

End of Term Newsletter

July 2007



Sunrise Ceremony - 8 am, Wednesday 1st August
New Term Starts 12th September 2007

1st August Sunrise Ceremony

All young people from all sections and Leaders are invited to renew their Promise on the dot of 8am on Wednesday 1st August with Martin Strong (our District Commissioner) and the Deputy Mayoress of Henley in attendance on the steps of Henley Town Hall. (This is the time Baden Powell held his first camp on Brownsea Island 100 years ago).

Free car parking has been arranged at the Christ Church Centre opposite Higgs on the Reading Road (station end of Henley). After the ceremony, you are all invited for bacon sandwiches and drinks in the Christ Church Centre.



Please be outside the Town Hall BY 7.45 am. Please tell your Section Leader if you can attend to ensure you get your Sunrise Badge and bacon sandwich!

If you are unable to attend but can prove that you made your promise in a public place at the same time, in any country, you can also ask for a Sunrise Badge.



This term, the Beavers all learned how to put up a two-man tent, in preparation for our Centenary Camp, held in May. Ten beavers had a great time at the camp at Binfield Heath. Several of them bravely participated in the Stunt round the Camp Fire on the Saturday evening, which was attended by 500 people, and they got lots of laughs! They really enjoyed sharing activities and duties with the older Cubs. The Centenary Camp badge was awarded to those who attended the Camp: Benedict, Louis, Scott, Tommy, Antonia, Cameron, Molly, Toby, Zach and Bailey. We all had a great time, despite the rain!

The Beavers had a fun evening pond dipping in the Well Orchard, enjoyed watching a horse swim in a pool at the Checkendon Equestrian Centre and had a very entertaining evening at the Circus in the Sue Ryder home at Nettlebed. We have played cricket this term and have a couple of budding batsmen in our midst - Cameron and Daniel. We have also played tennis.

Zach Griggs, Edward Bloomer and Antonia Hogan were invested after half term. George, Tommy, Billy, Bailey and Benedict were awarded their Joining In 1 badge. Molly, Scott, Toby, Louis, Antonia and Zach have earned their Nights Away 1 badge and Cameron, Blake and Hugh have been awarded their Friendship Challenge Badge. The Health and Fitness badge has been awarded to Blake, Cameron, Hugh, Molly, George, Scott, Ellie, Toby, Tommy, Billy, Bailey, Louis, Benedict, Callum and Daniel. Well done boys and girls.

We say goodbye to Cameron and Blake as they move into Cubs, having gained their Bronze Scout Award at the end of the term. We are also losing Hugh, George and Scott and wish them well.

We are still looking for a new Elsa - please contact Julia on 01491 680619 or at julia@gavinco.fsnet.co.uk if you can commit yourself to helping four or five nights a term when Anne or Julia are not able to help.

A big thank you to Jackie Robinson for helping as a Leader this term when we have been short of Leaders. Also, thank you to Wendy Reed for planting and watering the flowers round the pavilion. The Beavers are helping by watering these once a week at their colony meeting. And thank you to Laura for her help this term as a Young Leader for her Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Take fourteen Cubs, four tents, two leaders, lots of helpful parents, a huge bucketful of enthusiasm and lots of rain, mix vigorously in a very muddy field, add a few Wellingtons, 80 kebabs, a few large campfires and some crazy singing and stunts and in two and a half days you'll have 18 happy (if somewhat soggy) campers, lots of new friends and many happy memories.

This was the Cub Scouts District Camp at Magpie's Field near Nettlebed a fortnight ago. We had a fantastic weekend despite the torrential rain and storms. The boys even managed to light fires and create some pretty exotic menus for their backwoods cooking challenge! In true Scouting spirit, their enthusiasm was not dampened by the odd flood and no-one was swept away, although a couple of the tents nearly were!

Many thanks, as ever to the Habasinskis for rolling up before-hand to set up the marquee and wash tents, and then for taking them away again and transporting them back to the shed for us. Your help was invaluable, as ever!

All the Cubs who attended earned their three Centenary badges which can now be worn with pride on their uniforms. Well done all of you!

This was, of course, our second camp this term - the Cubs also enjoyed our Centenary Camp at Binfield Heath. We have been hiking, tracking, and cycling through the local woods this term. Our athletics evening included a run around the whole village. We are really looking forward to finishing the term with our annual Rounders game at Checkendon.



The Scout Troop had a very successful Kayaking session at Longridge on Wednesday 4th July, even though the river was running very fast.

This Wednesday we are at the Pavilion for Best Patrol and badge presentations.

On Friday 13th July we are doing a Night Hike from the Fox Pub at Cane End to Stoke Row Pavilion, cross country through woods and by public footpaths, a distance of 7.5 kilometres; there will be 9 Scouts, one Leader and one Parent taking part. We will then sleep over at the Pavilion departing at about 8.30am on Saturday.

Charlie Habasinski will be leaving us as he has reached the grand old age of 14! He will be missed, as he is a steadying influence on the other Scouts, but we hope he may come back as a Young Leader.

The Troop will be increasing in numbers in September as we expect at least 3-4 Cubs from Stoke Row, and more from Sonning Common, so anyone who would like to volunteer as a Asst. Scout Leader (even part time) would be really gratefully received.

On 12th September, we will start off the new term. As I would like to create a balanced programme, I would like parents with certain skills or knowledge to assist on one or two nights to pass on their skills to the Scouts. In particular First Aid, where a Nurse or Doctor could teach basic First Aid to the Scouts (I will supply the course requirements). I already have a volunteer to build bird boxes as part of a carpentry badge. In fact anyone with skills prepared to pass them on will be great. Please let me know via my email at jb47mcgrath@yahoo.co.uk

I have provisionally booked Marchants Hill, near Hindhead in Surrey for w/e 19-21st October for an activity weekend, more details later.

There are photos from the recent Centenary Camp on the 1st Stoke Row Scouts website: www.1stStokeRowScouts.net.



Very best of luck to Jan (Akela) and Mike who are getting married soon. Have a fantastic day!

Have a great summer!