

1st P&P Post

No. 19
July 2014

GSL's Report

As the summer term draws to an end, as ever it's been a very busy summer and will continue to be right up until the end of July, with Beaver Scouts down at the river building dams, Cub Scouts playing football on the meadow, and the Scouts and Explorer Scouts all heading out on the water.

We've seen the start of kayaking taster sessions run by the water activities team, getting young people out on the water. It's great to see all the hard work on the boathouse paying off and with the last burst of work about to happen we should see all the planned work complete.

The term also started off busy with the Cubs and Scouts both away for Whitsun half term making the most of the fun and independence away from their parents! Have you checked out the photos from the week on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/groups/1stPandP/

We have also said hello to both Belinda and Graham who have volunteered to help with the Group in the past month. It's great to have new Leaders joining the team and we wish them lots of fun and enjoyment in their time with us.

As the term year draws to a close, and we look back over the year at the AGM, we have to thank everyone for their help support over the past year, and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

See you all in September.

Richard Goodyear, Group Scout Leader (07786 285045)

Chairman's Ramblings

Over the last few months the Group Executive Committee has been busy finalising our end of year numbers and preparing for our AGM. Having just read through the annual report which will be available at the AGM it is amazing that the Group has fitted so much in. The photos alone tell the story of how fantastic Scouting is within 1st Purley and Pangbourne. The Group Exec and in particular Mark Smyth and a team of volunteers have

been busy sorting out the boathouse after the recent flooding getting it ready for use this summer.

This is my last Ramblings as I will be stepping down at the AGM as the Group Chairman after a fantastic 4.5 years. Unfortunately or fortunately, whichever way you look at it, my work commitments are now a lot bigger and I am struggling to find the time to commit to this role. However, I will not be disappearing because as I am sure you are all aware my wife Shelley and my children Hannah and Tom are still involved so I will be an active parent supporter, helping where I can.

In my final Ramblings I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Group for their support during my time as Chairman and particularly those who have served on the Group Executive Committee with me. The Group is in excellent shape although my last plea to all parents is again for your support of the Group either as an executive member, a member of a subcommittee, a Leader or just attending Group events as without your support the Group cannot continue to thrive for the benefit of your children.

Thanks again for a fantastic time as your Group Chairman.

Yours in Scouting,

Andy Williamson, Group Chairman

Editor's Comment

It's not often (if ever?) that I have felt moved to add something to a newsletter, but I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge personal thank you to Andy Williamson as he steps down as Group Chair. He has done amazing things for the Group, thanks to his commitment and seemingly limitless energy and it is thanks to him and a certain Mrs Stout that I got involved with the Group. If it weren't for them, I (and the rest of my family) would have missed out on some really fantastic experiences and friendships. It won't be quite the same without you Andy – but I know there will be lots more fantastic times ahead.

Newsletter Editor



Water Voles Colony

Water Voles have been busy as always. We decided this term to work on some of the new badges. We spent a couple of evenings working on our communications badge where we learnt Morse code, semaphore and called home. We followed this by learning about our senses – with an evening of activities focussing on hearing, touch, smell, taste and sight. We also had another lovely evening cultivating our flower patches at St James the Less where Len has kindly dug us a fourth flower bed



for our new Lodge. This was followed by a walk to the park and thankfully the weather was kind to us.

We have taken advantage of the World Cup and took the Beaver Scouts on an "aeroplane" – many thanks to Adam and Rachel who came along with their airport role-play and gave the Beaver Scouts a true aeroplane experience complete with safety and take-off video. The Beaver Scouts even enjoyed some Brazilian sweets as an on-board meal.

The World Cup theme was continued with an evening of football skills and split pin footballers. We finished the World Cup theme with an evening of food from the different countries and learnt how to say hello in different languages. Thank you to all the parents for their support.

Our term will hopefully end with an evening of camp skills (weather permitting) and an end of term party at Crazy Kids. We

hope everyone has a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you back in September.

Tic Tac (Colleen Hughes), Beaver Scout Leader

Polecats Colony

This term has been very busy for the Polecats, who have had lots of visits and visitors. The Beaver Scouts started off by planning where their ideal trip would be; we had some wonderful wacky ideas, ranging from outer space to just a normal camp. In the following weeks they have learnt how to pack their rucksacks, made healthy sandwiches, put up a tent and started to learn how to tie knots, which carried on for several weeks; they obviously take after Rainbow who still can't tie a knot!

