

# 1<sup>st</sup> Emsworth Scouts Section Reports 2023

## Group Scout Leaders Report 2022-2023

Our group has continued to thrive during the year with all sections running very fun, active and varied programs.

With the hard work and dedication of both leaders and youngsters we have been able to award numerous Chief Scout Awards. This is the ultimate award for members in each section.

September saw the reopening of our second Beaver Colony 'Spring' thanks to three parents stepping up and volunteering. My thanks go to Peter, Carol and Kellee for taking on the challenge .

Due to the continued success of our sections we are still looking for more Leaders to assist all sections. 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.

We are also very excited to announce that we will soon be opening a Squirrel section. If you haven't heard already this is a new section for scouting and is aimed at 4 and 5 year olds.

Lastly I personally would like to thank our amazing team of volunteers. They have achieved so much in ensuring Scouting continues to engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to our local community.

Well done to you all.

Michael  
Group Scout Leader

## Millpond Colony Annual Report 2022-2023

I'm pleased to report another successful year of scouting for Millpond beaver colony, we continue to be very popular with a steady 18-20 members and a long waiting list of children wanting to join in the fun.

Myself, Hannah Smith and Becca Ford have enjoyed running the section together, with the help of occasional parental support when out of the hut.

Working closely with newly reopened Spring colony and continuing to offer joint activities has meant we have again been able to offer an excellent programme 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 good retention level by providing a high quality programme.

Our programme was based outside for the summer term, we continue to plan the programme around badgework, helping our members to achieve as many badges as possible. With Raft building, a Jubilee tea party, Cycling Badge, Scavenger hunts in the woods, First Aid, Rounder's, Summer Solstice Hike and plenty of games. We ended the term with a game of Adventure Golf at Chichester.

We were delighted to finally be back to scouts camping again after Covid, and so we joined a county Beaver camp in the New Forest, where we took a small group to experience camping under canvas, this was a first for Emsworth Beavers and with so many activities planned we all had a fantastic time.

In the autumn term, there was cooking apple crumbles, sunset hikes along the shore, making catapults, celebrating Diwali and holding our first *mini election* during UK Parliament week.

To end the year, we finished with a joint Beaver and Cub night at Oceans of Play in Havant Leisure centre.

In the Spring term we made bird feeders for the Big Birdwatch, invited the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation to talk about space mission EUCLID, science experiments, a very muddy Easter Treasure Hunt, held a World Book Day evening which was lovely to see the beavers snuggled up for milk and biscuits to enjoy a story together, and finally held our annual Mother's day tea. With great pleasure, our District Commissioner attended to award 8 Bronze CSA badges and certificates in front of the mums.

Our grateful thanks to all the parents that have stepped up to help us during this time and to our invaluable leadership team who make scouting happen in Emsworth.

My special thanks go to the Beavers themselves for their good humour and vitality- a tonic for anybody!

*Rebecca Chambers, Millpond Beaver Scout Leader*

### Bronze Awards

Max Porter, Isla Lewis, Maya Jack, Thomas Chalcraft, Jack Pryor, Barnaby White, Daisy Hodgetts, Oliver Green.

## Spring Beaver Colony Annual Report 2022-23



Last reporting to the Annual General Meeting in 2019, the Spring Colony experienced a short hiatus in operations until November 2022 when four new Beaver Leaders (Peter Hooley, Carol Lovesey, Beth Crafts and Kellee Hart) restarted the colony. Due to other commitments Beth had to leave the group in late November 2022, however Peter, Carol and Kellee continue to run the group as a team.

With the able assistance of the Group Scout Leader and support from the Millpond Colony, the team kicked off with the first Beaver meet on Thursday 9th November 2022 with a series of activities celebrating International Jellyfish Day. Before Christmas the team also ran sessions around the topics of Armistice Day, Children in Need, Christmas, Beaver Values and an investiture for the leaders and the Beavers who had started with the colony.

