

# End of Term Newsletter

July 2008



**Autumn Term Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> December, Half Term 29 October**  
**Subscriptions for the Autumn term will be £25**



This term has been incredibly busy doing fun activities outside.

We welcomed new Beavers, John Higgins, Elias Madzar, Jessica Roberts, Ruby Sumeray and Archie Barribal, who all settled in very well.

Eleanor, Holly, Louis, Tommy, Antonia and Bailey turned up smartly for St George's Day Parade and Tommy carried our Beaver standard. We have been tracking through our beautiful village and woods - one group set a trail of arrows, using natural things such as chalk, sticks, bark, grass, fir cones, stones etc., and the second group follow it 20 minutes later. So far, the second group have just about found the trail of the first group - the trick of the child at the back of the first group is to move or rub out the last arrow, so the group following them gets lost! We had a great evening playing in the woods, lighting a fire and cooking food near Tarka's house - marshmallows, cream crackers, bananas split in half with polka dots inside them, wrapped in silver foil then cooked in the fire for about 15 minutes - yummy!

We had an evening playing tennis (run by Annie Allport) and cricket (run by Martin Hogan) and putting flowers into the planters round the pavilion, which we hope all the villagers appreciate! We have learned how to put up a two-man tent and what to put in a backpack for a day's hike, and we had a great time at the Fun Day and Family Camp at Tarka's house in June.

The Well Orchard pond was very overgrown when we went pond dipping, but we still managed to find a baby newt and some tadpoles, beetles and water boatmen (which we put back, of course!). Katherine Adams, our District Commissioner for Beavers, came along to help, and was able to award the Emergency Aid Badge Stage 1 to Toby, Tommy, Eleanor, Bailey, Jack, Louis, Adam, Callum, Daniel, Edward, Antonia, Zach, Thomas and Holly.

We had a lovely evening with David and Kelly Hordon at Larchdown Farm in Checkendon. The latest addition to the garden is a beautifully restored gypsy caravan, something most Beavers had never seen before, so we had some interesting ideas of who may have lived there, including fairies!

Toby and Zach gained their Hobby Badge. Six Beavers are leaving at the end of term - Toby, Tommy, Bailey, Jack, Louis and Benedict. They have all been working on a personal challenge, to obtain their Chief Scout Bronze Award. Sadly, the Personal Challenge badge has been removed from our programme, so these will be the last Beavers to do one. This is a shame as this badge really did get the Beavers to achieve something - to improve at something they found hard, or to overcome a fear.

A big thank you to Wendy Reed, who, for the past five years, has bought flowers for planters at the Pavilion, organised planting with the Beavers, and nurtured them through the summer. We all appreciate the colour they give to the Pavilion! Nicola Lee has kindly agreed to take over this job, with help from some other Beaver mums to water them - thank you mums!

We are losing our Vixen, Anne Turnbull, at the end of this term. She has been a fantastic Leader, and we have particularly appreciated her cooking and creative skills! But, we are very pleased to welcome Nicola Lee, who will be joining us as Vixen in September. Nicola has had two children in our Colony so she knows all about it!



The summer term at Cubs is always our favourite, as it gives us the opportunity to get outdoors and to enjoy the long summer evenings together, and this term, the Cubs have been making the most of the summer, learning and developing their outdoor survival skills, including lighting campfires, backwoods cooking, putting up tents, and making some fantastic shelters in the woods. Perhaps the most dramatic evening for most was at Larchdown Farm, when our host (David Horton) showed us various ways of trapping wild animals for food and (at least for the hardest amongst us!) gave a fascinating demonstration of

how to prepare a pigeon, rabbits and a pheasant for cooking over a fire. After that, we all went and learned a little about basic pony care, chickens and manure! It was certainly a memorable evening!

