

1st P&P Post

No. 20
November 2014

GSL's Report

As the first half of term draws to an end, it's been yet another busy time for everyone, with all the Sections enjoying the last few light evenings of the year. With marshmallow toasting, science badges, skills weekends and camps, all the Sections have been having lots of fun.

The summer saw a number of our Cub Scouts head off to WINGS, an international Scout and Guide Jamboree which was held in Windsor Great Park for a week. Six thousand people attended, from all over the UK and the World, getting to see a day in the life of an international camp; hopefully many of those who went as Cubs this time will get the opportunity to attend another such event as Scouts. It was an amazing day out for all those who had the chance to attend, so a big "thank you" to those who helped take our Cubs.

At the end of the summer we brought together all the Sections with a tour of Native America at our Group camp. Over 80 young people had a fantastic weekend, making bows and arrows, playing wide games, enjoying a confidence course and learning what a peg wall is. Thanks to everyone for their help and support over the weekend; we hope you all enjoyed the BBQ, and look forward to the next one! A special thanks goes to Rachel Stout (Ringtail) for all her hard work in organising the weekend.

Richard Goodyear, Group Scout Leader (07786 285045)

Chairman's Ramblings

Hello, let me introduce myself as your new Group Chairman.

I am taking over from Andy Williamson, and my important first task here is, on your behalf, to say to Andy a huge thank you for all that he has done for the Group as Chairman since 2009. 1st Purley and Pangbourne is a good and vibrant Scout Group and Andy has made a great contribution to achieving that.

A bit about me. You may know me as Suzanne Stout's husband and I have the delight (mostly) of also being Rachel and Adam Stout's father. So, although I haven't been particularly involved with the Group I have been an 'interested observer'. Until September, for the past 10 years I was County Commissioner for Berkshire Scouts, so was a little bit busy doing that role! Now that role has finished, I am both Group Chairman with 1st P&P and also the Regional Commissioner responsible for Scouting in the nine Counties that comprise the South West England region – I am already much more familiar with First Great Western and its many rail routes than I was previously!!

Our aim as the Group Executive Committee is to support the

Leaders in the Scout Group so that the young people get the very best Scouting that we are able to deliver to the young people of Purley and of Pangbourne. We are well down that track with, I'm sure, much more to come!

Thank you very much indeed for your support of the Scout Group.

Hamish Stout, Group Chairman

Group Camp 2014

Group camp was held in September at Milestone Wood. It was a great opportunity for all Sections, aged 6 to 17, to work together. Here's what some of our young members thought of it!

I liked Group camp because I saw my friends and we did some fun activities like making a bow and arrow and zipping down the long zip-wire really fast. Also we cooked some delicious bread

on the fire. At the end of the day we had a bonfire and we all sat round singing songs and then I went to bed with Sienna, Amelie, Ainhua, Elizabeth and Evie.

Elyssa Smith, Beaver Scout

Group camp was amazing! I really enjoyed the confidence course and peg wall because I have never done these before. The peg wall was hard at first but working as a team we got better and better. I think the Native American theme was great and I enjoyed how the Leaders included it in their activities - the peg wall was the Grand Canyon

with knives to get across!!! Although we got lost, I liked the GPS activity in the woods. I also liked making the bows and arrows - firing them was really cool! *Joshua Hughes, Cub Scout*

Day 1: The first thing we did was go into the woods with our groups and find the right people to get some material off. Then we came back and did some activities, the first activity we did was make a totem pole. After that we made a hat and a tepee. Next we made a bow and arrow. Then we made some bread, I put jam on mine. After that we had some lunch and then we went on the zip wire. Finally it was the last activity which was climbing. Dinner time came quickly and after that we got told who we were sharing tents with; Lara was in my tent.

Day 2: Today we had breakfast and then we packed our bags and the tents up.

My favourite bit was the zip wire, making the bow and arrow and being in a tent with Lara. *Ashlyn Smith, Scout*

I enjoyed Group Camp, it was good to mix with other Sections. My favourite part was the Zipwire and the Confidence Course. Thank you to Rachel for organising such a great camp. *Becky Rowlands, Explorer Scout*





Water Voles Colony

After a great time at Group camp where it was wonderful to see such a good Beaver turnout, the Water Voles started the term by learning about leaves and trees in order to finish their Gardening badges. This was followed by an evening on aeroplanes and a challenge to see who could make a paper aeroplane that flew the furthest to gain their Air Activities badges.

