at Sports Day and Scouts were 2nd at the swimming Gala. I really enjoyed attending all the sections camps and the District Camp during the past year and especially the Cubs centenary Camp a few weeks ago. It was good to see everyone enjoying all the various activities and using the skills they had learnt. My first week long scout camp at Tolmers was an experience and I learnt a lot of new skills very quickly. I am looking forward this year's Tolmers camp in a couple of weeks but praying for good weather this time. In order to achieve the Chief Scout Bronze Award, Beavers now have to attend a sleepover and this year it is in September in Frimley Lodge Park. It was brilliant to be at the Chief Scout Awards presentation evening to see Bayley, Mitch, Sarah, Michael and Tom receive their certificates. I am glad to say that even with the challenges of the new badge criteria, we will have some recipients at next year's ceremony.

Word has got round about us and what we get up too and we have had lots of enquiries about joining it would be great for us to be able to take everyone but in order to do so we will need another Leader in each section so this is still my main focus.

Fantastic attendance at the St Georges Day Parade this year. I was really pleased that 90% of the group were there to see me receive my Woodbeads for completing my training. I was very proud to lead the group past the mayor for the salute you all looked really smart.

We have continued with our fundraising efforts this year, which has helped with the refurbishment of the hut and to keep the subs down. Thanks to everyone who has supported us with the sponsored Fright Night Hike and more recently the sponsored obstacle course. We have

continued to support Farnborough Foodbank who was our dedicated charity this year. Our biggest income is from Gift aid if you are a taxpayer we can claim 25p in the pound back against subs all you need to do is fill in a form so if you are new and have not signed up yet please ask your leader for a form.

Our hut is looking good both inside and out and we have allowed other groups to benefit from the work of the Monday Crew. They have fitted a new outside tap, patched up the roof and refurbished the Wendy House to provide additional storage space. We still need a few minor repairs done to the roof and they will soon be attending to that. We would like to thank them for all their hard work again this year.

Finally thank you to all my leaders, Young Leaders and helpers for all their hard work over the past year making this group what it is today. Thank you Bosun, Blackthorn, Mayo, Mang, Kodiak, Tom and Alex. A big thank you all the parents who took their turn on the parent rotas helped at fundraising events and provided transportation. Thank you also to Becky and the District team for their support, and to my executive committee Henrietta, Coral, Kenna, Sue, Mandy, Paula, Sharon and Marisa who have had a very busy time helping us make the past year a resounding success.



Conifer receiving her Woodbeads.



"The Beavers Log" Annual Review 2016

The Beavers have been really busy as usual and have welcomed Mao as a helper to the Colony this year. We normally start the new programme in September but in order to gain their gardeners Badge they had to look after their miniature gardens (which they planted in June) through the Summer holidays. This year's theme was sports and the finished articles were brilliant there are certainly some great gardeners in the colony. We retained the Buttercup Cup again this year - a hat trick. Phoebe and Reece were presented with it at Squires Garden Centre at the beginning of September and Anthony was presented with a third place certificate.



The first week in October was spent preparing for the Beaver Sleepover which was held at 1st Normandy's Hut. All the Beavers attended the daytime activities which included shelter building, pond dipping, tracking, leaf printing, cake decorating and a campfire. Congratulations to Phoebe, Jay, Jonathan, Steven, Reece and Jack who stayed overnight and by doing a hike and climbing a tree the next morning completed their Outdoor Challenge badge.

After camp we gave the Beavers the chance to earn their hobbies, collectors and sportsman badges. We had some very interesting presentations our guys certainly have some very interesting collections, hobbies and sports.

There were some amazing costumes worn for the Halloween Fright Night Hike around Southwood Woodland at the end of October. This year everyone had to complete an observation board. It's amazing that Beavers were able to find all the hidden items in the dark, yet ask them to find something at the hut no chance. Thanks to everyone who came along and walked with us and sponsored the Beavers to complete the course.

In November Jo, one of our parents, who is a paramedic came along to do the Emergency Aid Badge. We learnt what to do at the scene of an accident, how to make a 999 call, how to treat minor burns and bleeding and the recovery position. We finished by wrapping the Beavers up in bandages. I was told that many of them had kept the bandages on for school the next day as they wanted to show all their classmates what they had learnt. It's great to get such positive feedback.

On a blustery night in December the Beavers went to Runways End for an archery session. Many had not tried it before but soon got the hang of it and there were quite a few arrows landing on the targets. Last year's Christmas party was so successful we decided to do it again with the increased numbers we almost took over the whole Bowling Centre. The Beavers were very competitive and it all ended very close. In January we welcomed James (Kodiak) as a Young leader.

