

1st P&P Post

Number 30
Winter 2019

Scouts @ Basildon Park

Volunteering is a very important part of Scouting and the Chief Scout's Gold Award (the highest award they can earn) requires Scouts to volunteer for a day with a local organisation, finding out about it and how they can help. At the end of October, ten of the older Scouts volunteered at National Trust Property Basildon Park for the day.



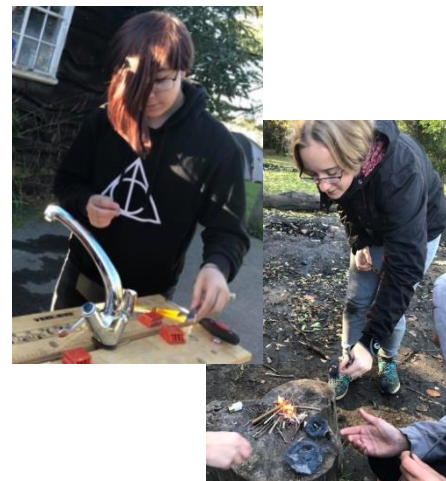
The Scouts had to work hard, but they all agreed they had enjoyed the experience and learnt lots about the work of the National Trust. We would like to say a massive thank you to Basildon Park for giving the Scouts this opportunity and we hope we'll be able to help out there again in the future.



It was the Saturday at the end of half term and tasks ranged from directing the traffic in the busy car park to helping out in the even busier café. The Scouts also welcomed visitors, handed out maps, sold raffle tickets, and even learned a bit about the history of the house as they helped with tours.



#SkillsForLife



One of the main aims of the Scout Association is to provide its members with skills that will last a lifetime. The Explorers' camp at half term did just that. Over 3 days at Crays Pond the Explorers undertook a range of tasks, including DIY, plumbing and electrics, fire lighting, CV writing and communications, cooking (sushi and ravioli from scratch) and navigation (both in daylight and at night). The Explorers had a great time and learnt loads of valuable life skills.

Welcome to Malak



Many congratulations to Brad Read, who was invested as a Sectional Assistant in the Polecats Beaver Scouts Colony on Remembrance Day. The Beaver Leader name "Malak" comes from the owl in the Beavers' Friends of the Forest story.



Sections make a splash!

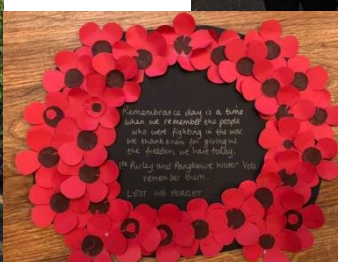
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all got out on (and in!) the water at the start of term. The Sections were all able to take advantage of the District-organised paddling sessions at Adventure Dolphin before the evenings became too dark. Roll on summer so we can do it again!



1st P and P will remember them



To mark the 100 year anniversary of Armistice Day, many activities were planned to encourage the young people to reflect and remember. Some made poppies for Purley's display in the Barn, while others made poppy candles and drew poppies using light. A number of Scouts completed Purley's Armistice Trail, finding out more about the 11 young men from Purley who died in WW1, while some of the Cubs travelled into Reading to learn more about Trooper Fred Potts. Many young people helped sell poppies in Pangbourne and the Group had a great turnout for both the Purley service at the Memorial Hall and the parade and service in Pangbourne, where some Scouts and Explorers played and marched with the band for the first time.



COMPETITION TIME



Well done to all the teams who took part in the Pang Valley District Big Breakfast Competition. Each team of Scouts had to light a fire (and keep it going!) and cook a full English breakfast for themselves and the judges, including a cup of tea. All the teams did really well, but sadly there were no medals for 1st P&P this year.



Very well done also to all the Cubs who entered the District Chess Competition in November. Particular congratulations go to Oscar, from Heron Pack, who won the trophy. Oscar is hoping there will be another chess competition for him to win when he moves on to Scouts!

F1 fun!

Some of the Explorers had an amazing experience when they paid a visit to MGI Technologies in Bampton over half term for an introduction to Formula 1 engineering. They learned the basics of aerodynamics, CAD, CFD and 3D printing from former F1 Technical Director Mike Gascoyne, as well as having the chance to drive a Ferrari in the F1 driver-in-the-loop simulator.



