

End of Term Newsletter



Spring term starts January 13th 2010

Subscriptions for the Autumn term will be £27

Scouts fundraising evening for Sue Ryder - January 27th 2010



In October, we learned some touch rugby skills with Tarka's husband, Tony, and some sporty parents. We were very proud of the Beavers - they kept the OUT in SCOUTING and braved the elements - and spent a good half hour outside practising their skills in the pouring (but much needed) rain. We went scavenger-hunting round the Recreation ground and tracking round the village and woods, making the most of the last light evenings as well as working towards gaining our Fitness Challenge Badge. Some lovely flowers and bulbs were planted to flower during the winter and keep our village pretty. For the Imagination Badge, we have drawn up a list of energy busting tasks to help our environment - the Beavers all have loads of wonderful ideas. We also we had fun doing some acting. We have agreed on a new Code of Conduct which all the Beavers will be trying hard to keep!

Elsa, Jackie Robinson, has now been a Beaver Leader for more than four years and has spent much time training towards gaining her 'Wood Badge'. The history of this badge comes from Lord Baden-Powell himself: at the end of his first Scoutmaster's training camp in 1919 he presented each man with a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in the deserted hut of a Zulu chieftain, when on a campaign in South Africa in 1888. At the end of November Jackie was presented with her Wooden Badge (unfortunately, it was not be one of those original wooden beads!) by the County Commissioner, Tarquin May, at a social evening for South Chiltern Scout leaders, and Julia, aka Tarka, re-presented this to Jackie in front of Beavers and their parents at the last meeting of term on 9th December. Well done Jackie - this is a testament to her commitment and dedication to Scouting.

Archie N, Max, Tim and Nathan were invested by Katherine Adams, our District Commissioner for

Beavers, and we hope they will have a very happy two years with our Beaver Colony. We also presented six Beavers with their Chief Scout Bronze Award: Adam, Eleanor, Holly, Jessica, John and Archie B - Well done! Adam, Eleanor and Jessica started their transition to Cubs in November, attending both Beavers and Cubs for the last few weeks of term - we shall be saying goodbye to them on 9th December, but we are sure they will quickly settle into Cubs.

Jasper and William earned their Joining In 1 award. Emma hatched some Triop eggs and looked after them (until they died!) for her Animal Friend Badge. Triops are long-tail tadpole shrimps from the dinosaur age. The creatures should double in size every day, but apparently, it is quite difficult to incubate them successfully. Perhaps some of our readers may have more success!

The Beavers worked for their Air Activities Badge, this term. We had great fun making and flying paper aeroplanes - Eleanor Lee's classic glider flew the furthest - well done Eleanor! We found out about flying in different types of aircraft. The Beavers described planes they have flown in and all sorts of unusual planes that they researched.

We had an energetic evening with Freddie's mum, Jennifer Street, doing some keep-fit. We measured our heartbeat rate before and after the exercise and learned why it was beating faster afterwards. At Checkendon Church on the Remembrance Day service, Eleanor carried our Beaver flag and Holly, John, Kester, William and Archie G also attended, behaving very well throughout. Thank you for coming all of you.

For the last few weeks of term, we worked on our surprise Christmas Craft, and at our end of term party we said goodbye to Adam, Eleanor and Holly - we wish them well in Cubs.

Many thanks to all the parents who have helped this term - you are a fantastic group of parents and your assistance during our meetings is invaluable and much appreciated! Wishing you all a very happy Christmas time with your families!



We have had a really busy term doing lots of activities, and working for several badges, whilst having a lot of fun too! On 7th October, the Cubs braved the elements for a rather wet night hike, but in the event had a great time exploring muddy paths through the woods in the dark! We have also enjoyed a fascinating evening, finding out about some of the mysteries of space from Mike and one or two of our expert astronomer Cubs! We have been working on the Pet Carer badge at home, keeping a Wildlife log, and we had a great evening working towards the Science badge, doing lots of different experiments investigating forces, sound, the composition of air - and even making compasses. Lots of fun! In preparation for Christmas, we had one or two rather secretive DIY projects taking shape - thanks to dads who helped with these!

In November, the Cubs' District 6-aside football competition took place, when our squad, Jack, Benedict, Will, Joe, Joel, Harry and Sam, competed at Shiplake College (in our brand new kit!) against other packs from Henley, Shiplake, Goring, Goring Heath and Sonning Common. We didn't win - but considering that our lads were the youngest team there, they did really well, and didn't lose a single match - well done to all the boys!

We had a great turnout at the Remembrance service in Checkendon. Eighteen Cubs attended the moving service, led by 11-year old Sebastian Palmer, who held the flag in his last official role as a Cub, before we sadly said goodbye to him.

Our final weeks of term were spent finishing off the DIY badge for some of our older Cubs - and then enjoying our annual Christmas campfire, with Nikki kindly providing loads of sausages and marshmallows for us to ignite (!) and enjoy. Many thanks to Baloo and Nikki for all their help with this - and for the parents and siblings who came and joined in the celebrations.

However, our main focus for this and next term is to raise money for the **Sue Ryder care home** in Nettlebed. Last month the Fundraiser from Sue Ryder (a very brave former Cub called Phil Cook) came and valiantly joined in all our games (!) - and

had some breath left to give us a very interesting talk about the charity and all the work that they do. The Cubs were keen to help, and have been busy collecting spare change in their special money-boxes, as well as used stamps, foreign and old coins, and used printer cartridges. We have already raised £60 from the money boxes brought in so far (which is a fab effort!) although our main fundraising event, originally planned for the beginning of December, has now been rescheduled, as many of our Cubs were busy with Christmas plays. This will now take place on 27th January, so please save the date, and come along to have some fun, and help us raise money for this very worthwhile cause.



This term, we held an inter-patrol cooking competition. It was a great success: four Scouts, Daniel, Elliot, Oliver and Katie won the District knockout competition in October, and went on to win when they represented the District at the County cooking competition on November 22nd near Oxford. Well done to them, it was a great achievement!

Twelve Scouts went on a visit to Stow on the Wold to carry out a town survey. They planned the trip themselves, travelled to Stow on the Wold by train, and stayed at a youth hostel. This activity forms the main part of the Expedition Challenge Badge.

We also began work on building our Go-Karts. We will be continuing work on these next term.

We started our **Children with Leukaemia** campaign. We hope to raise £1000 by next June, an ambitious target that we believe we can reach.

We had 11 Scouts at Remembrance Sunday, where two Scouts gave readings and another two took part in the collections. All were very smart in their uniforms.