



1st Wargrave Scout Group
Lumberjack Beaver Colony
Annual Report - 2016

The Beavers have been busy this year. The Woodchucks colony merged into Lumberjacks at the start of the 2015 Autumn Term, due to a lack of a leader. And following the departure of the Lumberjack leaders (Jen Herrington and Clare Pagdin) Neil Cooper (Bear) agreed to take on the leadership of the merged colony, assisted by Ken and Hilary Burke.

Last Summer term we had lots of opportunities to get out and about, with several excursions to Bowsey Woods, making dens and generally enjoying being outside. We enjoyed a picnic outing to Henley on the train and we also managed a trip in May to the Warburg nature reserve in Henley. We also had sessions in the tennis club and also on a golf course, trying some sports that were new to some of the Beavers.

The start of the Autumn term, with the larger colony, saw the introduction of a greater focus on badges. Our Beavers wrote and posted a postcard home after they learnt their address, as part of their Communicator badge. They learnt how to deal with minor medical emergencies for their Emergency Aid badge and we expanded into the Safety badge, covering the green cross code, amongst other things.

Other highlights of the term were our spooky Halloween walk and we also had a very good turnout for the Remembrance Day parade, with the Beavers doing themselves proud with their behaviour and presentation. In the latter part of the term everyone enjoyed practising for the Almost Christmas show at Woodclyffe Hall and delivered a great performance of 'It's not about the money'.

As is traditional we made the guy for the Scout firework bonfire and several Beavers attended the Loddon District Christmas Party, with one of our Beavers being chosen to present Father Christmas with his present, in front of 200+ people; a real credit to him.

At the end of the Autumn term we said goodbye to Ken and Hilary as they began an extended break away from Scouting.

The Spring term saw us working on the My Skills Challenge badge, which was awarded after much practicing of essential skills and we had a visit from dentist Anu who showed the Beavers how to look after their teeth and think about what they snack on.

The Beavers are now all 'digital citizens', having looked at the internal parts of a computer and produced their own computer artwork. They also know about basic wing dynamics, with that session concluding with a paper aeroplane flying competition, of course, and their Air Activities badge.

Activities for the Space badge concluded with all the Beavers outside, looking for the International Space Station crossing the night sky. Our Beavers also visited Tesco in Henley and saw 'behind the scenes', including the freezer, watched a demo on gutting a fish (surprisingly popular!) and tried some interesting food products.

We celebrated Chinese New Year and our new assistant leader, Peung Cooper, got us all into the spirit of things. Emma Craig also joined us this term as an assistant leader, taking us to three uniformed leaders and nineteen Beavers.

Looking forward to the coming year, we will continue the progress on badges and getting lots of skills and experience, as well as having lots of fun. Lumberjacks will also need to encourage some new leaders to come forward as Bear and Peung will be finishing in March 2017. It would also be great if the Woodchuck colony could restart, as there are plenty on the waiting list to form the new colony; we just need leaders to volunteer themselves!

Bear, Peung & Emma