



FERNHURST SCOUT GROUP

Newsletter – July 2009



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End of Term Report!

By now you should all be enjoying the summer break and we wish everyone a relaxing (or exciting) time!

Our AGM in June was well attended and proved to be a fun evening for all (young and old) who attended. We have reproduced the section reports here which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

Beavers

Over the year we have kept at a constant eighteen members with all that are eligible moving up to Cubs having achieved their Bronze Chief Scout Award through the weekly programme and some work at home.

We have had an active programme, with lots of outside happenings, both around the hut and further afield. Many varied badges, both challenge and activities have been achieved over the year.

Eleven members attended BAZZAZ in June, a county organised activity day. The District provided a coach to get us to and from Cranleigh which was very much appreciated. Many thanks to Tom and Julian for joining us also.

Louise Buchanan is returning as our Beaver leader, and Helen Marston is going to have a go at being a helper!! I would like to pass my thanks on to Sarah Poland and Catriona Gibbon for their continued support of me and the Beavers! Sarah has been a fantastic member of the team, and has made my life easier with her ideas and preparation for activities.

Catriona has been helping with the Beavers as part of her Community Challenge for the Scouts, and has continued doing this after completing her challenge.



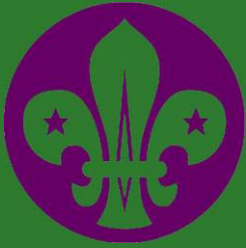
Many thanks to all the parents who have helped over the year, both behind the scenes, helping with programme planning and preparing resources, and at the weekly meetings and activities.

Sue Gibbon

Cubs

Our numbers have stayed high throughout the year. We are close to our maximum of 26 members, and with those due to move up from Beavers in the next couple of terms we are likely to achieve this shortly.

This year we have been fortunate to have the help of Bronze award DofE participants who have thrown themselves into helping the pack and have proved both helpful and popular with the Cubs. We would like to thank Kirstie, Charlotte, Jake, George, Kaitlin and Agnes and wish them well with the remainder of their award work.



One of the highlights of the year was our hosting of the Muir Trophy, a district challenge involving a hike and a variety of activities that the Cubs complete in teams of four.

Pack activities this year have combined craft activities such as making bird feeders and paper planes with traditional scout activities such as map reading and knots, which was led by our DofE helpers.

We have held two camps; one for Sixers early this year, and our main group camp at Broadstone Warren in May where activities including Karting, Archery and a taste of pot-holing!



Our leadership team has changed this year, we saw the departure of Sam and Liz in December, a sad moment for me as they helped restart the pack with me some 9 years ago. I miss them and wish them well.

I would like to extend a big thank you to John Martin who continues to bring a great deal of experience and guidance to the pack and also to Steve Shellswell, father of Toby, who has been coming nearly every week and has led a number of activities. Thanks must also go to all the parents who have helped over the year and to all the Cubs for their continued enthusiasm and regular attendance.

Chris Lloyd

Scouts

The past year has been a good one for the Scout section at Fernhurst. Numbers are up at 19, a record high since the troop re-formed 6 years ago. That is made up of 13 lads and 6 girls.

We have run an active programme, trying to be outdoors whenever possible. We took part in the Group Family camp in September, followed by our own bivouac camp in a local wood in October.

The idea was to spend a day building shelters and sleep out in them. Luckily the rain didn't start until we had built them, but when it started it did really rain and we had fun in the early hours when one of the shelters became un-usable.

We also took part in a joint camp with the Cubs at Broadstone Warren in May. The activities here included archery, a high ropes cube, rock climbing and sleeping out under the stars.



We have just completed another bivouac camp and later in August we have 7 Scouts plus Leaders going to Kandersteg International Scout Camp, in Switzerland, for a week of activities.

We have had multiple badges awarded and have two of the older Scouts close to getting their Chief Scout Gold Award, the highest in the Scout Section.

Dave Gibbon



Group Camp 2009

As the section reports have mentioned, the Cubs and Scouts held their annual camp this year at Broadstone Warren near East Grinstead. For several Cubs this was their first camp so we asked Max Beckett what he thought of it. Here is his report:

My first Cub Camp was brilliant. Dad and I arrived on the Saturday morning which was activity day. We did loads of things but I especially liked the climbing wall, the low ropes and the pot holing. For lunch we had to make our own sandwiches and I made a bit too many!

More activities happened in the afternoon, and after a great day my Daddy cooked the barbeque. Lots of sausages and burgers. Yum.