My WSJ - Freya



February 2019, all welcome. I shall share the details on the 1st P&P Facebook page. I have done many things to fundraise, too many to list and I may bore you. A lot of the fundraising has been fun but it's been a quite an interesting learning curve for me.

My Project Africa - Amelia

In less than 8 months we will be going to Uganda, hard to believe as there is still a lot of fundraising to do and much to organize. On the 8th of December we will be having a training day which is going to be full of information as the team leaders have just been on a recce to Uganda. We will find out the exact dates we are going, if we are going on a safari and I want to know if they tried the white river rafting. Look out for the many fun fundraising events going on, we have a quiz night and a Race night and many others coming up in the New Year. Thank you for supporting us on this life changing adventure.

What a Camp-tastic Summer!

The summer holidays saw the Scouts taking part in two very different camps.

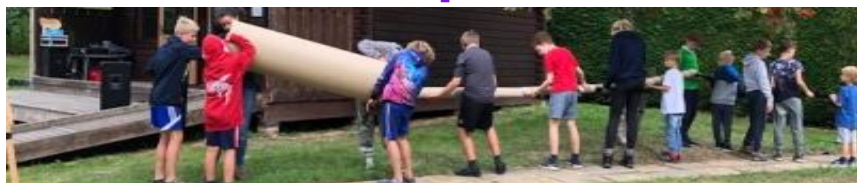


At the start of the summer, Tri-Troop camp took place on the banks of the river Thames on the Hardwick House Estate. On this lovely, almost green-field site the Scouts practised useful skills such as tent pitching and knife work, and had a go at filleting mackerel and plucking pigeons, before cooking them on the camp fire. And being by the river gave the Scouts the perfect opportunity to try out some raft building and get nice and wet!



Then, in August, 19 Scouts and 2 Explorer Scouts headed off to NORJAM – an international Scout and Guide Jamboree in Norfolk. They joined over four thousand young people to enjoy an amazing week of fun and activities. They tried everything from zorbing to clay pigeon shooting and caving to climbing the Jacob's ladder. It was a fantastic experience, and one that many of them are keen to repeat at the next NORJAM in four years' time.

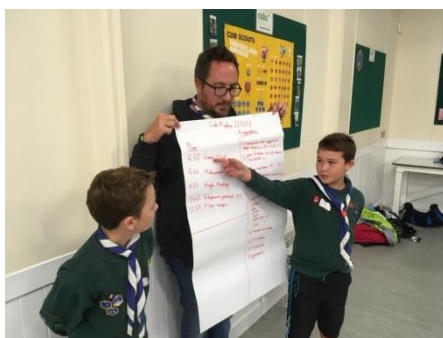
And the fun didn't stop...



The summer holidays may have ended, but the camps kept on going. The first weekend of the new term saw the whole Group camping together at Thirtover Place. Group Camp is the perfect opportunity for members of the Group of all ages to learn to work together. Everyone enjoyed a great weekend, full of fun challenges, grass sledding, an awesome escape room and, of course, a camp fire.

Skills for Sixers

Kingfisher and Heron Packs both had an opportunity for their older Cubs to take part in a Sixers' training day at 89th Reading HQ at Milestone Wood. The Cubs practised a range of skills, including problem solving, cooking, emergency response training and firelighting. They all also planned a Pack night and presented it to the group, before taking it back to their own Pack to run for the other Cubs.



Chief Scout's Awards

Well done to all those young people who have earned the top awards in their Sections:

Bronze Award

Jonah Dunford	Louisa Goss
Alfie Pritchard-Hawkes	Joseph McEwen
Ethan Bowyer	Jay Sidhu
Freya Howes	Theo Lailey
David Heighway	Edward Parker
Rupert Mullenger	Joshua Tram
Rory Handley-Archer	

Silver Award

Charlotte Binns	Evie Morel
Krists Kilo	Josh Clark
George Austin	Zachary Hughes
Casper Charlesworth	Max Wood
Amelie Baker	

Queen's Scout Award

George Archer

Expedition City

Another Chief Scout's Gold Award requirement is for Scouts to gain their Expedition Challenge Badges. To do this they have to plan, undertake and report back on an expedition or exploration. It has to involve a night away and they have to cook for themselves. This term, two groups of Scouts have undertaken their expeditions.



Scouts from Monday and Thursday Troops chose Swansea as their destination, visiting museums and camping nearby. Scout Charlotte said, "It was really good to get away from the Leaders and do it on our own."



