

Mini Smoke Signals October 2024

It's that time again when we publish Smoke Signals (Annual Review Edition) celebrating all our achievements over the past year.

2nd Farnborough have had another brilliant year. We are currently full in Beavers and Cubs with an average of 15 boys and girls in each section which is great. The Scouts have a few spaces but numbers are slowly increasing with enquiries from members new to scouting. The group has held 2 successful Squirrels (aged 4–6) taster sessions and are looking to start a Drey soon. We are Leaders down in Beavers and also in Scouts and we have a waiting list which is growing on a daily basis. I would love to increase numbers but to do so we would need more adults to join the team and for parents to continue to sign up to meeting rotas for all sections.

During the last year we have continued offering both inside and outside meetings and activities. This gave all sections the opportunity to gain at least 2 challenge and 3 activity badges. 2nd Farnborough has been able to offer camping experiences to all sections. There was a District Beaver Camp at Frimley Lodge, The Cubs/Scouts did an Autumn Water camp at the Quays. Some Cubs also attended the Joint Spring Camp with 10th Farnborough at Normandy Scout HQ. The group also attended the District Remembrance Day and St Georges Day Fun Day in April.

Our young people always work hard towards the Chief Scout Awards. This year we had success in all 3 sections congratulations to Theo and Ted for gaining their Bronze Awards, Tyler and James their Silver and Phoebe her Gold. We have others in all sections who are really close.

We have not taken part in many competitions this year but The Cubs came 2nd in the new Master at Arms Comp and the Beavers did brilliantly in the Miniature gardens comp. Well done guys.

The boost we had from fundraising including the stall at Moorfest, the raffle at 2023 AGM and a donation has helped manage to keep the group solvent this past year without increasing subs.

There has been work done on the hut this year I was hoping we could say that the roof has been fixed but we still have not found a reliable roofer within our budget so a temporary fix is still in place.

Trustees Report

The Trustees have also been busy making decisions and managing the finances. We still have some of the grant we received during Covid, this has helped pay the bills, insurance and capitation without having to increase subs. The Sponsored Fright Night Hike, Gift Aid and Rushmoor lottery have also boosted our funds again this year. We win in 2 ways, with the lottery, the group gets a share from ticket purchases and we get a twice yearly donation from the fund. You can win too, details for participation are attached. We usually claim gift Aid every 2 years this accounting year we received payment but with increasing energy costs we will now be applying every year. It's our biggest earner anyone who pays tax please tick the box on OSM and there is nothing else you need to do. You can sign up by logging into your parents' portal on OSM. We are looking for some new Trustees to help us run the group if you would like to know more please speak to myself or Conifer. Any new ideas for fundraising will be greatly appreciated.

BEAVERS



The 1st activity after last year's meeting was a spooky evening where the Beavers made sweet bags for Halloween. After half term everyone put on their most scary costumes to complete the Sponsored Fright Night Hike around Southwood Open Space. For Diwali the Beavers made Rangoli patterns out of coloured sweet wrappers. For Remembrance the colony made an enormous group poppy from cardboard which was placed outside St Mary's Church. Some Beavers attended the Service at the Cenotaph in Aldershot where Dustin was our flag bearer. The last few weeks of term were spent doing the new Money Skills badge. Firstly the colony visited Morrisons to learn about the history of money and the different methods of payments i.e. cards, apple pay etc. Each Beaver then chose a vegetable weighed it and then paid with money through the self check out. The cheapest was a mushroom at 5p. The following week 2 HSBC staff came to cover the other parts of the badge i.e. savings, foreign currency, fake notes and everyone designed their own banknote. The Beavers had a great Christmas party, Bowling in Camberley

We started the Spring term visiting Pets at Home where everyone handled and fed various animals. The fairtrade part of the global issues badge was covered in the Morrisons visit, everyone made a water filter, talked about endangered animals and made a mask of them. All the colony made heart biscuits for Valentines and blowing dragons and fire crackers for Chinese New Year. The Health and Fitness badge was next, the poster covering the healthy foods is up on the wall. The colony did agility over a few weeks, then built and completed an obstacle course and a caving course. The end of term activity was a great all group donutting session.

The 1st event of the Summer term was The St Georges Day celebration. Most of the Beavers experienced activities such as archery, fencing, tomahawks, tin cans, and hoops followed by the annual renewing of promises. The rest of the half term was spent following the Outdoor 24 programme ending in a visit to the Fire Station for Fire safety training and hose handing practice. After half term the Beavers did their bit for the environment by litter picking. They also went to Frimley Lodge Park where they did a bug hunt, completed an obstacle course and a wide game. We also visited a rainy Blackbushe Airport. Luckily we were able to go inside the fire station, and air traffic control and only got wet when being shown over the aircraft. Most of the Air activities 2 badge was completed. Another success was The Canadian canoe at the Quays, canoeing, paddleboarding and kayaking at the Lido a new experience for some of the Beavers. The last day of term was spent getting very wet during the water activities/water fight evening.

