



2016 – 2017 AGM report - Lumberjacks

As always, the Beavers have had a busy year, culminating in eight of them being awarded their Chief Scout Bronze Award. A big congratulation to Isaac, Malo, William, Josh, Matthew, Joe, Adam and Kit. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Turning to the years' highlights, the Beavers were treated to a visit from a sailing boat, at the hut, and had a competition hoisting the spinnaker! The cycling session was also very popular, with a little bit of practical maintenance, followed by a good ride around Kings' Field.

We had several excursions to Bowsey Woods, making dens, practicing fire lighting and generally enjoying being outside. We enjoyed an outing to Henley on the train and we also had a session in the tennis club.

The Beavers had a great time trying new activities at the Family Camp and the Cub/Beaver camp. The traditional 'Spooky Walk', from the Scout Hut to St Mary's Church, was a great success, taking in the sights of as many dark footpaths as possible and culminating with a biscuit outside the church gate.

We had a visit from a Police Officer who spoke about stranger danger and lots of other interesting topics. The Beavers also had the opportunity to look at the police equipment and try on some of the uniform, which they enjoyed very much!

The Wargrave Fire Station crew put on a fantastic display in Kings' Field, which included putting out a fire, a demonstration of the 'jaws of life' and a chance for the Beavers to dress up a bit! They had such a great time that we went to visit them in the Fire Station later in the year, where the Beavers explored the fire engine and squirted water at cones with a fire hose.

The Remembrance Day Parade was very well attended by the Beavers and Christmas saw the Beavers practicing for the Almost Christmas Show with some very entertaining rehearsal sessions.

We welcomed Jamie and Lucas who have been volunteering with us for 3 months as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, and doing a great job helping the Beavers.

Our Beavers took on a photography project at home and their work is displayed on the Beaver board in the hut. They learnt how to use a DSLR camera and took turns to pose/take each other's photos, which they really enjoyed.

We said thank you to vet Tracey Whitehouse and Adam Blaquiere who visited the Beavers, giving them the opportunity to use a stethoscope to listen to the dog's heartbeat and their own and, with much hilarity, dress up as a surgeon.

You shape month gave us a chance for our Beavers to speak about the activities they like and dislike, the output of which we are putting into sessions during the year. We have also reintroduced a Scouting tradition this year; camp blankets, with the Beavers beginning with sewing on their initials.

Our Beavers made a Mothers' Day card and wrote their addresses onto envelopes, which were then kindly delivered by the Royal Mail just a few days before Mothers' Day. Learning about good and bad food the Beavers made smoothies, which their parents tasted after kindly making a collective donation of £14.45 to Cancer Research UK.

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. We are also pleased to announce that Louisa Hopcroft and Reem Ingleby have agreed to help the colony as Section Assistants, which is great news for us all.

Neil & Peung