

FERNHURST SCOUT GROUP

Newsletter – July 2010



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Happy Holidays!

The summer term is always the most exciting one of the year for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as we get the chance to venture outside, sleep under canvas and generally get wet – although they aren't all necessarily linked! Several of our young members have written articles on what they have been doing this term and you'll find them in this newsletter.

The end of each term usually sees us saying goodbye to our oldest Scouts but this term we also must say goodbye to one of our valuable leaders, Louise Buchanan. Louise will leave an enormous gap in the Beaver colony but we hope to find one or two people who are willing to take over and share the load. Please see the advert at the end of this newsletter and speak to anyone you think may be interested.

Parent Helpers

Both the Beavers and Cubs will be making more use of parents in future with a regular parents' rota for meetings, when you will be asked to help with activities, and to support the leaders. Beavers will also be asking parents to help with the planning process, giving all parents the opportunity to get involved by some means or other with the running of the group.

With both these sections, please note when you have been asked to help (and note it can be either parent) and if it is not possible to be there either let the leader know as soon as you can, or swap with another parent (and let the leader know).

Moving On

We have two Beavers moving up to Cubs after the summer; Jude and Max. We also have five Cubs moving up to Scouts; Tom, Rose, Aaron, Eloise and Toby. We wish them all the best and hope they enjoy their new section in Fernhurst Scout Group.

Two of our Scouts are also moving on, having reached the grand old age of 14!! Emily and Josie are hoping to continue their Scouting with Pegasus Explorer Scout Unit based at Camelsdale in September. Again we wish them all the best in their future Scouting.

Autumn Term

We wish everyone a great summer holiday and would like to remind parents and our members when their sections restart in September:

Beavers – Thursday 9th September

Cubs – Wednesday 8th September

Scouts – Monday 6th September

Secondhand Uniform

We still have various items of secondhand uniform and other activity wear. If you would like to see the list, or you have any items you would like to pass on, please contact me on fernurst.scout.group@google.co.uk



New Meeting Time for Beavers

Due to work and family commitments Sue will need to change the meeting time for Beavers. As yet she is not sure whether the timing will be 5pm to 6pm or 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Beaver parents, if you haven't let Sue know already please advise her as to which you prefer, and she will take your comments into consideration.

Beavers Go Hiking!

One Sunday in May several of the Beavers and their families met up on Woolbedding Common for a two hour hike. It was a cool day, but stayed dry for us. The main purpose of the hike was to allow several of our Beavers to achieve their Stage 1 Hikes Away activity badge - which they succeeded in doing. Further Beavers added to their total of hikes completed and are working towards their Stage 2.



The photo shows us all admiring the pigs that are kept on the common, and caused quite a lot of interest from the Beavers, and their parents.

Hikes Away Challenges are what is known as a Staged Activity Badge. To gain Stage 1 you need to complete one hike, to get Stage 2 you need to complete five hikes, and Stage 3 ten hikes. Sounds easy, but it gets more complicated because depending on which section you are part of you need to complete different lengths of hikes! Beavers need to walk for over 2 hours, Cubs over three hours and Scouts over four! With so much great countryside around us it isn't difficult to find different routes for us and the Beavers and Scouts are hope to plan at least one hike each term.



Camping at Runways End

For this year's Cub camp our Cubs joined forces with Hindhead and Churt and returned to Runways End Campsite near Farnborough Airfield. Fantastic weather again ensured a great time was had by all, for many of the Cubs this was their first time camping away from home.



Oliver Jones recounts:

"Cub camp was brilliant! There were lots of fun activities to do. We did kayaking, zip wire, and archery. My favourite was kayaking. It was fun sharing a tent with my friends. The food was lovely. We were lucky it was sunny. We went to bed really late and woke up really early. Singing around the campfire was fun. I would like to go again. I fell asleep on the way home in my Dad's van."

SCRAM 2010

Legend has it that SCRAM stands for "Surrey Cubs Run A-Mock" – and this is certainly what it looked like as the gates opened for this year's Cub Fun Day at Cranleigh Showground on Saturday 19th June and two thousand Cub Scouts came running into the arena!

