
**2ND HARPENDEN
SCOUT GROUP**



Start the Year with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Four things for you to do...

1. Let us know you are going to join in with our 4th Birthday Hike, BBQ and AGM on Sunday 21st September at 2pm. Reply to petragamble@hotmail.com to say how many of you are coming, and particularly if you can offer some help with the catering.

2. Respond to Paula Mitchell's note this week about [paying subscriptions](#). Most of you are great in taking action straight away, but unfortunately a lot of administration is generated by the 20% who read the requests and forget to act!

3. Let us know if your Beaver, Cub or Scout is going to join us on our visit to the Panto on 5th December. We'll be seeing Jack and the Beanstalk at St Albans Arena and the start time is 7pm. First come first served for our 50 tickets, and we always sell out, so don't dilly dally. Replies to sarahgriggs68@icloud.com to register your interest please.

4. Make sure you let us know about any upcoming siblings. Unless you have filled in a waiting list form and sent it to Phil we won't include them, and Kleenex may be required for the resultant tears.

More details on some of these actions, plus our section reports for last term, are set out below, or by clicking through to our website [here](#).

Family Hike, AGM and BBQ 21 September

Every year, this event has proved popular with young people

and parents alike, and it's a great opportunity to get to know others in our community. This year, there's even more going on.

At 2pm we will be setting off on our annual family hike (within the capability of the average beaver) with a BBQ at the end and our brief AGM as well.

There will also be apple bobbing, limbo dancing, a donut line and a photo gallery of the year's Beaver, Cub and Scout activities...

See the notice in the entrance hall at the hut for details, but email petragamble@hotmail.com to let us know how many adults and children will be attending, and if any are vegetarian. Cost will be on a donations basis, which worked very well last year.

The notice of AGM was posted on the scout website on 26 August and is replicated [here](#).

Section Reports

Beavers

A message from the Beaver Leaders
(Alex, Simon, Valerie)

Well, what a super term it has been! Our Beavers have demonstrated a lot of hard work and determination earning numerous badges to prove it. Three of our Beavers – Louis Tredinnick, Ross McPherson and Ollie Mann were awarded the Bronze Chief Scouts Award by Jane Murray, the District Commissioner. What a fantastic achievement - well done!

We have really enjoyed a term bursting with variety to keep the Beavers stimulated busy. At the beginning of term there was the St Georges Day Parade with a terrific 2nd Harpenden Beaver Colony turnout. The colony looked confident and proud marching through the High Street.



Our programme couldn't have started better than with having a go at baking dough balls in a cardboard box - amazing but true. We went on a hike at the Highfield Oval and used our tracking skills to follow the clues laid by the group ahead. We all became master builders when we had a Lego night. There was a great competitive spirit as we tried to

build the tallest, fastest car. The evening was topped off with a gift of a Lego comic and key ring from Mrs Fisher (who works for Lego).

Over 2 nights we covered the health and fitness badge where we learned about lung capacity, hand hygiene and healthy eating. We made a food collage on plates and talked about the sports we like doing.

Our new pond dipping equipment went to great use when we went pond dipping at Batford Springs with lots of watery creatures to examine more closely. Mike the bee keeper visited us with his bees and showed the Beavers a live bee colony (behind glass of course). They then had the chance to taste some honey and dress up as a bee keeper themselves.

Another opportunity to earn a badge came when the Beavers went swimming at Aldwickbury School. Many of the Colony, taking after their namesake, took to the water to swim 25m or more! Probably



one of the highlights of this term was the visit to Coleman Green where the Beavers were given the space to let off steam whilst working towards their Explorer Badge. Thank you to the Marven family for welcoming us to your unique property and giving the Beavers a great evening. To be honest though, possibly the meeting with the most squeals and laughter was our last meeting when the Beavers were encouraged to cool off in the heat with a Colony water fight. Water bombs galore and many wet, happy children to boot!

Looking back over the term, I'm sure you'll agree that the activities, visitors and outings have ensured the programme has been packed with lots of fun, but also there have been many opportunities to learn something new. We are so grateful for the support we have received from parents, outside groups and individuals. At this point, we need to say a fond farewell to Louis, Ross, Ollie and Edgar. We wish you lots more adventures in Cubs.

Cubs



Cubs have had another great term out and about in the warm weather. We enjoyed a visit from the Astronomy roadshow where we learnt all about space and the solar system inside an inflatable astrodome. Cubs really learnt a lot and also gained their astronomy badge. We also headed out to No Man's Land for our ever popular Den building and hike. As always some really creative dens!

First Aid has also been on the programme and Cubs were lucky enough to try out Resusci Annie and find out just how hard it would be to give CPR. Cubs either gained their level 1 or 2 First Aid and had lots of fun trying out bandages and the recovery position but also on a more serious note learning about the dangers around the home and what to do in an emergency.

Some new badges have just been devised for Cubs and the rain held off just enough for us to try out the new backwards cooking badge. Cubs learnt how to light and put out a fire safely, cook in the embers of a fire and on a stick. We made twists and ate them with jam and chocolate and also toasted marshmallows. We also enjoyed a warm evening by the river

collecting insects, identifying trees and river dipping, although most of the cubs did more than dip themselves in the river!

We were fortunate enough to have the use Sauncey Wood school hall on two occasions this term and run an athletics night on their athletics track. We enjoyed sack races, egg and spoon races, relay and learning how to warm up and down appropriately. Some of our Cubs also attended the Water Activities day for cubs at Fairland Valley Park. As a result of this and their school residential Oran and Lucas gained the new Time on the Water badges. Well done to them!

