

# 1<sup>st</sup> Emsworth Scout Group Section Reports 2024

## Group Scout Leaders Report 2023-2024

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.

We were also very excited to open our first Squirrel Drey lead by Hilary Walker. If you haven't heard already this is a new section for scouting and is aimed at 4 and 5 year olds. They have had an amazing first couple of terms and we look forward to opening a second Drey next year.

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.

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 2023-2024

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

Myself and Hannah Smith have enjoyed running the section together, with support from our parents both inside and outside the Scout HQ.

We continue to plan our Youth-Led programme around badge work, basing ourselves outside as much as possible when the weather allows, (and sometimes when it doesn't!) As always our Beavers are keen to earn badges and work hard during meetings to complete their badge work. We aim to help our members achieve many badges, culminating in the Bronze Chief Scout Award- the highest award a Beaver can earn. I can proudly report that we have 12 Beavers that have earned their award this year.

The summer term held Cycle skills & Biking night, a Coronation Tea party, Scavenger hunts in the woods, Frisby Golf, Litterpicking, Building Mazes, Navigation Hikes and plenty of games. We ended the term with a trip to Blue Reef Aquarium in Southsea.

We were lucky enough to have two camps to look forward to this year, Spring Colony joined our Beaver sleepover at Sandy Acres in June, we couldn't have been more fortunate with a weekend of sunshine, many activities were packed into, for some, their first night away with Scouts.

Shortly into the Autumn term we were away again, this time for Group Camp, with thanks to our GSL Michael and only 24 hours' notice to rearrange due to our planned campsite being unexpectedly closed our Beavers enjoyed "Big Top" Bell Tent camping with a Circus theme, lots of happy faces and excitement ensued.

In the autumn term, there was; Construction, Nature hunts, Conker Creatures, cooking, Halloween fun, participating in UK Parliament week with a mini election, preparing manifestos and debating on important matters like "Should you have to pass a test to own a dog". As well as paying our respects in the Youth Remembrance Parade.

Then to end the year we visited Springfield care home to sing Christmas Carols. The residents were delighted, we even got two rounds of songs in. As a treat we invited Squirrels, Spring Beavers and Cubs to join us for an end of term party at Oceans of Play in Havant Leisure centre.

In the Spring term we made bird feeders for the Big Birdwatch, had a Sports centre challenge, held a board game night, decoded ciphers, practiced CPR with Resuscitation dummies, investigated signs of spring, practiced knots, celebrated World Book Day and finished with an Easter Treasure Hunt.

Grateful thanks to all the parents that have enthusiastically stepped up to help, and to our invaluable leadership team who make scouting happen in Emsworth.

Our special thanks to the Beavers, for making every week fun!

Rebecca Chambers, Millpond Beaver Scout Leader

### Bronze Awards

Rory Collins, Finn Larkin, Harry Moore, Ethan Woods, Harry Grice, Albi Gilmore, Henry Champkin

William Jarrett, Zac Pascoe, Angus Desprats-Esteve, Jesse Richards, Nathan Clark

## Spring Beaver Colony Annual Report 2023-24



Last reporting to the Annual General Meeting in 2023, the Spring Colony has gone from strength to strength. In 2023 we welcomed a new addition to the leadership team in Zoe Hoy. Zoe has provided an enormous amount of energy and drive as a leader and as our informal “Creative Director” her skills are complementary to the other volunteers, most welcome and highly appreciated. It has been an exciting year in scouting for the Spring Beaver Colony:

**April/May** The Beavers had great fun developing outdoor skills including basic map making, trail symbols and learning about water safety from the RNLI.

**June/July** The Beavers engaged in pioneering projects to build machines out of everyday eco-friendly items such as twigs and twine. They also got outdoors for our annual Billy Trail cycling session. We were proud to see Mole presented with her ‘Fifteen Years in Scouting’ Award - well done Mole.

**Beaver Sleepover** On the 24th June 2023 our Beavers joined the Millpond colony for a Beaver Sleepover at the Sandy Acres Outdoor Centre. Beavers were treated to axe throwing, putting up tents, their first hike, a nature trail as well as a traditional campfire. Our thanks go out to the Millpond colony for taking the lead in organising this.