Later on we had a campfire and we sang lots of funny and silly songs. It was dark when we went to bed and there were five boys in my tent. We all slept really well but got up a bit early.

Breakfast was a big bowl of Rice Crispies and croissants.

After breakfast we went in teams orienteering and we got lost on the way and got back late but was lots of fun. Later on we had a closing ceremony and after that we all helped to pack up. Dad and I got home very tired and a bit dirty(!) but I had a fantastic time and can't wait for the next camp.

As Max mentioned, his Dad Simon also joined the camp as a parent helper, here is his report of events:

A weekend well spent!

It was 35 years since my last Cub camp so I had trouble finding my ground sheet and woggle but eventually all was in order and off I set to Broadstone Warren with Max to join the rest of the Pack. We were blessed with great weather and a beautiful campsite beneath the trees in the heart of the Ashdown Forest. Over the next couple of days I re-learnt many of those old skills such as orienteering, archery and how to deal with severe sleep deprivation on a 1 in 4 slope!

The camp ran like a well oiled machine thanks to the brilliant organisation of Sue, Dave, Chris, Tracey and a good few others who all pitched in. Sarah was the most popular member of camp as Chief Chef and in control of food distribution ably supported by the BBQ crew who supplied industrial quantities of burgers and sausages on Saturday night.

Activities at Broadstone were first class and no one was at a loose end for two days. The climbing wall and low ropes were pretty challenging but keeping the Go Karts on the track was impossible!

It was great to see that the old traditions of songs around the campfire (with a good dose of lavatorial lyrics) is still going strong - by that time few of the kids were recognisable from the clean shiny faced youngsters delivered the day before. Stig of the Dump crossed my mind on the odd occasion.

My abiding memory of the weekend will be of lots of noise and happy, smiling (dirty) and very tired faces by Sunday afternoon. See you next year!

GSL report from AGM

Another exciting year for Fernhurst Scout Group!

To finish off our Centenary year of 2008 the group held an Open Day at Fernhurst Village Hall to which we invited leaders and members from the past to join us. It was a very successful day, and we were also able to open the headquarters for all to see.

In December two of our leaders received long service awards – Dave Gibbon for 20 years service, and James Bicknell for 5 years.

The New Year meant work to the hut, with a new ramp being built, and thanks to Reg Parkhouse for his support with this. Whilst working to remove the old ramp with the help of parents we also cleared the stream which had been flooding. Also we had a spring cleaning session in April where a number of members and their parents came along to sweep, burn, sort and clean in and around the hut. Many thanks for all the help.

The Revels this year was not as successful as in the past, with £350 raised on the BBQ. This was due to the weather, but that is beyond our control!

May also meant Group Camp – and some fantastic weather! Details are in the section reports but I would also like to extend my thanks the parents who supported and of course to the leaders.

Again this year we collected Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers. Thanks to your support we have been able to order 4 three-man tents from Sainsbury's.

We have very good support from most of our parents at the weekly meetings for Beavers, and occasional help for the Cubs but we need more!! The Executive Committee likes to have at least one representative from each section, and after the summer this will not be. All our parents are welcome to join the committee, but we are particularly looking for Beaver parents, please consider this and speak to me for more information. We have had a member of the local community who has joined the Exec - Elaine Woods (who was the Beaver leader a number of years ago).

Finally many thanks to the Marriners for the use of their field. It is a fantastic setting and very much appreciated.

Sue Gibbon

Treasurer's Report from AGM

Anna Francis has offered to continue as our Treasurer for the next year.

She reported that over the last year there was a net increase in funds of £100. A massive total of £3000 was raised through fund raising; a grant of £150 was received from Fernhurst Parish Council and hire of tables accounted for £190. In March the showing of the film, Return of the Jedi by Fernhurst Films raised £380.

The major expenditure has been the new ramp at the hut.

Back to Scouts . . .