Friday Scout Dominic said this about their expedition: At the end of November, six Friday Scouts went on an expedition to London. We stayed in a Scout hut in North London. While we were there we saw Winter Wonderland and plenty of Christmas decorations. We went to the science museum as well. We ate a lot of sweets and had loads of fun.

William had the following to add: We stayed at Scout Park, which had a small chalet with three bedrooms in it and an area outside where we could set up our gas stove to cook dinner. We visited shops down Regent Street, went to Winter Wonderland and visited the Science Museum on the first day. The next day we visited China Town and M&M World (which was unfortunately closed). We had a great time over the weekend and have enjoyed planning our Expedition.

Out and about

More fun from across the Sections

BEAVERS



Both Beaver Colonies have had a fun term, with lots of activities inside and out.

Water Voles have spent a lot of time working on how to stay safe: by the water, around the railway, on fireworks night and at home. They also had some awesome visits: from the beekeepers and from some amazing owls.

The Polecats polished up some camping skills, learnt lots about space, made birdfeeders and practised their emergency aid. They also learned about Project Africa from their Young Leader Keo (Grace) who helped them to make African flatbreads.

cubs



The Cubs have been as busy as ever. Kingfisher Pack went canoeing at the start of term and had fun hiking to Purley. They worked on their Global Issues badge and the Sixers led an evening of woggle making. Ex-Cubs Freya and Josephine also visited to tell them all about their upcoming trip to the World Scout Jamboree in America. Heron Cubs spent evenings working on their artist and cyclist badges. They played team games, found out about Halloween and celebrated bonfire night with fireworks. They enjoyed a walk in the dark to McDonald's and had loads of fun Sno-Tubing in Bracknell.

SCOUTS



The Scout Troops have been busy too. Friday Scouts cooked breakfast, played Monopoly in Reading and learnt about children's rights in other countries. They also had a great Halloween evening run by Young Leaders Joshua and Lucy. Monday Scouts worked hard to make videos promoting Scouting to potential Leaders. They also brushed up on their first aid, practised their pioneering and cooking skills and found out about the electoral system in Parliament week. The Thursday night Troop cooked curry for national curry week, practised their first aid and learnt loads about rocket propulsion as part of an awesome astronautics evening.

EXPLORERS



The Explorers have had fun outside this term, kayaking at Adventure Dolphin and playing wide games and trekking along the woodland walk at Basildon Park. Indoors, they held a "Scout Box Challenge", encouraging debate and discussion on a wide range of topics and a "Taskmaster" evening, with a little additional help from Alex Horne via Twitter! They spent an evening enjoying the dark, with glowing face paint, glow sticks and clever photography, and welcomed Simon Pickett, Berkshire Scouts' Deputy County Commissioner for Programme, to watch George Archer's presentation towards his Queen's Scout Award.

The GSLs' bit

Another year has gone by for 1st P&P with yet another amazing array of activities and events having taken place and, hopefully, our young people having had a fabulous time.

Since we came back in September, we have held our successful Crystal Maze 'Group' Camp which saw over 120 young people attend from across all the Sections.

We had another tremendous response for Remembrance Day – recognised in both Purley and Pangbourne in style, and with a fabulous turn out.

We end our calendar year with the annual Carol Service on Monday 17th December, to which all young people and their families are warmly invited. We will take this opportunity to wish a thoroughly 'well done and congratulations' to George Archer for gaining his Queen's Scout Award – the highest award in Scouting.

Next year we look forward to seeing the progress of the 'International Team'; those going to Uganda and America with Project Africa and The Jamboree respectively; both life-changing experiences that we look forward to hearing all about!

Let's hope that 2019 will be as successful. It won't come without its challenges, but more of that in the New Year!

Suzanne Stout and Chris Hughes
Group Scout Leaders

A word from the Chair

Another great year for the Scout Group which the Group Executive has been very pleased to be able to support. We've survived the onslaught of the new GDPR regulations, and the positive outcome is that GDPR has helped us to focus even better on the core of what we do as a group of charity trustees. A date for your diaries for 2019... Please keep free the weekend of 14/15 September. This will be the date for the next 1st P&P Family Camp. Not to be missed!

Finally, on behalf of the Group Executive, our grateful thanks to each and every one of the volunteer adults who put so much time into delivering great programmes to all of the young people who are members of the Scout Group.

Roll on 2019!!

Hamish Stout, Group Chair