**September/October** Kite making was on the agenda alongside learning about everyday science and how things work. The Beavers spent a session using sensory deprivation to start to understand what it was like to be deaf or blind and how you might go about supporting friends who are deaf or blind.



**November/December** Beavers created autumnal pictures using natural resources and created a centrepiece for their Christmas Dinner table at home. We visited Emsworth Fire Station, went carol singing at a local nursing home and attended the Emsworth Remembrance Sunday service. Stoic Beavers showed their resilience and pride marching in support of the fallen, despite rain and wind. We also celebrated the one year anniversary of the colony restarting and five of our Beavers ‘swam up’ to Cubs.

**January, February and March** The Beavers undertook activities with lego and cardboard to complete the ‘Builder’ badge as well as learning about their health and fitness.

There continues to be strong demand for spaces at our colony and over 90% of our Beavers achieve their Chief Scout Bronze award before moving on. The colony maintains a population of 16-18 Beavers and has strong support from four leaders and many parents when undertaking outside activities; the team’s thanks go to all members for their support.

## Livingstone Cub Pack report 2023-2024

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 2023-2024

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

We started the year finishing off the Astronomers Badge, laying out a Space Walk along the footpaths of Redlands. We then completed The Personal Safety activity badge. Athletics at Ems Rec and the Naturalist

Badge at Redlands followed, before finishing the Summer with an Archery party at the district HQ.

The summer also had a big event, a joint Cub camp with Livingstone at Braggers Wood, with a focus on the Environment Conservation badge. This was followed in September by our first Group Camp since Covid.

Autumn saw us doing knots, lashings, mini pioneering and making our own rope, to complete the Pioneering badge. Skills night saw us sewing an old badge and ironing our neckers. Remembrance Day activities at the hut then followed, while our own annual Remembrance Day took place at the hut, due to bad weather. Bad weather also postponed our Night Hike, as we continued to make our own ropes as the term continued, before finishing off with a Christmas Party at the hut. Christmas also saw the departure of our Young Leader, Ben Charlesworth.

The New Year came, and we built birdfeeders for the RSPB Birdwatch, before covering the Emergency Aid Level 2 badge. Finishing the Personal Safety before glowstick tracking at Nore Barn Woods. Once again, the continuous bad weather caused us to have our Night Hike in Hollybank Woods, where we visited the remains of two Anderson huts, a small part of the local D-Day camps.

We continued to achieve a wide range of badges, and while we were often frustrated by the weather, we did manage to get many outdoor activities evenings completed.

The Good Turns Diary was won by William Hoy. Following on from last year's results, we had another four Cubs achieve their Silver Awards.

Jack West

Oliver Wilson

Ethan Bridgman

Caleb Taws

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents who have helped either with their known skills or had the willingness to learn new ones. I would also like to thank the Leaders for all the help they have given over the last 12 months. None of this would have been possible without all their help and support.

Peter Britton

Akela, Drake Pack

Summer 2024

## Scout Eagle Troop Report 2023-2024

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

This year we have been learning about the stars, first aid, navigation and staying safe on the water with a visit from the RNLI. We raised money for Children in Need with a burpees challenge. Were busy cooking and eating! 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 with a camp in the Spring and they were also able to complete an Expedition for their Expedition Challenge Award. Our annual Winter Camp was really popular, visiting the local Ski center for some fun on the Ringoes and then a Sunday morning of laser quest.

Congratulations to Oscar, Finlay and Harry who all worked hard to achieve their Gold chief scout awards before heading on to Explorers.

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

During the year we have been lucky to be supported by Jack, Becca and Oli and Adam along with many parents who have come along to support and assist. Many thanks to them all without their support Scouts wouldn't happen.

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 2023-2024**

Meeting on a Friday night at the scout hut and we 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, street scabble, 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. Some of the Explorers joined in with 300 members from all other Hampshire for the amazing fun filled Ferney Fest with live bands and DJs along with endless activities all day long.

We currently have 10 members and the section is run by Michael and David.

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