We usually do a most of our creative work in the Spring and this term was no different. The Beavers made some amazing junk models and some of their inventions were good enough to be on Dragons Den. Other crafts were decorated biscuits, bird houses and feeders, Mothers Day cards and gift bags. For Chinese new year we made Dragons and learnt about traditions and customs. We have also fitted in a evening of donutting and a visit to Pets at Home where everyone was able to hold a rabbit, a guinea pig, and stroke a gecko. Some were brave enough to hold the snake! Some Beavers have since completed the Animal Friend activity badge.

Congratulations to Bayley and Mitch who collected their Chief Scout Award Bronze Certificates at the Awards Evening at Samuel Cody School in February well done.

12 Beavers completed the annual District Beaver Hike in March walking from The Wellington Statue to Caesars Camp and back a trek of almost 4 miles. This year while we were waiting for everyone to arrive we tried a bit a welly wanging and caber tossing. Its not quite as easy as it looks. Where we stopped for the snack at the top there were some great trees to climb and the view was brilliant as it was a lovely sunny day. All the Beavers who took part gained their Hikes Away and Explore badges. Only one Beaver could not attend St Georges Day Parade where the highlight was the speaker setting the bible on fire during the sermon. The Beavers looked really smart and did some brilliant marching. Well done. The last week was spent roasting marshmallows over the fire and making smores out of them, unfortunately we could not spend the time allocated on this activity as we were interrupted by showers.

The Summer term is when the majority of the badge work is done as a high percentage of it is outside activities. In order to complete these, the programme was written planning to be outside all term. All the Beavers were to "be prepared" and bring a coat every week. It's not been great weather, only one dry week but we still managed to fit in a scavenger hunt, following a blindfold trail, an evening of St Georges Day activities, a Star Wars evening and a trip to Frimley Lodge Park to take part in the sponsored assault Course.

We were not expecting it to be rain free when we visited Aldershot Lido for an evening of Canoeing, Kayaking and Paddle Boarding but the sun graced us with its presence. There was still a chilly wind but that did not spoil the enjoyment. For 5 Beavers, this was their first time you would not know it from watching them as they picked it up very quickly and have already asked when we will be doing it again.

We did brilliantly at the District Sports Day again this year coming overall 2nd for the 2nd Year running. Well done to Joshua, Oliver, Jay, Jonathan and Phoebe who were all placed in their races.

We saw 2 Beavers swim up to Cubs and welcomed 5 new Beavers into the colony.

"Cubs Howl" Annual Review 2016

We like to keep Cubs active and we certainly have done that this year. We have welcomed Mang and Mao to the pack and have kept them busy too. September started with learning how to put up the new tents for District Camp. Six of our older Cubs attended camp at Camp 49, good job they had practiced as due to circumstances beyond our control they ended up putting them up in the pitch dark finishing just in time for supper. Luckily we were sharing camp with 1st Aldershot so were able to share facilities. Saturday morning was spent constructing our stall for the afternoon's fairground themed activities. We made a football themed stall where Cubs had to shoot footballs through hoops. After lunch activities opened and the Cubs made their way around them paying with milk bottle tops. It was a great afternoon and the weather was brilliant. After tea we made our way to the campfire and the Explorers played a Wide Game where they hid in the woods and the Cubs had to find them. Sunday morning was spent going around different bases each group had prepared we did the hoop teamwork challenge. After lunch we broke camp and sent 6 very tired Cubs home. Thanks again to 1st Aldershot for looking after us.

In District Handcraft Competition in October the Cubs did very well. During our meetings the Cubs finished off the Disability Awareness badge by learning how to fingerspell and how to write their names in Braille. A new county quiz was introduced called Brainbox Challenge. Cubs were divided into their sixes and over 2 weeks were asked questions about countries, nature, scouting, and general knowledge. The winning Sixes scores from each pack were sent to the ADC, We came second behind 8th Farnborough) who represented Blackwater Valley at county level. Well done to Alistair, Harry and Ryan. On the last Friday of term the Cubs joined the Scouts on the Fright Night sleepover and Hike around Hawley Lake. Usually only the Scouts sleepover but this year the Cubs joined in and 4 Cubs had their first experience of sleeping in the hut. Must have been hungry work hiking as I have never seen all the fish and chip suppers completely demolished before. Everyone settled down to watch one of the DVD's and soon most of the Cubs were asleep. Thanks to all who sponsored the Cubs and helped with this event.