We finished off the term with a bit of DIY, making key holders and chalkboards. This involved learning about how to use tools safely, paint, glue drill and screw. We hope the cubs finish decorating the boards and key holders over the summer.

We took 23 cubs to Lees Wood District Camp this summer, joining the 3rd, 10th, 9th and 1st.

We enjoyed so many activities and cake!

Cubs could choose what to take part in ranging from shooting, archery, climbing, fire lighting, backwards cooking, treasure hunts and so much more.

Richard took the camp fire and we all enjoyed a sing song, including some of the cubs real favourites.



Lastly thank you to all the parents that have helped us make cubs special this term and we wish all cubs moving on a great time in Scouts. It's the end of Amy and Sam's first year and we really hope they've enjoyed it. Ollie joined us again after his exams and we wish him all the best for his results in August.

Cate, Amy, Sam and Ollie

Tuesday night Scouts – Great Gable

We love the summer term as we can get outdoors a lot more with better weather!!



If you didn't know already, you have very talented Scouts who could definitely practice some of their

skills at home including cooking, DIY, fixing bicycles and first aid to name a few!

There were some real highlights this term. 'Ready steady cook' saw the Scouts spending £5 to make a 2 course meal. We saw some very creative recipes as well as some burnt popcorn and EXTREMELY spicy meatball sauce – however the scouts were amazing and great to see leadership skills and inventive chefs emerging!

Ray joined us to run our DIY evening and the scouts should now be able to drill holes, put up straight shelves, measure accurately and saw wood. The athletics night at Batford Springs bought out the competitive side in our scouts who were very determined to beat their times and distances in running and throwing events.



We were very lucky to have Mortimer's Dad join us for an evening of first aid where he shared his expertise from the ambulance service with us. Patrick then joined us again for our hike in the pouring rain and he had a few accidents on the way which the scouts had to deal with.

The food bank night was a real community night where we joined with beavers and cubs and many families supported the evening providing a trailer full of food so thank you.

We ended with a fun night of rounders in the park which conveniently ended in a draw!

Very sadly we say goodbye to Toby, Miles, Danny and Charlie who are moving to the 5th Scouts who are now ready to start up as a troop of their own. It has been fun having you join us and we wish you all the best in your new adventures.

2nd Harpenden Scouts leaders and young leaders
Chris, Sharon, Jay, Peter, Ben and Gemma

24-25 May

Despite a dodgy forecast and boggy ground, our six senior scouts very successfully completed their expedition challenge on the late May bank-holiday weekend. Jack Allen, Chris Hughes, Jack Chakraverty and Mortimer Brooks were joined by Freddie King and Max Colquhoun who came back from 'retirement' for one last camp.



The challenge requires scouts to hike four hours to a finish point, set up camp, cook and then recover back with a further trek the next day. The success of the event comes not from sticking rigidly to the letter of the challenge, but from using initiative and adapting when things don't quite go to plan.....which invariably they do, this weekend being no exception!

Day 1 involved hiking from Kimpton village north to finish at Great Wymondley, Hitchin. The scouts outdid themselves by reaching checkpoints earlier than expected and finding an alternative route after a 'detour', in part due to a blocked footpath. (so I was told!) The day ended up being 5 hours of walking and a few extra miles. Camp at Radwell Lake offered more water than expected, and the scouts sensibly re-sited their camp in light of a flooded meadow. All went seamlessly, including an impromptu game of footy, until Jack A and Chris' cooking was rudely interrupted by a large hail storm. There weren't too many complaints on the quality of the food however, and spirits remained high as everyone enjoyed a warm fire set up by chief fire-starter Max.



The following morning after a hasty breakfast and a quick(er) exit thanks to an early wake-up call, the scouts even managed to organise a packed lunch for themselves (there were complaints later about tomato ketchup in ham rolls...!) All enjoyed a speedy hike to the finish in Kimpton. Huge thanks to dads, Ian and John for providing the support vehicle for what was a fun and very successful weekend.

Wednesday Night Scouts - Snowdon Chief Scouts

We were delighted to award Chief Scouts Awards to a number of scouts who have worked extremely hard over the years to achieve this accolade: Laura Bayne, Lucy Porter, Emily Knight, Emily Gamble, Cara Wyper and Jo Wharton.

Scouts Flying

A number of lucky scouts were able to experience flying in a 2 man plane at the Cambridge Gliding Centre - and even got the chance to take the controls themselves.



Hydroboarding

A small number of scouts took to the water at the Olympic park in Lee Valley to experience Hydroboarding and splashed their way around the course.

Three Expeditions

Three separate groups of scouts organised their own

expeditions, which required them planning two four hour hikes (over two consecutive days) as well as an overnight camp.

Term Activities

During the term scouts worked on a range of badges – meteorologist, cycling, photography, hobbies as well as their Expedition and Creativity challenges.

The scouts built their own water-based crafts and raced them down the river and at the end of the term the scouts had more fun at the river with a range of water based fun – with some scouts getting a lot wetter than others!!

We had a pleasant evening hike, a talk from Steve Hynes about bike maintenance and put the framework in place to create our first yearbook.

Jeff, Sharon, Pete and Mike

Looking forward to another great year for the 2nd Harpenden Scout Group.

Best regards

Phil Murray, Group Scout Leader
2nd Harpenden Scout Group
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