

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wargrave Cubs Wildcats Annual Report 2015

Each term at the Wildcats starts with a planning meeting in the Greyhound, the Summer term is always about what we can do to get outside, we are so fortunate with the location of the hut and the space we have available so this term started with an evening of games on the sports field, 'Capture the flag' and 'Hunters, Hares and Hounds' and Perpetual Cricket but this report is about last year so what did we get up to, well here is just a few of the adventures.



Myles, Samuel and William building shelters in Bowsey Woods



The Wildcats at Dinton Pastures.



We are a community organisation and so here we are getting outside with our tools and weeding the Community Orchard.





And doing our bit to keep the Wargrave 10k runners well hydrated.

Scouting involves getting out and under canvas and we went on family camp to Paccars campsite in Chalfont heights and although there were some showers it didn't dampen the fun.





Thanks to John Wheals and Fiona Keen who lead the Pumas we joined forces and took the cubs to Emmer Green and the 89<sup>th</sup> Reading Scout centre for Cub Camp and a biblical thunder and lightning storm that taught the cubs the importance of tucking the tent flaps below the groundsheet!



Simon (Akela-Wildcats) Fiona (Akela-Pumas) Christine (ACSL-Wildcats) and John (ACSL-Pumas) with tired but smiling cubs just before breaking camp and heading home.

Much of the leadership team spent the Summer break volunteering at WINGS 2014 an International Jamboree held in Windsor every five years, six thousand Scouts and Guides and one thousand adult volunteers.



A week of beautiful weather and the Scouts and Guides seemed to enjoy the science experiments, here Christine is making Lava lamps with Alka Seltzer tablets, but we had already practised our experiments with the cubs just to make sure they approved.



Jacob making volcanoes from bicarbonate and vinegar.

Sooner or later the evenings draw in and we head back to the Scout hut but first did we all really go up in a hot air balloon?



Yes! Thanks to the Vonka family we really did, the cubs took it in turns in groups of three to lift off and land. The leaders had a go as well, Jan Vonka pointed out that it took rather more hot air to get the leaders off the ground.





Up, Up and Away!

Did I mention that we won the District scrapheap challenge, the team had to build a model based on the theme of "A Day Out" from rubbish.



Jake, James and Edward- the winning team

And we nearly won the District quiz thanks to James McC, Jake and Charlie R and we would have won the District air rifle target shooting but for an administrative error!

We were proud to parade with the British Legion on Remembrance Sunday.



And then it was nearly Christmas and we started work on the Almost Christmas show, in its second year, no less chaotic but the cubs did a great job with our bit “ It was the night before Christmas” and Rev Jon Drake came to remind us Christmas isn’t just about presents and with a full house to support us and enjoy the mulled wine and mince pies organised by Helen Vonka and her wonderful team and a brilliant fund raising and tasty chocolate tombola organised by the Walsh family we raised a considerable amount of money for Breast Cancer Care in memory of Nigel’s wife Kim.



Did I mention we held a speaking competition?





James, quite literally had the cubs falling off their seats with laughter







And a Scottish referendum? Jake and William –future politicians?

The New Year has us heading out into the orchard to wassail the apple trees, the cubs are best at the bit where they get to make drums from Christmas sweet tins and make plenty of noise to scare any evil spirits from the trees. Did you hear us?

And then Burns night and this year a real Scot joined us and taught the cubs how to Ceilidh . Thank you Bill!



And then we all sat down to a Burns supper of Haggis, Neaps and Tatties.



Akela presenting the Haggis and yes they did try it!

So we had a busy and exciting year and we are looking forward to another one, Wildcats is lead by Simon Smith (Akela) with the assistance of Christine Walker, Chris Bookless and Richard Best. We have been fortunate to have extra assistance this year from Alex Leigh, Ed Fry and Henry Best who have been volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

**Richard Best**