The following week Richard Thomas came along to talk to the Beavers about various planes and show them plane parts which led into paper plane making and flying competitions. Well done to Nacho for his amazing planes which flew right across the barn. Following Richard, the Police Community Support Officer came along to visit with the police van. The Beavers loved climbing in and out as well as trying on uniforms and asking

many questions. The term finished off with a trip to Sulham Woods to collect sticks so they could build their own Beaver dams down by the Thames, as well as a playing alongside the river enjoying the sunshine.



Rainbow (Shelley Williamson), Beaver Scout Leader



cubs

Southampton Cub Camp 2014

weeks we concentrated on some mapping skills, drawing maps of the local area and planning out possible walking routes. This term we have had two very popular trips to Sulham Woods. The first to make dens and the second to make bows and arrows and make necklaces out of elder woods beads.

At the end of May it was our annual camp and this year we went to Cricket Camp site in Southampton. The camp was enjoyed by



"The best thing was the bug spray and midnight feasts." – *Charlotte*

"The food was great."- *Tabitha*

"The worst part was losing to Baloo in the backwards alphabet competition." - *Finley*

"I learnt how to cook burgers on a campfire." *Amy*

"The best thing was slipping down the ladder in caving. The worst part was the tent falling on me." - *Dan*

"The best part was getting free time and exploring. The worst part was getting muddy in the caves." - *Eve*

"I learnt that Explorers aren't all that big and scary." *Molly Ellen*

Heron Pack

We started off the term with a games night, run very successfully by some of our Sixers and more senior Cubs. The following



all (despite the mud!). We went on a hike around the country park, had two camp fires, did backwoods cooking, went canoeing, kayaking and caving, tried archery, visited Fort Nelson and had a midday gun salute. The Cubs also had free time, which was mostly taken up making loom bands! Some Cubs also had a go at grass sledging. So if your Cub came back a little bit tired, you now know why.

In June we had a football evening in Bucknell's meadow, kindly run by Mark Smyth and some of his team. This was very successful as all children were able to participate and learn some new skills. We have recently welcomed some Beavers into the Pack and they will hopefully all be invested by the time you read this. We had an evening learning about the Cub Promise

and Law, Baden-Powell and The Jungle Book through a session of games and activities. We wish our senior Cubs who are moving onto Scouts the best of luck.

Tabaqui (Gareth Evans), Cub Scout Leader

Kingfisher Pack

The Cubs have been getting outside as much as possible this term. We enjoyed a great camp along with the Heron Pack in Southampton and plenty of fun and excitement on Thursday

nights. One of the highlights of the term was a visit from The Sealed Knot, who had us dressing up, getting into character and re-enacting battles! We have also been smartening up a small garden at Pangbourne Primary School. On clearing away the weeds the Cubs were delighted to find a large quantity of strawberries, and very tasty they were too! We are looking forward to District Cub Camp and loads more fun before the end of term.

Kingfisher Leader Team



Monday Night Scout Troop

As it's the summer term, we've been out of the barn as much as possible. The Scouts' first job after Easter was their annual community service, delivering a large number of Parish Reports to houses in the village. We've also had a couple of evenings in Pangbourne, one testing basic navigation skills and another completing a quiz set by the Explorer Scouts. We have also tried out one of the best sports facilities in Purley, holding a knockout Boules (or Petanque) competition at the pitch down by the lock.



We also cram in a couple more camps this term, with our main "Summer Camp" this year held in the Peak District, at Gradbach Scout campsite. We had a great time, with activities including a day hike, trip to Alton Towers, Pooles Cavern and some really cool abseiling off an 80 m tall bridge over a river! The Scouts also got to shop for food for one of their evening meals. The weather was challenging, but everybody adapted very well.

District Scout Camp was a bit closer to home at Rushall Farm. 110 Scouts and over 30 Leaders camped, and the Scouts worked in mixed teams to try bases such as archery, air rifle shooting, climbing, making and learning to use pacing beads, the Remote Control Feeding Frenzy and a base where they had to make a shelter and hope it was up to the job, as the Leaders on the base threw water over the shelter with the Scouts inside!

Some of the older Scouts have been looking at what is involved in the Expedition Challenge award; an award we have not done before. They need to plan a route, menu, kit requirements, risk assessments and then carry out a hike or similar overnight,

carrying all the kit they will need. Quite a challenge! Watch this space to see if they manage to complete it.

