

# End of Term Newsletter



**Autumn term starts September 16<sup>th</sup> 2009**

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



We ended last term with a fantastic trip to Goring Fire Station. Five volunteer fire-fighters took time out to show us round the Fire Station and fire engine and even let us loose on the hoses - as you can imagine, the children were in their element! Beavers and accompanying parents learnt a lot. Did you know a Fire engine holding 1,200 litres of water gets through it in 3 minutes in putting out a fire? Do you all have smoke detectors in your home? The Beavers learnt what to do in an emergency - calling 999, putting someone into recovery position, dressing cuts and burns and looking out for dangers around the home and garden. Emergency Aid Stage 1 badge was awarded to Jessica, John, Elias, Kester, Jasper, Archie Barribal, Freddie, William, Emma, Ruby, Michael and Archie Griggs - a very useful badge to earn. Following the Fire Station evening, and other activities learning about people in the community and countries far away, the whole Colony earned their Friendship Challenge Badge. Well Done!

This term is our favourite term as we have been outside every week. We welcomed Billy Bradley to our Colony, who seems to be settling in very well.

Edward carried our Beaver standard with great pride at the St George's Day Service in Henley, accompanied by Eleanor and Holly as side walkers. We have also had a great evening trying a new mode of transport - a ride in a trailer with Farmer Chris driving the tractor at his farm in Bix. We had a long drive through the field with beautiful young calves and then all round the bluebell wood, with hotdogs to follow, courtesy of Val. The children never stopped chattering! A memorable evening!

Eleven Beavers, all 3 Beavers leaders and 7 parents, also 2 Cubs and 5 Scouts, took advantage of spending a gloriously sunny day at the Zodiac09 County Camp on the Bank Holiday Sunday at the beginning of half term. We had an exciting (if exhausting) time, trying lots of different activities such as bouldering, bungee trampolining, sumo wrestling and fencing. We had a fascinating hour with the Reptile Road Show and built a huge mural made up of woggles on poles spelling out the Zodiac Logo. A huge amount of work went into organising the Weekend Camp, so it was great that Stoke Row Scout Group were able to participate.

Vixen bought some beautiful flowers for the Pavilion planters which the Beavers planted and we are sure the villagers have enjoyed them as they walked round the Rec! Nicola and some local mums have been watering these throughout the summer.

We had great fun tie dying T-shirts and making grass-heads and doing magnet fun for our Creative Challenge Badge and look forward to showing off our original-design T-shirts! We prepared for our Beaver Fun Day Family camp, learning how to make a good campfire, how not to cook bananas in silver foil, learned to put up a two-man tent and sang some new campfire songs. Our fun day was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June in Tarka's lovely garden. Despite a little rain, 11 Beavers attended the Fun Day and/or Camp and had lots of fun. They followed a challenging 2-hour trail set by Tarka's husband, Tony, collecting letters on tennis balls which spelt the name of our new Chief Scout - Bear Grylls, completed an obstacle/assault course, and had races in the new wheelie bins! The day finished with a barbecue for all the Beavers' families and a campfire, with singing and of course, marshmallows. The Beavers slept well, despite the storm!

We had a great evening with Jane Lovering and her dog agility course. Ten dogs joined us for the evening and we were impressed by how well some of them coped with see-saws and tunnels, having never done them before! Just before the end of term, we had a fun evening on the Rec cycling and doing an obstacle course and Wall of Boxes. Tarka's son and his friend ran a bike workshop, making repairs and adjustments to bikes before the activity.

Following Zodiac09 and our Fun Day, 16 Beavers earned their Adventure Activity Award. Emma earned her Stage 1 Musician Badge by playing the piano for us and doing various tests, Kester earned his Animal Activity Badge by looking after Kit Kat, and Archie earned his hobby badge by playing rugby. Eight Beavers added another night to their Nights Away staged badge, and two earned their first Nights away badge. More Beavers were awarded their Swimmer Stage 1 badge (after answering some tricky questions on Water Safety). Seventeen Beavers were awarded their Creative Challenge badge which we have been working towards all term. Well done to all Beavers who worked so hard for all their badges this term.

