



### **Millpond report 2016-2017**

I'm pleased to report another successful year of scouting for Millpond beaver colony, we continue to be very popular with regularly 20 members and a long waiting list of children wanting to join in the fun.

Working closely with Spring colony and continuing to provide a shared programme has meant we have again been able to offer an excellent programme of activities to both beaver colonies this year. We are keen to not only enable as many new members to join as possible but also that we keep a high retention level by providing a high quality programme. At Easter we said Goodbye to Spring leader Chris Riddington, who has worked hard to keep the group running and provided endless energy and enthusiasm to the Beavers.

Millpond colony has been ably assisted by parent helper Kate Wood and by young leaders Lauren Tibbetts who has been renamed "Flamingo", Harry Youngman "Hawk" and Henry Chambers "the Gruffalo"! Lauren has recently completed her Gold Dof E volunteering with us, racking up 3 years good service with our colony and I'm sure she will be missed when she leaves us in the autumn. My thanks to them all for their help.

In April the whole group joined together for a family woodland day at our camp ground in Harting, Families were able to take part in different activities including; making and baking fresh scones and freshly picked wild garlic bread to eat with soup, all cooked on a camp oven over the fire. Cooking an egg on a stick, family sack races, tent competitions, making a stick man, watching hurdle demonstrations and many more activities. The district commissioner also attended to present me with my wood beads too!

In May we took 20 beavers to sleepover at Butchers coppice in Bournemouth, where they cooked dough twists on an open fire, blasted around the agility trail in record times, had a go at climbing, made catapults and camp t-shirts and learnt some pioneering. Playing games until time for campfire songs and snuggling down in their bunkbeds for the night, they all enjoyed the adventure!

At Christmas we held our alternative Christmas party, around Staunton Country Park. The beavers enjoyed luring a life-size Reindeer (Henry) back to his 'stable' as well as an incident hike with Elves and helping Santa with his lost mail and sorting the presents! Much fun was had by all.

In the spring term we enjoyed a visit to Pets at home and they were able to hold and touch a variety of different animals. We took part in the Big Bird Watch and held an Easter treasure hunt along the foreshore in Emsworth.

I am pleased to report that several members moved up to cubs having worked hard to complete their Bronze Chief Scout Award and have been to have their award presented by the Mayor at the district ceremony- well done to them all.

My thanks as always go to those leaders and volunteer helpers that support our evenings and enable us to get out and about and especially to the beavers who make our evenings such good fun.

Rebecca Chambers      Millpond Beaver Scout Leader



### **Spring Beavers Colony Report 2017**

Spring Colony has seen a few changes this year with faces coming and going. Never the less Beavers are still enjoying a variety of activities and earning well deserved badges.

With Chris Riddington (Fox) leaving us at Easter due to work commitments for which we wish her all the best, we kept the number of members a bit lower but we are now starting to take on new members and investing them.

It took a couple of weeks to settle into the new routine but with the help and support from Becca Chambers and the other leaders who are always there to help and give advise when needed.

We are running a fun and varied programme alongside Millpond, with lots of badge work being gained.

This year two of our Beavers, who have now moved up to Cubs, earned their Bronze award, congratulations to Ned Coles and George Sly for your hard work and excellent attendance. We would like to wish you all the best in Cubs.

Several of our Beavers enjoyed a fun and event filled sleepover in May.

Our two young helpers Jack Ford and Joe Allen have now moved on to new things in which we wish them the best of luck. A big thank you to both of them for all their hard work, reliability and support, it has always been very much appreciated.

We are now fortunate enough to have been joined by Jo (Hedgehog). She is a wonderful help, enthusiastic, not only does she get on well with the children she seems to have naturally fitted in and will get on with any task that is required. Hopefully Jo will soon be invested and become a Beaver leader.

Many thanks to Jo and all the parents who have stepped in to help out, especially when we are out of the hut and need extra adults.

Julie Sly - Spring Colony Beaver Leader



## DRAKE CUB PACK REPORT 2016-17

Changes come, and with 2016 came a big one with Hilary and Richard taking over Livingstone Pack. This has enabled the two packs us to work together more closely. We have now put together a joint programme and occasionally have joint pack activities. This started with Rough Camp and Summer Camp last year. The weather was more reasonable than usual and both camps went well. The extra leaders meant that the activities ran more smoothly and it also meant less work for us all! However, the noise level at bedtime went up. Ear plugs a must for the next camps!

Drake Pack had its other usual outdoor events. The night hike through the back fields to Westbourne (and the bag of chips walking back to the hut). We've also been tracking in Hollybank Woods and the visit to Brook meadow to escape the voting.