In November a few Cubs gained their swimmer badge at Farnborough Leisure which was good preparation for the swimming Gala where our team all gained places in the heats. The following week Kirsty and Emma came along to talk about Internet Safety. Also in November the Cubs went to Runways End for an Archery session. The new ones found it difficult to start with but soon got the hang of it. The Cubs also had the opportunity to earn the Hobbies, Collectors, Sports Enthusiast and Physical Recreation badges and every Cub gained at least one of them. The District Carol Service clashed with school plays so not many Cubs were able to attend but those who were there did us proud. 6 Cubs went to the young Leaders First Aid workshop and gained the Emergency Aid 2 badge. The Christmas party was bowling at Farnborough Bowl everyone was really competitive and the scores were really close.

The Cubs had a very busy Spring term, entering 2 District events. The 6 a side football where the team played very well, dominated every game and came top of our group. We lost in the semis mainly due to the hail storm and finally came in 4th. Well done everyone. The second event was the

Entertainers Badge Day where 5 Cubs took part. The morning was spent in 6 workshops which included mime, drumming, acting and make up. The Cubs rehearsed 6 scenes from a space theme built around Tim peaks adventures which they later performed to the parents. Some of the adults had a scene and Mao was good as an old age Cub. The Cubs that attended gained the Entertainers Badge. Well done Cubs.

During our meetings the Cubs made some dragons, acted out some traditions and played some Chinese games for New Year, attended a shooting session at RWE, finished the home skills part of the skills badge, started the pioneering badge and completed several teamwork and problem solving challenges and spent an evening donutting.

Much of the new badgework scheme involves outdoor activities so the Summer terms programme was all outside. Unfortunately someone forgot to tell the sun that it is supposed to shine. The first week we ran in and out of the showers to make bug hotels and toast marshmallows make smores on the fire. The following week was spent at Pets at Home learning about and holding hamsters guinea pigs, rabbits geckos and water dragons. the snakes were due to be fed so we decided that we would give them a miss. Afterwards the cubs learnt tracking signs followed a trail and played rounders, just finishing before the rain came down. The following week was brilliant for the litterpick and fire wood collecting along Cove Brook but dreadful for firefighting and backwoods cooking the following week we got very wet. Luckily the week we spent at Frimley Lodge Park doing the Sponsored Obstacle Course and Athletes badge was dry. Thank you to the parents that helped and everyone who sponsored us.



Also during the term the Cubs worked on the new Skills and Teamwork Challenge badges and spent an evening canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding which were new experiences for a few of Cubs but they really enjoyed it.

The entire pack attended the Cubs Centenary weekend camp at Runways End at the beginning of June. The activities laid on were based on the star badge system which was in place for a large part of the 100 years. These included making a wristband, a can phone, a wound, recalling the national anthem, some skill games, a scavenger hunt and cooking dampers. There was a street party on the Saturday afternoon a joint celebration for the Queen's with inflatables and party games that was followed by a campfire and fireworks. The Weather was great up until Sunday morning but the rain did not stop the fun. Well done to Alistair who was the only Cub from the pack to achieve 2 stars over the weekend.

Well done to all the Cubs who attended Sports day. Every Cub came away with a 1st, 2nd or 3rd certificate which in itself is great but to finish 2nd overall is the best we have ever done.

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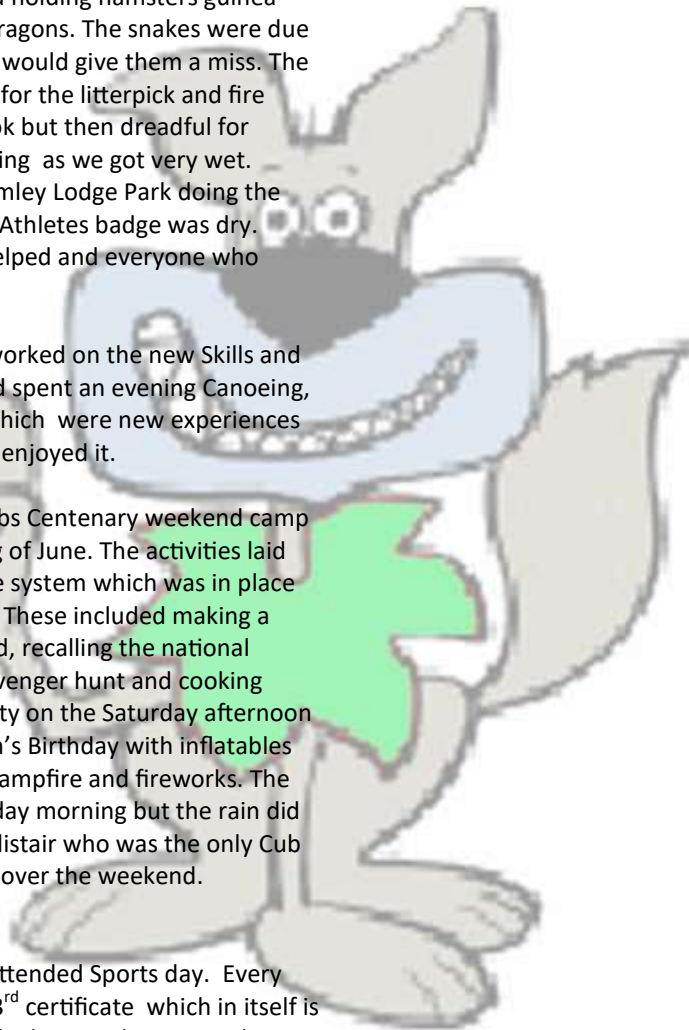
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Four Cubs have successfully moved onto scouts in the past year and we have 4 Beavers swimming up in September. We have a few Cubs close to achieving their Chief Scout award and I look forward to presenting them soon.





