

1st Stoke Row Scouts Newsletter

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Beavers Bring and Buy sale - 4 March, 5 - 6pm
Spring Term: Start 14th January & Finish 25th March (Half Term on 18th Feb)
Summer Term: Start 22nd April & Finish 15th July (Half Term on 27th May)



Despite being inside the Beavers are having a busy and fun term. They have made Beaver masks and played games, whilst new Beavers have been preparing for their investiture.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Night Hike, but made so much noise that most of the wildlife was frightened away! Following the hike in the dark, many beavers earned their Hikes Away 1 badge - Well done Elias, Jasper, Archie, William, Kester, Freddie, Ruby, Michael, Archie, John and Jessica!

For our Friendship Challenge badge, we visited Italy - we learnt some Italian words, made Pizzas - and ate them of course, (very yummy!) and played some games teaching us about Italy and its people. We also had a very interesting visitor, Pete Ashton, a postman who sometimes does the round in Stoke Row when Mark is away. He is the only postman who wears a bandella so everyone knows him! He captivated us, telling us all about his job and things that have happened to him, like how many dogs have bitten him and the famous people he has delivered to. Do you all know why postmen wear shorts? (Mark wears them every day of the year!) He brought along his jacket and bag, so Edward and Eleanor were able to dress up as postman and postwoman, as well as presenting us with a box of goodies. We finished the first half term by investing Ruby, Freddie and Archie and wishing them a very happy two years in our Colony. Kester, Emma and Michael will be invested after Half Term.

We hold our **Bring and Buy sale on 4 March** from 5-6pm - villagers are welcome to come along. The Beavers are all bringing a friend and their families. We are selling books, boys, games, providing refreshments and running a Raffle and Bottle Tombola stall. All proceeds are going to the Air Ambulance. A representative from Air Ambulance will be coming along on 11 March to collect our cheque and to tell us a bit about their operation.



The Stoke Row Cubs have started the year with a host of fun activities, including an evening of team-work

(building newspaper towers and making fresh egg

'packages' for throwing - messy!), a rope evening (tying useful knots, and rope-pulling games), learning about stars, constellations and planets, and a French soirée, with hot chocolate, brioche and pains au chocolate, and a range of very 'interesting' cheeses to try with our baguettes. Ce fût une soirée très élégant et sophistiqué - comme le sont toutes nos reunions d'ailleurs! Continuing the food theme, but with less elegance(!), the Cubs had a pre-Shove Tuesday go at pancake cooking and eggy bread - again messy, but a lot of fun. For some of the Cubs, it was their first go at proper cooking, but the results were better than you might imagine - and the pancakes went down very well!

A highlight of this term was the Scrapyard Challenge competition. A group of Cubs represented Stoke Row at a District event, which involved making craft models out of cardboard and stuff to create something from a story told to them at the start. The competition (against Cubs from Henley, Goring, Shiplake, Goring Heath) was fierce - but our Cubs won (hurrah!) and are going forward as our 'South Chilterns Champions' in a County-wide competition in Oxford at the end of March. Good luck to them all!

We are now enjoying a welcome half-term break, but have lots more fun activities planned for the weeks before Easter, including a night hike, an evening learning more about Scouts, and some top-secret craft activities. A big thanks to all our leaders who work so hard to give the Cubs such a great time and to all our parents for your much-appreciated support!

[SCOUTS] We welcome another Assistant Scout Leader who has volunteered to help out. She is Mrs. Heidi Tovstiga who is a parent. We are pleased to have a female leader, as we now have one girl-scout. Our numbers are now at 16, with a couple on the waiting list. Currently we are in the process of building three scarecrows for Sutton Courtney Centre in Oxfordshire, for their Scarecrow Trail in April, we hope to complete them by end of March. We will do a hike in March and some outdoor cooking, as well continuing with our Badge work.

Barry is in the process of taking over from Trevor as GSL - he is looking forward to starting his training at the end of February. The three ASLs will be training from this week, and we hope to invest them by end of March.