On the 8th December 2022 the colony's team engaged with their first staged activity badge, delivering Emergency Aid (level 1) to the colony. Beavers learned what to do in an emergency, how to treat an unconscious casualty and some basic triage and bandaging skills.

After a short Christmas break it was straight into 2023. In early January, the colony was joined by Professor Adam Amara from the University of Portsmouth's Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation along with the Millpond Colony to hear a talk about the originations of the universe and the search for dark matter and dark energy. The Beavers were shown pictures of the Euclid Satellite (in construction) that will help with the search for dark energy.

The colony also began to form lodges (Kit, Fawn, Lamb and Kit - named after the young of UK native animals) and began working on the six challenge badges. In March the Beavers achieved their 'Personal Challenge' badge and the colony began to work on more traditional scouting skills including a focus on orienteering.

The Beavers worked in lodges to create a map of Southleigh Playing Fields (locating the four points on the compass, measuring the sides of the rectangle using paces (yards) and noting key map 'features' - such as the cricket hut, trees and the play park.) Following this activity the Beavers attended Nore Barn Woods to explore coastal features and wildlife as well as a trip through Holybank Woods following trail signs laid out by the leaders.

The colony maintains a population of 16-18 Beavers and has strong support from parents when undertaking outside activities; the team's thanks go to all the parents for their support.

## Livingstone Cub Pack report 2022-2023

This year has been a year of recovery back to our normal activities.

We have resumed a few activities that we missed, these included the sock puppet show, pancakes and the ever-popular Easter nests.

We have had several outdoor events in the last year. Including making Kites and brushing up our navigation skills in the park. We have spent as much time out and about as possible. Whether is it exploring Emsworth or the woods, we like to be outdoors with more space to play.

We attended the District St Georges Day event on 23rd April in Staunton Country Park. We had a hike from Havant Thicket car park before the promise renewal. It was a nice sunny day well attended and a good time had by doing a nature trail on the way.

We enjoyed our largest Summer camp for a few years in June. We went to Cricket Camp near Bursledon. We had a great time with Abseiling, Caving, Archery as well as Fun and games and a large camp fire and sing song. This was a combined camp with Drake pack and it was very well attended with 36 Cubs from both packs.

We presented 6 Silver Awards at our AGM in September 2022 to those Cubs who have worked hard throughout their time in Cubs. They have now moved on to Scouts.

Jack Hughes, Imogen Frost and Edward Slade, Jamie Botham, as well as Max Dolling and Seb Haskell.

We had our first Christmas party at Playzone in Havant. It was a great success. We hope to do it again.

A big thank you to all the parents who have stepped in to help and keep us all safe. We could not have done this without you.

Hilary Walker - Akela Livingstone Pack

## Drake Annual Report 2022-2023

It's been another rollercoaster of a year, with so much adventure and change along the way.

We started the year with finishing off the Scientist badge, before having a nature hunt in Brook Meadow. We then spent three weeks doing the Cyclist badge, with one Cub achieving his Personal Challenge by learning how to ride a bike to attain this badge. We ended the Summer with a big water fight at New Life Church (now "One Church" Emsworth) and hitting the first big bump along the way. My adult assistant, Wayne Spencer left us when he transferred over to Southbourne Sea Scouts with his family.

Two big activities were well attended, the first was an activity day as we returned to our Harting site for the first time in several years. We lit fires and cooked over them, built bug houses and shelters before clearing a patch of ground to grow wildflowers for bees etc. Our second big event was our first camp since Covid, a joint Pack Camp at the Cricket Campsite in the Hamble Country Park, we did a wide range of activities from Axe Throwing to Climbing, Caving, Disc Golf and playing with a Giant Ball. Several Challenge badges and Backwoods cooking were all earned.