Straight after last year's AGM, the Scouts headed off to Tolmers for their week long camp. It was another brilliant Camp but

the weather couldn't have been worse, the first 4 days were so wet vehicles were banned from the site. It was Conifer's first week long camp and I don't think she enjoyed the wet weather. The Scouts did not seem to mind having to change 4 times a day! By day 4 everyone had run out of dry clothes but then the rain stopped and we were able to dry some clothes and shoes by the fire. The Scouts took part in all the activities which included raft building, canoeing, zorbing, climbing, abseiling, go karting, swimming and hiking. We are going again this year and all the new scouts are really looking forward to it.

We started the term with some messy but successful food challenges, armpit fudge and ice cream - you may have seen the slide with Dan covered in Chocolate. This was a great way to welcome the 3 scouts who had leapt across from Cubs. There was much less preparation for district Camp than for Tolmers but we did have to fix one of the tent poles and canvases. Four Girls and two Boy Scouts joined the Cubs at District Camp. On the Sunday morning the Scouts went round activities that the groups had prepared and we won the Tug of war and came 2nd in the boot throwing. Tom was able to complete his Chief Scout Gold award while at camp and was presented with it by the District Commissioner at the closing ceremony. Well done Tom.

As the nights drew in the Scouts turned creative with marshmallows building towers supported by uncooked spaghetti. Fox patrol built the tallest tower which held, the other patrols had some ingenious ways of trying to keep theirs stable. The Scouts also took part in the sponsored Fright Night Hike and sleepover.

In November the Scouts welcomed 2 new members who were new to Scouting and their first activity was a night at Lazer Quest. The following week we introduced them to firelighting and the cooking of smores. With many new members we decided to give them a chance to gain an activity badge and began with the Hobbies/Collectors, Sports Enthusiast and Physical Recreation. The Scouts worked on the Teamwork Challenge badge for the rest of the term. The Christmas party was at Gravity Force with a

KFC supper and a most of the night games session at the hut, There were a few bleary eyes in the morning. DC Becky joined us at the hut I think she did get a few hours sleep though.

The first 3 weeks of the Spring term were spent preparing for the District Night Hike the Scouts fine tuned their Map Reading, First Aid, Pioneering and Teamwork skills. 2nd Farnborough entered 2 teams unfortunately one group took a wrong turning but found their way back to the finish safely. The other group completed the all the activities which included Pioneering, Bridge Building, Tin Can Alley, Horse Shoe Throwing and Memory Game. Well done Sarah and Finn who finished in 7th place. We continued with the skills spending the next few weeks gaining the Chefs Activity badge by preparing fruit skewers, spaghetti bolognaise, chocolate mousse and rice krispie cakes and very nice it was too. The last week of term the Troop joined the rest of the group for an evening donutting at the Alpine Ski Centre.

There was a great turn out for St Georges Parade you all did 2nd Farnborough proud.

The Summer Term began with the troop improving fitness as part of the new Skills Challenge this finalised in the Scouts completing the Trim trail at Frimley Lodge Park. While there, we also completed the Athletes Badge and built shelters as part of the Survival Badge. The Scouts spent the rest of the term learning survival techniques, building fires, backwoods cooking and building hammocks. Also this term we have been Canoeing Kayaking and Paddle Boarding. Well done to the Scouts who took part in the District Raft Race we were congratulated on our teamwork and the construction of the rafts. The races were all very close but our team 2 just missed out on 1st place in race 2 well done.



5 Scouts represented us at District Sports Day, well done everyone, congratulations to Lauren Finn and James who all gained 3rd place certificates.

The Scouts have been working hard on their badge work and we have 3 Scouts who should gain their Gold Chief Scout Award in the next few months.

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. Alternatively, you can email us at: info@2ndfarnborough.org.uk.

About This Issue

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