Another special highlight of this term was when 13 of our Cubs attended District Camp at Homer with the five other packs in the district (Henley, Sonning Common, Shiplake, Goring and Goring Heath packs). District Camp is always lots of fun, as there are lots of games and activities - but the whole event takes the form of a competition based on behaviour, success in lots of different events, campfire stunts, and all sorts of other things - and the great news was: **we won!** We therefore have the care of the 50-year-old District Flag for a whole year! In addition, we came tie-second in the Backwoods Cooking competition, and also **WON** the hotly contested tug-of-war competition - even though we were by no means the biggest Cubs there! So a huge well done to Kryssie, Katie, Will H, Will C, Hamish, Charlie R, Jack, Ollie C, Ollie R, Conrad, Seb, Sam, and Molly! Akela is so proud of you all!

We are now planning our own camp, which will take place at Larchdown Farm from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> July, and are expecting another great weekend then!

Bike Night, when the Cubs went on a challenging bike ride through the woods around Stoke Row, was exhausting, eventful(!) - but great fun too! We just need to do just a little more on bike maintenance next term for Cubs to be awarded their Biker badges - but in the meantime, calling all dads: if you could please spend some time with your Cubs over the summer holidays discussing and demonstrating puncture repair, brakes, chains and other aspects of bike care, that would be really helpful, please - and might even save an accident one day.

We have also recently enjoyed a long hike (about 4 miles) through Kingwood Common (not bad in less than 80 minutes!), and a great game of rounders, in which we were joined by our latest recruits from Beavers, Benedict, Toby and Louis, who played brilliantly, with one even scoring the winning rounder - so well done, and a big welcome to you all! We have also been pleased to welcome Molly, Ellie and Henry R to the pack - we hope you will all have a terrific time being Cubs!

Sadly, the end of the year often means saying goodbye to some - and this term we have to say farewell to two great people: first of all, Kryssie Steiger, who has now turned eleven, so is technically too old to be a Cub - but we hope she will continue to be around, as she is great fun, and has been a brilliant sixer too! Good luck, Kryssie!

Finally, we are all really sad to say goodbye to our wonderful Mowgli (Sarah Mole) who is standing down from her role as Assistant Cub Leader after several years with the pack. Sarah has been a fantastic leader, a great support to Akela (Jan), and has done so much for the Cubs. We will miss her hugely, but want to thank her for all she has done for us! A really big B-R-A-V-O to Sarah!

Sarah's departure means that we are now desperately seeking a new person to help with the weekly running of the pack. If you have a little energy to spare in a really good cause, and a desire to work with the best Cub pack in the District (now definitely true!), please talk to Jan, Paul (Baloo), or Group Scout Leader Trevor. Please do NOT dismiss this request without careful consideration, because our pack is thriving, but cannot continue doing all that it does without another leader. Thanks!

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# [SCOUTS]

The Scouts have had another fully packed term. They enjoyed a fun evening wall climbing at Queen Anne's school in Caversham, an Athletics Badge night, and kayaking at Longridge. We will be investing a new Scout this week.

The Jamboree is approaching! On the 16<sup>th</sup> July, we will have a parents and Scouts meeting, to make final preparations. We leave on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> for the Jamboree, where we will be part of the Canadian Timber Wolf Sub Camp. There will be a total of 10,000 Scouts from over 30 countries at the Jamboree in Essex. The Scouts will be there for a week, enjoying a variety of exciting challenges and activities, including an 'It's a Knockout' competition, archery, canoeing, abseiling, air rifles, incident challenge, ice-climbing, sailing, day visits, crafts and lots more! You can find out more details on their website: [www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree2008/](http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree2008/).



All Scouts attending the Jamboree will be eligible for their Campers Badge, Adventure and Outdoor Award Badges.

Barry and the Scouts would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who have helped and volunteered this term.

We are looking for an Assistant Scout Leader to join our group. Please speak to Barry or Group Scout Leader Trevor if you are interested and would like to know more.



**Visit our Website!**  
[www.1stStokeRowScouts.net](http://www.1stStokeRowScouts.net)

There are lots of photos from our Camps and activities. You can read previous newsletters, and you can also see the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts term diaries, to keep you fully up-to-date with the plans for each week!