

Thursday Beavers Annual Report 2011

Thursday Beavers increased in numbers significantly around the time of the AGM last June. Lisa and Karen continued to organise a variety of activities. The Beavers ticked off some of the requirements for their Global Challenge badge with an American evening to celebrate July 4th and sticking with the International theme, an Italian evening. Pitching tents, learning to tie some simple knots and cooking on an open fire all counted towards their Outdoor Challenge. Putting the Beaver noise to good use, they also learnt some new campfire songs - preparing for any opportunities to join in a good campfire sing-a-long.

At the last AGM, I announced that I would be finishing as Group Scout Leader and would be taking a back seat helping with the Beavers. That idea went out in the window during the summer, as Lisa announced that her job was taking her back to London. She finished on a fabulous event, as 4 Beavers attended the day visit to the Chamboree 2010 International camp where the Cubs and Scouts were both camping. They were able to take part in an internationally themed Scouts Own service, do numerous activities, see the Knights jousting display and have a campfire. All this as well as joining in the recording breaking session of wobble boarding - all recorded for prosperity and available for viewing on UTube!

We returned in September, I took over as Beaver Leader and Karen having had her arm twisted, as Assistant Beaver Leader. The Beavers completed their Explore badge and some of their Outdoor and Global Challenge by learning about the Country Code which they put into use when tracking and trailing in the woods. Mathew and James gained the Bronze Chief Scout Award, our first at Thursday Beavers to gain the award. During the term we did activities towards all the challenge badges by doing a number of different things. Trying fruits from around the world, visiting St Lukes hospice, making musical instruments, playing detectives, learning about disabilities, making present boxes, meeting retired greyhounds, having a fireworks display, making healthy snacks and learning about road safety are some of them. Most of the Beavers also gained their Imagination badge after some monster mania.

In addition to our Thursday nights, we also participated in the District Handicrafts competition and their Christmas party. We didn't win anything, but had plenty of fun and learnt some new games. Some of the Beavers paraded for the first time though the village for Remembrance Sunday. Another first, for us leaders as well as the Beavers, was our sleepover. We went to Burwardsley for our night away and had a fantastic time. The Beavers made Christmas decorations for the Scout Hut, made cookies for their supper and had a roaring campfire on a chilling evening. We read the Beaver story as they snuggled into sleeping bags and amazingly, they all had a good nights sleep! We woke up to snow in the morning, but still went out for our hike after breakfast. The Beavers made themselves some healthy sandwiches for lunch and we enjoyed some parachute games before going home, having gained some more badges for their sleeves.

2011 started with a celebration of 25 years of Beaver Scouting and we have a few events associated with this planned during the year. Although we have plenty of fun at Beavers, we also teach new skills, do community work and experience new things. New skills the Beavers

have learnt include First Aid, when we completed the stage 1 badge and some basic map and compass. Parents can now expect a nice cuppa at the end of the day, as the Beavers can all now safely make a hot drink! You may have seen us in the local paper when we did some seed growing for a local MacMillan fundraiser for our community work. We've also completed a litter pick in the village, learnt about Fairtrade products, found out about the Shelterbox charity and managed to raise some funds for both Shelterbox and MacMillan. The Beavers have also experienced several new things this year. Holding snakes and other exotic pets when we visited Repti-Realm and meeting more animals when we visited Pets at Home. Tasted different foods from around the world and got creative for Mothers Day. We met some local pilots, made paper and model aeroplanes, had a go at a flying game and found out where everyone had flown to for the Air Activities badge. Easter was very late this year, but the Beavers still had fun with an egg hunt and other egg activities. Utilising skills within the Group, Kieran from Scouts came to demonstrate and teach Ju Jitsu. Callum and Oliver both gained their Bronze Award during the term

We've also been busy at weekends. A number of the Beavers went to see the village pantomime in January and the Gang Show in February. A team entered the District Challenge competition in March and some of us went to the District presentation afternoon for our awards. The most exciting news this year was the move from Scouting HQ that Beavers can now go on camp - we booked ours within days of the notice being issued! We joined the Scouts at the end of their hike for the Jamboree On The Trail, learnt how torches work, cooked sausages on an open fire, played a wide game, had a campfire and cooked twists on the fire afterwards. For some of the Beavers it was their first night away from parents and they all camped out in the tents with no problems at all. In the morning, they made their own fruit kebabs for breakfast and then went on the rope course before our Scouts Own service and packing away. The smiles throughout showed how much the Beavers enjoyed this adventure!

We have a parents rota running on a Thursday night and this means that parents get to see a little of what we do. As leaders, a lot of time and effort goes in to running every section, but when you summarise the year in a report like this, it highlights how many experiences the Beavers have had throughout the year. I believe this contributes to their personal development and I am therefore very proud of all the achievements that have been made at Thursday Beavers and my thanks go to everyone who has helped to make this happen.

Becky Womersley
Thursday Beaver Leader