

# End of Term Newsletter

December 2008



**Spring Term: Start 14<sup>th</sup> January & Finish 25<sup>th</sup> March with Half Term hols on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
**Summer Term: Start 22<sup>nd</sup> April & Finish 15<sup>th</sup> July with Half Term hols on 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**Subscriptions for the Spring term will be £26**



Beavers have had another non-stop term, and as usual, we are always running out of time at the end of each meeting!

We had great fun playing in the woods, as well as

collecting several dustbin bags of litter from the woods and around the pond off the Reading Road. We also explored a fox or badger's hole (but not too closely in case the owner was at home!) We had a fun evening following a treasure trail round the village set by Vixen (Nicola Lee) and Sue Bloomer. We learnt some interesting things about the village as well as discovering where all the Stoke Row Beavers live. A highlight was a refreshment stop at Edward's house! Many thanks for this Sue!

We are blessed with having so many people who are prepared to give up their time to come and visit us or let us visit them. Firstly we had farmer Chris from Bix come along with his tractor and trailer, complete with straw and buckets of grain - we all stuck our hands into the grains and played with it. Hopefully, we now know the difference between oats, barley, wheat, rape and beans! The Beavers were able to climb all over the tractor and learnt a bit about the farm Chris manages and about the Country Code, which we should all respect. We were treated to hand made chocolate brownies by Viv! The Beavers were also given Farmer magazines and badges! A farmer and tractor visiting Beavers was a first for the Stoke Row Colony! It was a really interesting, hands-on evening and we have been promised a trip to the farm in May! Many thanks to Chrissie Lloyd for organising this. Revd David Holmwood kindly let us invade the Chapel of Unity where we had another interesting evening, learning about the Chapel and about 'promises' - the evening fulfilled part of our Promise and Friendship Challenges. Thank you to both of you, for giving the Beavers such fun, whilst they learn about the world round about them.

Our Code of Conduct that the Beavers have drawn up is complete and each child has taken home their own copy.

On our last evening outside before half term, we made the most of a beautiful evening, playing with the shelters we made in the woods by Tarka's house during the Fun Day last summer. We invested Jasper Hall and William Hybert into our Colony. Welcome, Jasper and William, we wish you many happy years in the Stoke Row Scout Group.

Beavers are a hardy bunch! Despite the drizzle we celebrated Guy Fawkes with a camp fire, bonfire toffee, marshmallows and giant sparklers! Our Group Scout Leader joined us as chief fire wallah and several parents stayed to join in the fun - a great evening was had by all. We visited China - we played some Chinese games and ate delicious Chinese food; some of us even managed to use chopsticks! Towards the end of the term, we have been working on a top-secret gift for Christmas. We are looking forward to a music evening featuring instruments from a foreign country.

This term most Beavers have earned their Promise and Global Challenges badges. However, Callum and John attended the Remembrance Sunday Service at Checkendon Church, Edward attended the Service in Henley, and Jasper attempted to climb a mountain in the Lake District to attend a service, so all four Beavers completed their Promise Challenge early! Holly, Callum and Eleanor earned their Hobby Activity Badge and William earned his Animal Activity Badge. Joining In 1 Awards were earned by Reuben, Kieran, Adam, Eleanor and Holly, as they celebrated their first year of being members of the Stoke Row Scout Group. Well done Beavers!

The help of parents has been invaluable this term. We could not operate such a fun programme without your help. Thank you! In particular, thanks to the Hyberts, Sue Bloomer and the Higgins family who have helped for more than their fair share!

Trevor Gibbins retires as Group Scout Leader at the end of December. Thank you, Trevor, for doing such a fantastic job for the Scouts.



**Have you visited our Website yet?**  
**[www.1stStokeRowScouts.net](http://www.1stStokeRowScouts.net)**



P.T.O.



This term is always a short one as we finish early in December, to avoid clashing with all our other Christmas commitments - but even so, it seems to have gone faster than usual! The Cubs have been busy doing lots of things, starting with an enjoyable evening spent in Checkendon when we had a guided tour of the Church and then let rip with a boisterous night hike in the woods!

But for much of this term we have been focussing on safety - both our own personal safety, and how to keep our homes safe. Almost everyone has tried really hard with this, and lots of badges have now been earned here.

Baloo, Mike and Roger Hyde gave us a really interesting evening on bike maintenance, as the second part of our Cyclist badge. Akela should be presenting these very soon. In addition, we have paraded on Remembrance Day at Checkendon Church, and we did extremely well in a District Six-Aside Football tournament when our team (Matt, George, Will S, Will H, Hamish and Charlie C) came second out of loads of other local teams, and were beaten only by Goring (who had a 'semi-pro' team, including a county level player!). A huge well-done to them all!

But that's just the sensible stuff! In addition, we have been enjoying lots of games and had a great evening on bonfire night when Baloo let off some fireworks and we cooked shed-loads of sausages and marshmallows on a very hot fire. We were all very smoky afterwards, but the sausages tasted great!

Since then, we have been doing some secret craft stuff, and are looking forward to our end-of-term Christmas Campfire, when families are invited to join us to celebrate the end of another great year, and to join us in saying farewell to five of our oldest Cubs who have now turned 11 so are sadly moving on, hopefully to our Scout Group: Katie Mole, Will Hyde, Conrad Sedwell, George Lee and Seth Hall. Good luck to you all!

Finally, we have welcomed several new faces into the pack this term: Benedict Madzar, Will McCulloch and Art Lawton, who were all recently invested, and Cam Bradbury who has joined us from the Henley pack. We hope you all have a great time with us!

The Scouts are increasing to 19 in number after Xmas.

This term, we completed the Promise Challenge badges. To earn the badge, the Scouts have attended church services, read prayers, and carried out at least 3 good deeds, which they have then talked about to the troop, at meetings. The Scouts also have taken part in Scouts Own Prayers.

We also completed the Global Challenge this term. The Global Challenge Badge required each Scout to pick a country and write at least 4 - 5 pages about it, including information about Scouting in their chosen country. Two scouts took part in the International Scouting internet in October, which was really interesting.

We are now starting to work towards the Pioneering Badge.

Sadly, Barry is leaving his position as Scout Leader, but from January onwards, he is taking on the role of Group Scout Leader, so we will still see plenty of him! Thank you, Barry, for all your hard work, and for making Scouts such fun!

We hope that two, or maybe three, parents will be joining us as Assistant Scout Leaders in the New Year to help run our Scout Troop. If you are interested joining our team of helpers, please contact Barry at [jb47mcgrath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jb47mcgrath@yahoo.co.uk) or Trevor Gibbins, telephone: 680921.

Barry would like to thank all the parents who have supported him, also Charlie and Rob Habasinski for all their help.

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Wishing you a very  
merry Christmas and a  
fun-filled New Year!