Autumn saw us celebrate the Hindi Diwali Festival, as well as our Remembrance Day ceremony on Ems Rec at Horndean Road. A visit to the BAPS temple in Havant saw us complete the World Faith Badge, before hosting a visit by the Beacon Food Bank. We finished 2022 with a joint event with the Beavers at Havant Leisure Centre's play zone, before having an indoor Nerf War Christmas Party. Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to my other trusted helper, Sam Illing.

The Spring saw us joined by another adult leader, Henry Chambers, and a new Young Leader, a returning ex-Cub, Ben Charlesworth, who joined us for his School's DofE project. Just in time for us to go glow stick tracking at Nore Barn Woods. We joined in with the RSPB Birdwatch, then tried our hands at Astronomy, and got totally thwarted by the weather. Pancakes, BP Quiz, Saints and Flags all followed, before ending with our normal Easter Crafts and Chocolate Nests.

The Conker Challenge was won by Toby Illing and Joshua Spencer once again won the Good Turns Diary. After the disappointment of 2021-22, we had 5 Cubs achieve their Silver Awards.

Joshua Spencer, Elliott Murcott, Toby Illing, Saul Fellerman, Jacob Kirwan

With Covid finally behind us, we have been more than eager to get outdoors and have fun, as with the pack's mini adventure Cycling around Redlands, and of course, we did go Glowstick Tracking. After all, the Cubs don't always care that much about it being dark and slightly cold. We're in it for the fun, along with new badges to gain on the way.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents who have helped either with their own skills or had the willingness to learn new ones and welcome our new Leader Henry to our fold, as well as Ben, a former cub. None of this would have been possible without all their help and expertise.

Peter Britton

Kaa, Drake Pack

## Scout Eagle Troop Report 2022-2023

I am pleased to report another fun packed year for Scouts which has included a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities.

After the summer term we had to say a sad farewell to Adam who had lead the troop for many years. He is still active within the group supporting us with activities and camps and covering for leaders. We would all like to thank Adam for his Hard Work and dedication he has put into running the Troop.

I have taking over the responsibility for the Troop whilst we try and recruit a new leader and during the year have been lucky to be helped on a regular basis by Graham, Jack, Becca and Oli our young Leader. Many thanks to them all without their support Scouts wouldn't happen.

Moving forward we do need to find regular volunteers to run the section. 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.

This year we have been learning about the stars, Robert Burns, first aid, navigation and staying safe on the water. During Lent we managed to collect an amazing number of food items to donate to our local food bank. We have been out and about to practice our navigation skills and played international top trumps whilst running around the woods. Easter saw us joining the District for the Spring Ahead camp- A great and wet time was had by all. Rafts have been built and raced on the millpond and in June we took part in the Emsworth Museum Treasure Hunt- with Hawk winning the youth competition. Our PLs have been busy developing their leadership skills and were also able to complete an Expedition for their Expedition Challenge Award.

The troop size is now around 24 which is a very nice size for group activities.

If you can help out and would like to volunteer and join our team please contact us.

Michael Croucher  
Acting Scout Leader

## Gryffin Explorer Unit Report 2022-2023

Normally we meet on a Friday night in the scout hut and like to get outside as much as possible.

Our regular evening activities, as always the top activities were cooking and quiz nights. Our cooking skills were tested in the hut, on Trangia, using paella pans, over open fires and baking scones in a cardboard oven along with frying pan pizzas and £1 cooking challenges..

Other nights included, The Apprentice, pioneering and Scavenger hunts to mention just a few.

We were able to get some camping in, having a great Winter Camp in the New Forest with activities including ringo on the dry ski slope and laser quest on the Sunday morning. We took part in the inaugural Hawk Explorer district camp at Ferny crofts, helped the Scouts at their camp at Bentley Copse and had an expedition camp across the downs.

We currently have 16 members and the section is run by Michael with the support David Jarczyk

As always we have been working hard towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and we are looking forward to arranging Expeditions again as part of the new district structure.

Many of our members help out with the younger sections, so well done for all your support and hard work.

Emsworth Explorer Team