Several members of the Troop have taken part in the Thursday evening kayak sessions held at the marina. The Scouts have had a great time, getting some basic paddling sorted out, playing a few games, and generally getting very very wet!

Jez Jones, Scout Leader

Friday Night Scout Troop

The best news for the Friday Scouts is that we have new Leader! His name is Graham Green and we were introduced by chance one evening at Adventure Dolphin. He used to be a Scout (not too long ago!) and so will bring some great experience and doesn't mind getting stuck in! Welcome Graham - I hope you know what you've let yourself in for!

As activities go we've hiked to Goring, made Loom Band bracelets, played rounders, worked some more on our cyclists badge, explored Pangbourne with a quiz, and almost all of our Scouts have camped, either in the Peak District in the rain with the killer midges, or at Rushall Farm in the sunshine with the rest of the District ... some did both! Tom W achieved his 35 nights away badge, with Josh, James, Ellis and Eric achieving 20 nights away. We also invested Maddy in a river in the Peaks, and Alice in the evening at District Camp. Next term we will be looking for more weird and wonderful places to carry out the investiture ceremony... Watch this space!

Those who have had the opportunity to get onto the water with the Water Activities team have loved it, and we look forward to more going along in the weeks/months to come. We only have a few weeks left before our summer holidays but we're hoping to fit in some fire lighting, some sailing and we're looking forward to our end of term games night and BBQ with the Monday Troop.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special THANK YOU to all you parents for your support and help - it would have been tough to do all that we have done without you!

Happy summertime!

Samantha Hinkley, Scout Leader

William Palmer Award Winner!

Congratulations to Chloe James from the Friday Night Scout Troop, who won the prestigious William Palmer award at District Scout Camp on the 21/22 June.

William Palmer was a past president of the Pang Valley Scout District, and each year at District Camp, a Scout is recognized for being a credit not only to their own Troop, but to the District as well.

The judges assess each nominee for various qualities. They look for someone who is trustworthy, loyal, friendly and considerate, a 'fellow to all', courageous in all difficulties, makes good use of time, is caring, respectful, and above all fully enjoys Scouting.

Chloe joined the Scouting movement in June last year, when the Troop was in its



infancy and we were looking for new young people to come and try us out. Chloe fitted in from the start and has really embraced what Scouting is about. She has always been eager to try new things, to take on challenges, and take part whenever we were running an event - from selling poppies in Pangbourne to baking cakes for St Georges Day celebrations! I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Chloe, and her family for supporting her. She is a great Scout who we are proud to have in our Troop, and I hope that she has many more years of experiencing even more of those 'magic moments' that Scouting aims to create."

Samantha Hinkley, Scout Leader




One of the highlights of this term was undertaking the Toys for Smiles project. The Unit, with support from the others Sections in the Group, collected donations of toys over several evenings and then spent a meeting sorting and packing them to be sent to a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan.

Other meetings have included celebrating National Do'Nut week with doughnut related games and activities, but also more physical activities such as an evening having a go at scuba-diving, playing rounders, a lesson in netball and a caving experience!

A sunny weekend camp at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest in June saw us doing an assault course, raft building and climb a high ropes platform upon which we invested our latest member, Ben.



Suzanne Stout, Explorer Scout Leader



Project Africa 2015

Adam, Elliot, Madeline, Rebecca, Summer, Ella and myself are all busy fundraising to go to Uganda for a month next summer as part of the 70+ Project Africa team. The project aims to contribute to the lives of young people in a country less fortunate than our own. We will be involved in community building projects and teaching activities. We have raised over £300 between us with various stalls at Purley in the Park. In addition Elliot & I had a Beat the Goalie stand at a football tournament raising over £100. I am currently working on a quiz which I will launch at the AGM on 11th July so please buy a copy and help me raise more funds for the this very good cause. If you want to read more about Project Africa please see this website <http://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/uganda2015.php>

George Archer, Falcon Patrol Leader, Monday Scouts

We have had our first training session that took place on the 7th June where we did some activities such as fire lighting and

bread making.

We have also done a fundraising event at Purley in the Park on the 14th June where we had a teddy and bottle tombola, tin can alley and hair plaiting, thank you to everyone that came along and supported us.

Becky Rowlands, Explorer Scout

WHY LET YOUR CHILDREN HAVE ALL THE FUN?!
scouts.org.uk/get-involved



COME AND HAVE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

If you want to get involved, please speak to any Leader.