

1st Emsworth Scout Group

Annual Report

4th July 2014

Group Scout Leaders Report

Our group continues to thrive with all sections running very fun, active and varied programs. This year has been very successful with all sections receiving numerous Chief Scout Awards with their certificates being presented by the Mayor. This is the ultimate award for members in each section.

We have commenced the transfer of subs to the new CAF system; this will help reduce the time taken to manage our subs collections and CAF also collect the Gift Aid on our behalf. When this is complete our subs system will be much more efficient and easier to manage.

Work has continued with plans for Harting camp site to make the site safe and find ways to develop the use of this wonderful resource. Soon we will have a short term plan of work we hope to carry out there.

We had a fantastic group camp, held at Blacklands farm this year. With 100 members in attendance the rain didn't dampen the spirits and fun was had by all. Activities included Aeroball, rock climbing (on a crag nearby) swimming for the cubs and canoeing for explorers and scouts. Our annual group games were made even more fun with several hundred coloured helium balloons.

Due to the continued success of our sections we are still looking for more Leaders to assist, especially with the younger sections where we have waiting lists. Being a Leader requires a regular commitment but not necessarily a weekly one and the rewards are priceless: great fun, a sense of achievement and knowing that you are giving something back to your local community.

Finally it leaves me to thank all the Leaders who do such great work week after week, our wonderful team of Explorer Young Leaders and our executive committee who ensure the group keeps developing and moving forward. Well done to you all.

Spring Beaver Colony Annual Report 2014

Spring Colony has had a very successful year with lots of new Beavers as well as new leadership!

At the end of the summer term we were lucky to have been joined by Sam Pratley to assist in leading the Beavers. Sam has been involved with Scouts since childhood and has been a great role model for the Beavers getting their first taste of the Scout movement. Following the uncertainty around leadership of Spring Colony the previous year, it was great to have another committed leader on board.

Spring Colony has continued to run the same programme as Millpond Colony and many thanks go to Becca Chambers for the huge amount of planning and organisational effort that goes into this. As the Spring leaders become more experienced we hope to contribute more ideas.

The highlights for Spring Beavers have been the out of hut activities which have included litter picking, treasure hunts and hikes (including a very foggy hike which the Beavers found very exciting). We have been fortunate to have had lots of fantastic parents who have been willing to help out at these activities. We could not do it without them.

In addition we have had a number of very enjoyable joint activities with Millpond Colony including a trip to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Southsea and visiting a care home to sing Christmas Carols and share home made gifts. We also joined Millpond for the Beaver sleepover at Butcher's Coppice which was a fun packed weekend of climbing, trampolining, adventure play and more.

With lots of new Beavers on board, they have been very keen to achieve as many badges as possible. They have completed Experiment, Faith, Imagination, Safety, Air Activities, Health and Fitness, Fitness Challenge and Global Challenge badges. We hope to have several Beavers earn their Chief Scout Bronze Award over the forthcoming year.

Finally a big thank you to our fabulous Explorer Scout helpers – Joe Allen, Evie Smith and Jack Ford who give up their time every week to help run the evenings. They all willingly muck in with all activities and are a great example to the Colony.

Chris Riddington – Spring Colony Assistant Leader

Millpond Beaver Colony Annual Report 2013-2014

Going into our 95th year of scouting in Emsworth, I'm pleased to report another successful year for Millpond Beaver colony. We have kept at steady 16-18 members with 100% attendance the norm. Following the joining of Spring Beaver leader Chris Riddington, I have been able to take a step back and concentrate on organising trips and activities whilst retaining closely linked colonies.

The basis of our programme continues to be built on badge work, we have seen 8 Beavers move up to cubs this year, all of whom have earned their Bronze Chief Scout Award and had their certificate awarded by the Mayor.

In the summer term we held our Beaver Sleepover at Butchers Coppice in Bournemouth, where 12 Beavers took part in many activities and team games, and earned their 1st night away badge. We held our own mini raft race in Brook Meadow and ended the summer with a trip to the Blue Reef aquarium.

In September we saw 16 Beavers attend the Group camp at Blacklands Farm, East Grinstead, where after a long coach journey they enjoyed a full day of activities ending with a giant Chinese meal cooked by regular helpers Karen and Mike Saunders.

During the autumn term we arranged a visit from the RSPB where the Beavers made 'Little Tern' nests to lay out on the foreshore in Emsworth Harbour. At Christmas the Emsworth House Care Home made us welcome with drinks and biscuits; the Beavers brought the residents gifts of pots of flowers and herbs for their sensory garden and handmade Christmas lantern decorations. They sang carols to the residents beautifully, accompanied by Joshua Pope on the piano. This was a very special evening to see such distant generations come together and be part of the same community. As a treat we finished the year with an evening at the playzone, which was enjoyed by all.

I set them the challenge of completing a 'Monkey Marathon' for a Childrens' cancer charity - they were asked to walk/run/cycle/swim 26 miles over 26 days. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and determination and we raised a massive £560.

In anticipation of the coming summer, we finished our term with a trip to 100 Acre woods, supported by our growing team of helpers. They were introduced to navigation, looked for wildlife, had a picnic and played endless games.

My thanks of course go to those who support our meetings, our invaluable team of leaders within Emsworth, the SAS members who provide specialist activities, our young leaders and the parents who regularly volunteer to help in and outside the HQ. My special thanks go to the Beavers themselves for their good humour and vitality - a tonic for anybody! It's been a great year and a pleasure to be part of.