Our social events of the year are the Halloween and Christmas Fancy Dress parties which continue to produce some unusual costumes and, along with the Sausage sizzle and the Fireworks are enjoyed by the Cubs. We have also continued to help the community with the Cubs running the coconut shy at the Emsworth Show.

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 about how to keep ourselves and families safe, tie up horses, Grannies and attach safety lines. We have had a Disability Awareness evening and a couple of not so healthy evenings making very nice chocolate nests and pancakes. We have learnt about Conservation and Recycling, and how to keep the world green and protect the countryside. And we made a mess of the hut and ourselves with Messy Painting. The cubs also found out about other countries and cultures which involving them in a bit of homework!

This year Ollie Bradshaw and Joseph Slade attained their Chief Scout Silver award. The two Craig Whittaker Drake Pack Challenge Trophies were well fought for, with Stan Tune winning the Good Turns Challenge and Joshua Rough winning the Conker Challenge.

Group and District activities have been well attended. No Group Camp but Ollie Bradshaw and Joshua Dunne represented our Sixers & Seconders in the District Sixers camp at Harting, which again we hosted. While Alex Coles attended the District Chess Competition. The Annual Raft race was well attended and one of the 3 teams Drake Pack entered managed to win the Cubs Raft Race.

We have had another year with a full program of events and activities, an excellent and enjoyable year. After losing David Jarczyk last year we had to say goodbye to his brother Philip, who left us to become an instructor with the Scout Association. We also said goodbye to Connor who has gone to off to college. So hard work for Peter and me, we are still looking for replacement! The boys wouldn't have had this experience without the help of all the Leaders (the Group Scout Leader, Explorer, Scout and Beaver Leaders) and those parents and others who have joined in and assisted with our activities.

John Forster – Akela Drake Pack



### **Livingstone Cub Pack report 2016-2017**

The programme of activities has been extensive, interesting and stimulating with a varied program of indoor activities and visits out of the hut. Our number continues to grow and we are looking at forming a 5th Six.

There has been a lot of hard work from all the cubs. They have been working hard toward attaining their Silver Awards. We have worked on personal and road safety, learnt map reading skills and challenged our Cubs. We have a new Challenge Trophy – the Livingstone Challenge Trophy, which was won this year by Matthew Saunders for good turns in April and James Martin who won the conker challenge back in October. – Well done!!

We had our joint rough camp with Drake pack in May. This was very successful and the rain stayed away. Despite the lack of sleep, everyone seemed to enjoy the camp. We had a good number of parents attending this year which was a welcome sight.

This year we embarked on the Cornwall Award. This is a first for our group. The badge work is centred on emergency responses in times of flooding or major incident. Perry Dodgson, of Hampshire Fire & Rescue, led this badge. At the end of the evening the Cubs all had fun using the fire hose in the car park. Everyone had fun and we all got a bit wet!

Many thanks to Matt our Explorer Young Leader and Kieran Breathnach who have been helping out as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Special thanks to all those parent who have stepped up to assist in running some events. Without this help it would be very much harder to run these events.

Hilary Walker - Akela Livingstone Pack



### **Scout Eagle Troop Report 2017**

I am pleased to report another fun packed year for Scouts which has included a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities. We won the Emsworth treasure hunt, had another successful year at the raft race and saw 5 boys complete their Gold awards prior to going into Explorers.

This year has unfortunately seen the newly formed 2 scout troops turned back into 1 due to a lack of leaders, resulting in Eagle troop growing to nearly 30 members again with more due to come up from cubs in the coming months.

However, despite this change our Patrol leaders have settled into their roles well since the reforming of the troops and have continued to develop their skills, taking the lead on a number of activities including an athletics night they ran at the local park. They constructed a full programme to best use the time, planned it well, and as a result, all 24 boys that attended that evening will soon be receiving their athletics badge. It was a huge success and was very well planned and thought out by all of them.

The success of last year's flour bomb fight has continued this year and was once again one of the most successful activities of the term.

We have had 3 camps this year, our first was winter camp in Braggers Woods where the Scouts learnt a lot about team work and were able to have a lot of fun snowboarding as well as our more traditional camp activities. The second camp was our back woods camp held at our Harting woodland camp site where the boys worked as teams to build an assault course, cooked over fire, practised their archery and enjoy many other activities. Finally, the year was then topped off with an amazing summer camp in Devon enjoying everything from hiking to paddle boarding.

Thanks to Jo, Terry and Luke for their help and support throughout the year, as well as Michael and Becca for their amazing work organising and leading camps.

Adam Westwood – Scout Leader