This term the Beavers had an enjoyable evening fencing a first for most 2 Beavers gained their Chief scout Awards and have moved up to Cubs.



CUBS

A few days after review last year some of the Cubs joined the scouts at the Quays for a joint camp. The cubs experienced kayaking, fire lighting, backwoods cooking, candle making, low ropes, obstacle course and wide games. The first meeting after the review the Cubs created some amazing rangoli patterns on biscuits for Diwali. For remembrance the pack added to the giant poppy by creating larger cardboard and felt poppies They also attended the service at the Cenotaph in Aldershot where James was our flag bearer. HSBC bank employees also came and spent a session doing the Money Skills badge the pack really enjoyed using the UV pens and scanners. The badge was completed the next week at Morrisons where the Cubs had to shop to a budget for a Camp. The Cubs joined the Scouts for a great end of term party at Ninja Warrior.

The Spring term meetings began with the Animal Carer badge which has changed to include birds so everyone could take part. The following week it was off to Pets at Home to learn about care of animals, we were lucky to both feed and handle a lizard and a guinea pig. The Cubs also brought food to donate to the Blue X. For Chinese New Year everyone contributed to making 1 of 2 dragons, when completed both took part in a dragon dance in front of the parents

After half term, over several weeks, as part of the Skills challenge the Cubs tried some well-being activities including yoga and problem solving. Another badge that took several week was the scientist where the pack did 6 experiments mainly using foodstuffs like baking powder, vinegar, spaghetti, marshmallows, bread and water. The pack enjoyed making and eating the healthy energy bars. The group donutting session was a great success.

The first activity of the Summer term was the St Georges Day gathering where the Cubs enjoyed all the activities but fencing came out on top. The pack took part in the annual litter pick also tree hugging and cloud watching which was part of the Outdoor 24 badge. 5 Cubs attended a joint camp with 10th at 1st Normandy HQ it was a packed weekend of activities enabling them all to earn their pioneering and backwoods cooking badges. The Cubs were lucky to be able to visit Blackbushe airport with the Beavers and Rushmoor Fire Sation to complete their Fire safety badge. Also during the term the pack gained athletes/athletes plus badge, completed the trim trail took part in canoeing at the Quays as well as kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding at the Lido and a water fight at the hut.

This term an evening learning fencing moves was enjoyed by all.

2 Cubs gained their Silver Chief Scout awards and have now moved up to scouts.



SCOUTS

A few days after the last review the Scouts attended the annual Autumn camp at the Quays, With the Cubs there as well it was a great opportunity for the Troop to teach the Cubs some new skills like fire building and whittling. Phoebe was able complete the last few parts for her Chief Scout Gold award. The troop also added to the giant poppy with flowers made from corrugated cardboard. Klara was our flag bearer at the Remembrance Day Service and Parade at the Cenotaph in Aldershot. Everyone was given the opportunity to use several tools when a bookcase was dismantled and turned into a air hockey table for the whole group to use. We made use of our tuck shop drinks cans by making penny stoves which worked really well. Everyone enjoyed the joint Cub/Scout Christmas party at Ninja Warrior.

The first few meetings of the Spring term were spent preparing and planning for the chefs badge and the communicators badge. Over a few weeks each patrol planned, budgeted, shopped and cooked a 3-course meal for everyone from scratch everything had to be done within 2 hours including eating and the washing up. Both dinners were delicious, Fox patrol prepared meatball pasta followed by trifle and Panther patrol cooked both meat and vegetarian fajitas and chocolate pops. While each patrol was cooking the other patrol worked through the communicators badge. The troop demonstrated some great teambuilding skills while building an escape room over a few weeks. Unfortunately they did not complete all the puzzles to exit.

The first activity after Easter was the District St Georges Day in Aldershot it was a very windy day but that did not stop the scouts joining in all the activities. The following week the troop visited Rushmoor fire station. The watch commander took over when 2 engines were called out so everyone could finish the fire safety badge. The scouts held some of the equipment, watched a ladder demonstration, used the hoses and took part in a few team building exercises. It was a great evening. After half term Councillor Steve Harden a former member of 2nd came and gave us a talk about fly tipping and littering afterwards he accompanied the troop on a litter pick and sign cleaning exercise. Everyone gained either the athletes or athletes plus badge and completed the new Trim Trail at Frimley Lodge Park. We were very lucky to be chosen to complete an evening of canoeing, paddleboarding and Kayaking with BVCC at the Lido. The troop also spent a lovely evening kayaking at the Quays. The term finished with a water fight against the Cubs.

A fencing evening last week got very competitive but was enjoyed by all.

Well done Phoebe for gaining your Chief Scout Gold Award. We are very lucky that Noah stayed on to be a Young leader with the troop. Anthony decided to also be Scout Young leader with Scouts and congrats to him for receiving a nomination for the Young Leader Award.