Rebecca Chambers - Millpond Beaver Scout Leader

Bronze Chief Scout Roll of Honour

Fraser Lyne, Harrison Bickmore, Sam Watson, Adam Maple, Oliver Appleby, Joshua Pope, Joe Russell, Finley Wood

DRAKE PACK ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

This Annual Report brings to the end a rather interesting and enjoyable, yet unusual year for Drake Pack, which started off with Akela breaking his collar bone and ribs while climbing in Scotland.

This affected some of our usual out of Hut activities and trips. Rough camp had to be cancelled at short notice but thankfully Akela's bones had healed sufficiently by the time we held summer camp. Other outside events included the night hike through the back fields to Westbourne (and the bag of chips walking back to the hut), tracking in Hollybank Woods, of course the visit to Brook Meadow to escape the voting, swimming at Havant Pool and an exciting visit to the Havant Police Station. We tried to leave some of the Cubs in the cells but they were too boisterous for the Police to handle!

We had our usual Halloween and Christmas Fancy Dress parties that always produce some amazing and unusual costumes. Along with the Sausage sizzle and the Fireworks, they continue to be the social events of the year. We have also continued to help the community with the cubs running the coconut shy at the Emsworth Show. Hopefully that would be the last year we have four bags of rotten coconuts!

The badge account continues to show a varied and busy program, both with Activity Badges and Challenge Awards. From growing things and healthy eating to science and astronomy we have learnt how to keep ourselves and families safe; how to maintain our bicycles; tie up horses and Grannies and attach safety lines; we know more about conservation and recycling and how to keep the world green and protect the countryside and we are more Disability Aware. On the down side we made some not so healthy but very nice chocolate nests, some stodgy pancakes and made a mess of the hut with Messy Painting. The cubs also found out about other countries and cultures that involved them in a bit of homework!

This year 5 cubs attained their Chief Scout Silver award as they went up to Scouts: Archie Lyne; Alex Howells; Luca Mula; Eniayo Odofin and Cameron Wedlock.

This year we now have two Craig Whittaker Drake Pack Challenge Trophies, both of which were well fought for. The Sear twins –Torin and Lysander won the Good Turns Challenge while James Goddard won the Conker Competition.

Group and District activities have been well attended. We won a very wet District 6-a-side football trophy, only to have the County event cancelled due to bad weather. It has now been rescheduled for August. Our Sixers & Seconders took part in the District Sixer's day at Harting, which Drake Pack hosted and I think we didn't win the Group Raft Race.

As can be seen it was a full programme of events and activities, an excellent and enjoyable year (for most of us!). The cubs wouldn't have had this experience without the help of all the Leaders including the Group Scout Leader, Explorer, Scout and Beaver Leaders and those parents and others who have joined in and assisted with our activities. My thanks to all of you and my excellent support team of Peter, Philip and Connor.

John Forster - Drake Pack Akela

Scout Troop Report 2014

I am pleased to report another fun packed year for Scouts. Each term we have included a wide range for activities both inside and out. We have had several themed evenings including Astronomy, Electricity, and even creative writing.

The troop has continued to expand and we currently have 36 scouts attending.

Our Patrol leaders have continued their development programme and we took the Scouts away on a Winter Camp before Christmas, to Braggers Wood. Here they learned the value of teamwork and friendship.

We had a very enjoyable camp on Dartmoor in the summer. We were blessed with hot weather for the whole week. We had a little Minibus problem, but that didn't stop the fun. Scouts undertook a range of activities during the week, including climbing, kayak/canoeing, as well as a camp cook competition and lots of walking across Dartmoor

Adam has been getting into his role with great enthusiasm this year, organising many of the evenings including a night on circus skills with Portsmouth University.

We had a backwoods camp in May learning outdoor skills from fire lighting, to gutting fish, cooking on open fires, knife skills and making bows and arrows.

Gold Awards

This year we have had 7 Scouts achieving their Gold awards.

In May the Scouts attended the County Presentation award eve in Chandler Ford

Lauren Tibbetts

Freya Grant

Patrick Kirwan

Monty Forbes-Lane

Luke Mason

James Pring

Joe Labedz

Congratulations to all of them.

Richard Jarczyk – Scout Troop Leader

Annual report- Griffin Explorer Unit

This year has proved to be another busy and successful year for the Griffin explorer unit at 1st Emsworth. We meet on a Monday night in the scout hut and like to get outside as much as possible (weather permitting or not!).

We currently have 15 members, after 2 have left this year as they've turned 18 and many have come up through Scouts. Thanks to hard work from the explorers and a strong adult support team many of our explorers have made excellent progress through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme with many well on their way to completing Bronze and Silver. It's been great to have so many of the explorers continue to help with the younger sections as part of their awards.

Our unit has benefitted from regular attendance from all of the explorers this year which has been great, allowing us to plan activities without any hassle and having a large number every week. This has allowed us to enjoy many activities from fencing to climbing and international nights. Additionally we have spent time camping/hiking in Dorset and Snowdonia as well as other local camps.

Looking forward to 2014 we have a busy schedule lined up already with camps planned at Harting, the Gower, Snowdonia and Peak District, in addition to group camps and many activities throughout the summer. It promises to be an excellent year with lots planned, and we are delighted that Matthew Robbins has been accepted onto the Swiss Adventure trip in 2016.

Jon Puttick - Explorer Leader