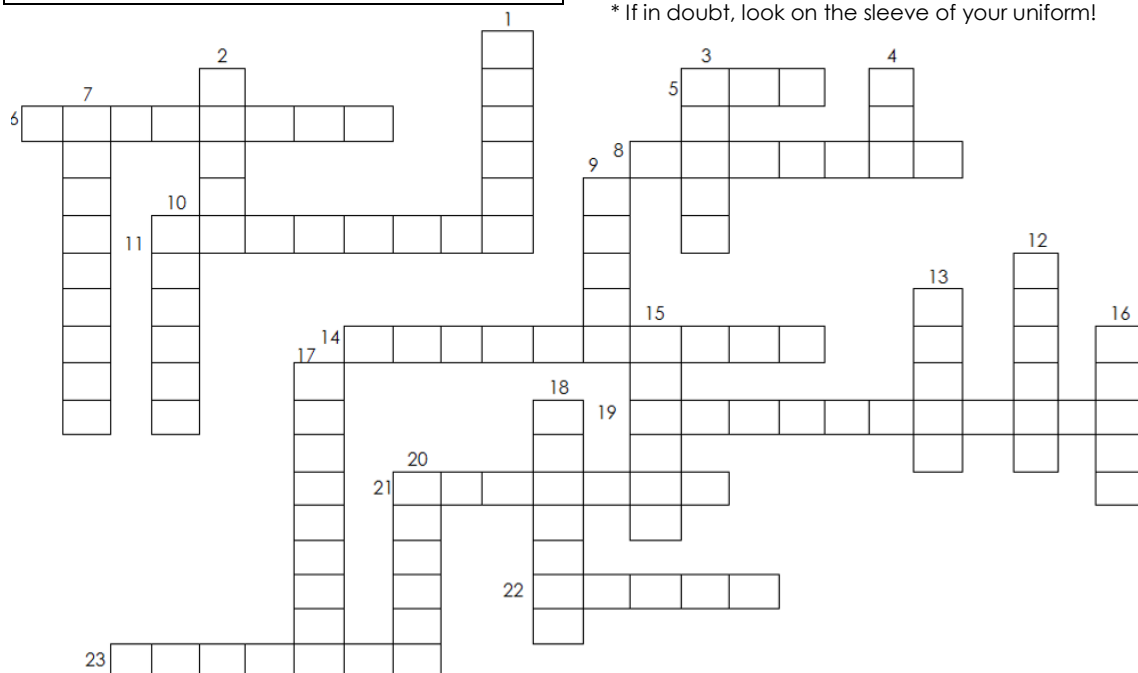
Sections start again in September on the following dates:

Beavers Thursday 17th September, 5-6pm

Cubs Wednesday 16th September, 7-8.30pm

Scouts PLs and APLs only: Mon 7th September

All - Monday 14th September, 7.30-9pm



Summer Crossword

Across

- 5 To do my duty to ___
- 6 One of the first knots you learn to tie
- 8 A weekend activity that Cubs and Scouts do
- 11 Something we have at night at camp
- 14 The highest award you can get in Scouting
- 19 He started Scouting in 1907
- 21 Something you can sleep in, in the woods
- 22 What we wear around our neck
- 23 The youngest Scout section

Down

- 1 Used to keep Scarf on
- 2 Who is the Leader of the Pack
- 3 We do _____ at the beginning and end of each Cub meeting
- 4 ___ and Friends is the Beaver Motto
- 7 What section do you go to after Scouts
- 9 Something you might need at a Camp
- 10 A group of Beaver Scouts
- 12 Fernhurst is part of _____ County Scouts*
- 13 A collection of Scouts
- 15 And to keep the _____
- 16 The bear's name in Jungle Book
- 17 Fernhurst Scouts are part of _____ District*
- 18 I _____ to do my best
- 20 Something you can earn at Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

* If in doubt, look on the sleeve of your uniform!

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Our Troop have decided to join the Midhurst Scout Association. This means that we shall probably enter for various competitions with the Scouts of the Midhurst district.

Dr. Duke has most kindly promised to give the Scouts instruction in First Aid, commencing after the Christmas holidays.

A valuable addition to the Scouts' Equipment, in the form of water bottles, have been promised by Mr. Salvin.

It is proposed that the money collected by the Scouts' Carol Singers shall go towards the purchase of drums for the Scouts' Fife and Drum Band that is being trained by Mr. Puttick. Mr. Puttick reports that good progress is being made.

Twelve Scouts have walked a distance of fifteen miles or over, being one of the tests for qualifying as a first-class Scout. Seven lads have been admitted as "Tender Feet," and are receiving instruction. If these lads qualify as second-class Scouts, we shall have to provide them with uniform, the cost for each lad being about ten shillings.

Reprinted from the Parish News January 1911

As you can see, a lot of activities have stayed the same in almost 100 years, although reports that we are about to start a Fife and Drum Band have been greatly exaggerated!!!!

If you have any interesting articles on Scouting in Fernhurst which would be suitable for publication here please email sueanddave_gibbon@talktalk.net or send contributions to 40 West Close, Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 3JT