We got crafty this term with an evening on loom bands— where the Beaver Scouts made themselves a woggle. We were also lucky enough to have some parents come in and talk about their jobs. The Beaver Scouts loved learning about robots, dams, noise levels, safety clothing and teaching.



Lots of fun was had in the dark, firstly with a campfire evening, which saw the Beaver Scouts toasting marshmallows over tealights to make s'mores, tying knots with strawberry laces and singing songs around the campfire, then a Halloween evening, where the Lodges designed and scooped out their pumpkins. The end effect was an excellent start to the half term holiday!

Next term will start with learning about Remembrance and investing out two new Beaver Scouts – Massimo and William.

Tic Tac (Colleen Hughes), Beaver Scout Leader

Polecats Colony

Polecats have had a very exciting term to start the Scouting year. We have welcomed five new Beaver Scouts, who seem to be enjoying themselves and have fitted in well. The term began with a number of Beavers joining us at our biennial Group camp at 89th Reading headquarters; we Beaver Leaders were very impressed by their confidence both during the day and in the evening! As a result, some Beavers started work on the new Camp Craft badge, which we added to with a great evening outside building fires and toasting marshmallows; we were joined by members from each Section to help us, setting a good example of the true Scouting spirit.



The following week, again lucky with weather, we were outside being taught a new sport for some by Purley Tennis Club on the local courts. We have also enjoyed an evening of science: colouring celery, playing with magnets and circuits and watching colour changes through filter paper chromatography and acid-base reactions. The last evening of this term included messy hot chocolate making as well as watching and filming videos as the start of a link with Ringtail's new Colony whilst she studies at university in Portsmouth. Our video will prove that there are more than 25 Beaver Scouts as the Portsmouth Colony thought!

Rainbow (Shelley Williamson), Beaver Scout Leader



Heron Pack

The Heron Cub Scouts have had a busy Autumn term, working hard towards gaining their Cyclist Badge and also their Scientist Badge. We had Doug Walker and Tim Morel very kindly come in and demonstrate how to fix a bike tyre puncture and talk about bike maintenance. The Cubs also designed some cycle safety posters and went on a road safety walk.



For the scientist badge, Cubs grew sugar crystals, made natural yoghurt, constructed an electrical circuit, learnt about seeds and finished the term dressing up as Mad Scientists and bringing in various jars and containers filled with, amongst other things, 'eye balls', 'brains' and 'poo'!

A big thank you to all those parents who have helped out this term.

Tabaqui (Gareth Evans), Cub Scout Leader

Kingfisher Pack

The Kingfishers said a sad goodbye to the last of our founder members in July, but this term we welcomed three new Cub Scouts - William, Benjamin and Connor.

We made the most of the good weather in September and October with plenty of outdoor activities including wide games, a trip to Sulham Woods and digging! Our new garden in the school playground is staring to take shape - any contributions of fencing, edging materials, gravel or compost would be most gratefully received. Many of the Pack attended the Group camp in September, adding to their badges and generally having a fantastic time. The inaugural Kingfisher Pack Conkers competition was won by William Dean, we look forward to him defending his title next year.



We finished off the half term with ghost making and hat designing - the Cubs so enjoyed the sewing that the parents were all waiting outside for quite some time! This term we will be thinking about remembrance and jamborees before we look forward to Christmas.

Kingfisher Leader Team



Monday Night Scout Troop

September was the start of a new era with all the members of the Troop having now been born in the 21st Century!

We started back with 6 new recruits moving up from Cubs, and we hope they will all enjoy an adventurous few years with us. We have been focusing this term on trying to build some basic skills for the Scouts. Early on we tried fire lighting with different materials, discovering that the stuffing from a dog's toy does not burn very well, which was quite reassuring. We tried out our Scouts' team work skills, ability to follow written instructions and general cooking skills with a British Bake off inspired evening cooking scones and raspberry and white chocolate muffins in Dutch ovens and District's new camping gas oven.

