



We had a great sports evening spent playing tennis with Penny Parsons and Judy Fox, and playing cricket with Allan May and Ryan Bradley. The children really improved their tennis skills and cricket

skills. We are sure that visitors to Recreation Ground will have noticed the lovely bright red and white flowers adorning the pavilion which the Beavers planted before half term.

Our Nautical themed Beaver Colony Fun Day and Camp in Tarka's garden on 5<sup>th</sup> June was a huge success. We managed to keep in the shade during our hike and nautical activities, many organised by Tony, Tarka's husband. Tony set up an exciting obstacle course; each team had to go round carrying a pole between them, so lots of great teamwork! Both teams built an excellent shelter in the woods - we shall return to visit them in the autumn. We had a family barbecue at 6pm and the Beavers played non-stop till 8.30 when we sang and ate marshmallows around our campfire till worn out parents decided it was time to retire to our tents. Walking the plank and a hunt for Pirate treasure completed the camp on Sunday morning. Many children earned their Adventure activity badge – Nathan, Archie Nelson, Hannah, James, Indigo, Rufus, Jack and Finlay. Ten beavers camped and many earned their Nights Away 1 staged badge – Archie Griggs, Nathan, Archie Nelson, James, Indigo, Rufus, Jack and Finlay.

Sue Bloomer arranged a fantastic 'hands on' visit to the Black Horse stables in Checkendon, run by Clare Morgan. With Clare's and Natalie's help, the beavers had a chance to brush and feed a pony, learn the names of different parts of its body, and learned not to stand behind their hind legs. The beavers had a visit round the yard and outdoor school, where they were fascinated by the base made of recycled rubber tyre chippings (the boys wanted to throw them – the girls wanted to do cartwheels in them - Children are kept happy with the simplest of things!) Archie's mum, Melanie, organised an evening of Healthy eating for us: we made healthy food and drinks and happily demolished them. We also tried to tie a couple of knots but got a bit knotted up....more practice needed here!

Indigo, Rufus, Jack, Joshua and Finlay have been invested and William Hybert has earned his Chief Scout Bronze Award! Well done to you! Thank you to the parents for their help at the Fun Day and Camp, and for clearing away the heavy equipment on Sunday morning.



The Cubs have been making the most of the recent lovely Wednesday evenings, and spent an evening identifying photographic clues around Stoke Row (then working out the map grid references), having a wildlife hunt (we found a lot in the Cherry Orchard - including a female Great Crested Newt) and had a wonderful (but quite tiring) 5-mile bike ride through the woods and up and down the local hills.

A recent highlight was the wonderful weekend that we spent camping at Larchdown Farm in Checkendon. Thank you so much to David and Cally Horton for having us again, to Nikki Steiger, for feeding us all so well, and to Shere Khan and Mowgli, Bagheera, Baloo for making the weekend so much fun! We crammed so much into the weekend (playing manhunt in the woods, pond-dipping, nature hunting, orienteering, doing some craft, singing songs around an enormous camp fire, and enjoying a wide game), and even had time for a riotous game of Rounders and some other games too - no wonder we were all so tired afterwards!

Now we're looking forward to our District Camp, which is where we meet up with all the other packs in the area. This year's camp will be in Little Stoke with a theme of 'The Movies' - and Stoke Row will be doing **Robin Hood**, which promises to be a lot of fun!



We are planning backwoods cooking next week, and we will be enjoying wall climbing and kayaking at Longridge on June 30th. Our last night will be 7th July.

Elliot has gained his Gold Award - well done.

We are very pleased to have two new Assistant Scout Leaders and one Assistant Cub Scout Leaders who have volunteered to join our team. Great news!

It has been a good year for the Scout Troop and the Group as a whole, with an increase in numbers an excellent range of activities, so with a new Scout Leader and new Assistant Scout & Cub Leaders, the Group should be secure. I would like to thank Julia, Jackie, & Nicola from Beavers, Jan, Mike and Tom from Cubs and Tom & Chris from Scouts for their great effort and support, also, all the parents who have provided such sterling support, without whom many activities could not be completed.