So another fun-filled term for the Beavers has ended, and we look forward to seeing you all again on September 16th, Happy Holidays!



The Cubs have had a busy term making the most of the lovely light evenings. They have been getting out and about in Stoke Row, spotting some of the local and less well-known landmarks, as well as practising their tent-building, fire-lighting and cooking skills. We've also been finding out about St George, learning the National Anthem, and most of us took part in the annual parade in Henley with all the other Scouts in the District to celebrate St George's Day, which culminated in a special church service to celebrate the life of Robert Baden Powell, the founder of the Scouting Movement.

We had a fantastic time at the Longridge Camp, where the Cubs enjoyed a host of activities on (and in) the river at Marlow. They were kayaking, sailing, dragon-boating and bell-boating. They also took part in climbing activities, scaling the climbing wall, and many (including Akela) took the 'leap of faith' - they climbed a 30 foot pole - and then jumped off (thankfully with a harness!)

The Cubs have also been building shelters in the woods, and went for a challenging bike ride up to Nuffield. They enjoyed an evening finding out about nature, and are now experts at identifying the local trees and plants, as well as some birds and bugs.

The Cubs had a fun time at their District Cub Camp at the Nettlebed estate, where we joined up with about 80 other Cubs from other packs in the area. The overall theme for the weekend was Britain through the Ages - and amongst the Druids, Romans, Tudors and 60s Rockers, Stoke Row Cubs stoically relived our 'finest hour' thinking about life during the Second World War, but thankfully without the air raids and food rationing! We made Union Jacks out of pillow cases, took part in loads of wide games, cooked our own lunches over fires, sang silly songs at campfire, danced around to Glen Miller, and generally had a lot of fun and laughter while we were doing it all!

For our last week of term we will be holding our annual game of rounders in Checkendon as well as investing a new Cub, welcoming some more new people, and saying goodbye to one or two of our older boys who are moving up to Scouts in September - and hopefully also presenting lots and lots of badges in recognition of all the hard work and activities that the Cubs have been doing this summer. Phew - it must be time for a rest! (Happy summer, everyone!)

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came together for our annual Fun Family Evening. There were lots of fun activities for the younger ones, while parents and leaders mingled, enjoying a glass of something and an excellent barbecue.

Each of our three patrols each received a 'Highly Recommended' certificate from the Sutton Courtney Conservation Centre at Didcot for their Scarecrows made for the Easter Scarecrow Trail. Well done!

This term we increased our patrols to four - the new patrol is called Curlew, with Alex Robinson as Pack Leader and George Wiggins as Assistant Pack Leader.

We have had a varied term in which the Scouts have learned fire lighting and had a session on Axe & Saw Safety, as part of their basic scouting skills.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June, the Scouts helped the Stoke Row Racing Club with fundraising for a new Stoke Row School minibus. The event organisers commented on how polite and helpful the Scouts were. They helped to collect around £1000 for this fund, so many thanks to them for a job well done! This work counts towards the Scouts Community Challenge Badge, which many of the Scouts began working towards at the Jamboree.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June, we went wall climbing at Queen Anne's school. We also went sailing on a beautifully sunny evening at Theale Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Scouts are actively working towards their Challenge badges, particularly the Community Challenge Badge this term. The new Scouts have also completed their Promise Challenge Badge, so it has been a productive term.

Our two new Scout Leaders have now completed their training, and so on 15<sup>th</sup> July, our last night, we will be investing them, as well as 3 new Scouts making a total of 18 active Scouts.

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The Scouts AGM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May at 8.30. Trevor Gibbins received an award for his 20 year's service to the Scout group, and thank you badges were given to Catherine Clarke who prepares the newsletters and Peter Sutcliff who looks after our website - well worth a visit for the latest news and some great pictures of our camps and activities: [www.1stStokeRowScouts.net](http://www.1stStokeRowScouts.net)

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June, a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, we held a retirement party in Trevor's honour. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, their families, past and present leaders and committee members gathered to enjoy a tasty barbecue and fun and games at Hammond's Farm in Checkendon. Everyone had a lovely time in this beautiful location.