We spent one evening learning some basic first aid, which we will work on over the next few months, and another communicating using radios, semaphore and Morse code. The last evening of this term was run by one of our Senior Patrol Leaders, Ella; many of the Scouts wore their onesies and played a great range of games, including a relay race where they had to get a blob of Vaseline on the end of their nose, pick up a cotton wool ball, and transfer it to the other end of the hall.

We have had two outdoor adventures. At the start of term, many of the Scouts joined others from the District to take part in a District-run Survival Badge weekend. They slept out under tarpaulin shelters, chopped up chickens with penknives, walked onto site, and off again and created many sparks with their sticks. The other event was a skills day at Crays Pond, where

the Scouts, again with the help of the District Leader Team, learnt how to safely use a penknife, axe and saw, and then each team cooked their lunch on a fire. Each team had a Leader as a guest for lunch!



Jez Jones, Scout Leader

Friday Night Scout Troop

Week 1 of the term kicked off with a games night, and we discovered one of the funniest games ever to have entered the Friday Scout Hall - sack football! What was supposed to be an intro activity turned into a full on tournament and we sent home lots of very sweaty Scouts that night and a few aching bellies from laughing.

Week 2 we made history - being the first Scout Troop to hang out on the newly opened Whitchurch Bridge, then we hiked up to Sulham Woods for a spot of Capture the Flag in the dark.



Some of the Troop went on their first Survival Camp and had a great time learning how to stay warm, hydrated and fed with little more than a knife, a compass, a flint and steel and a chicken!



Our Explorer Scout Unit is continuing to thrive with five new arrivals this term in the form of Harrison, Luke, Tom, Kathryn and Ella, taking our number up to 19.

The Unit made the most of the evening darkness with Glow in the Dark Frisbee, Lunar Cooking and a Night Hike from Calcot to the Barn. Simon Pickett was our guest for cooking night, sampling some of the unique delicacies created by our Masterchefs – and (miraculously) surviving the experience!

We've also seen the Explorers get creative by producing their own newsletter and movie, which generated some very amusing results. An inflatable shark and some dubious wigs added to the hilarity on movie night. Games Night saw the Explorers attempt to make their own version of KerPlunk, take part in a real-life Guess Who and build an impressively tall Jenga tower!

We have recently enjoyed "Halloween" Camp at Crays Pond,

Despite the baboon in the woods they all managed to get some sleep under the stars too and went home grubby, smelling of smoke and happy.

Week 3 we had a puzzles and teamwork evening filled with quizzes, mind challenges, 'guess the food' food tasting and hat-making, and in week 4 we made video adverts with help from Matt Wain who, with some wizardry in the editing studio, managed to create something for us to watch back - the winning 'ad' being an anti-drugs campaign from the Falcon Patrol.

Week 5 involved an A to Z treasure hunt around Pangbourne, and top marks for ingenuity went to the Red Kite patrol, who, with a trip into the Co-Op, managed to identify something for every letter of the alphabet in a very short time.

The first half of the term ended with an investiture for Mikey, Albi, Finlay and Tom, and a Scouting Skills Day at Crays Pond.

Thank you to all of you parents who, once again have come forward to help. It is really appreciated.

Samantha Hinkley, Scout Leader



which was attended by the majority of the Unit. Activities included pumpkin carving, ghoulish wounds, a 10 mile hike, an Explorer-devised obstacle course, as well as a spooky campfire, movie night and an attempt at giant Pacman. The camp was the perfect way to mark the halfway point of the term.

Chris Hughes, Assistant Explorer Scout Leader



Project Africa Quiz Results

I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought a copy of my Project Africa Quiz which raised an amazing £340.

I am pleased to announce the winners and runners up:

1st Prize - £25 Amazon voucher was won by Chris & Judy Rayers with a score of 96/100

2nd Prize - £10 Amazon voucher was won by the Hughes family with a score of 91/100



Thank you once again to everyone who took part,

George Archer, Scout

Dates for your Diaries



Christmas Party – Saturday 13th December



Group Carol Service – Monday 15th December



Family Christmas Ramble – Saturday 27th December



Family Camp 2015 – 18th – 20th September 2015