From go-karting and obstacle courses to bungee running and cooking, the young people were able to try something new, in a safe environment and make new friends at the same time.

During the lunchtime break the Cubs were privileged to take part in a falconry display which included an owl flying over a line of Cubs as they laid down on the grass!



Two Cubs from Fernhurst, Jack Gibbs and Louis Fuller, give their account of the day:

“Scram was great fun!!! There were lots of Cubs and we went by coach to get there. We were allowed to wander around without adults.

There was a very popular ride called Wipeout, it went really high and you were strapped into a chair while it went round and round, the first time it's scary but the second time it's fun - the queues were humongous! There was a very good slide that was long and high and you got in a sledge and slid down it, it was really exciting. There was a fun house that moved when you got to top - this was really good. There were lots of other rides. SCRAM was great!!! We were very tired by the time we got home.”

Surrey County Scouts organise fun days for Scouts, Cub and Beavers on a three year rota. Next year the Scouts spend the weekend at Ardingly showground at Scoutabout and the year after the Beavers have the chance to attend Bazzaz.

Scouts Muir trophy

In June the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders represented the Troop in the District Scout competition for the Muir trophy. The event consisted of a series of challenges including fire lighting, tent pitching, first aid, and brain teasers.

The team was unable to retain the trophy which they won last year, but did come a creditable second out of six.

The trophy presented was a new version of the old one which was so old it had become an antique and had no room on the back to add any more winners' names! The new trophy had been created by our Beaver helper, Sarah Poland, and Fernhurst have the honour of being the first name on the back, having won the trophy last year.



Scouts Go Mountain Boarding!

Here is Cameron Gibbon's report of a very hot afternoon spent Mountain Boarding:

“On Saturday 26th June twelve Scouts and three adults went Mountain Boarding at Haredown near East Dean. Mountain Boarding is skateboarding with big wheels, down a hillside, wearing padding on elbows, knees, hands and a helmet, but that doesn't stop it from hurting when you fall off! I enjoyed it, until I fell off, which didn't take long, but continued trying, not to fall off, but to mountain board. We were given a lesson on how to start, go safely down a hill, and how to stop, by steering up the hill. We then had free time to crash, fall off and generally have fun. I would like to go again, and hopefully not to fall off as much this time.”



And here is a report by Freddie Knott of the Scouts' recent camp at Phasels Wood, Hertfordshire:

We all arrived at the car park at about ten o'clock. We played there for a bit and waited for everyone to come, and then we set off on the journey. It took about an hour and a half for us to get there in the car. James was driving, with Josh, me, Emily, Josie, Cameron and Will all packed in like sardines. On the way, we went under a bridge and saw graffiti which said 'Give Peas a Chance', which we all thought was funny.



When we got to the camp it was bucketing with rain (it wasn't raining buckets sadly). We sat down and started our lunch which our mum or dad made.

Our first activity was rock climbing but it wasn't really - it was a metallic wall which moved forward and back and it was really hard. After that we had two hours to go to the tuck shop or relax, then at tea time we had spaghetti bolognese. When I was washing up my plate, spoon and fork, my knife gave me a cut and it would not stop bleeding - I've still got a scar on my finger. I was in a tent with Matthew who loves trains and talked about them A LOT, and then there was Tristan and me. The first night we were so tired that we went straight to sleep but the second night we (especially Matthew) were not in the mood for sleeping so we stayed up all night and had a midnight feast. And the next day we had lots more activities like mountain sledging, archery and so on, but the funniest thing of all was the water park - there were lots of water slides and ones which went outside but best of all there was the space bowl - it was . . . AMAZING! You went outside round a sharp bend until you came into the bowl which looked like a plug, and you went round and round and round until you got sucked into a pool of water at the bottom. There was another slide where you got into a pool and you literally went down a waterfall and me and lots of other people went down that including the scout leaders. That was my favourite part but sadly it had to come to an end.

When we got back to camp it was a nice day so we packed up our tents (with quite a lot of help) and then we hit the road. On the way back we played sweet or sour to pass the time - in the whole journey we had 27 sweet people and 49 sour people. When we got back to the car park we met our mums or dads and they talked to the leaders for a while, and then we said thank you and then we set off home. I've never been so tired in my life!!!



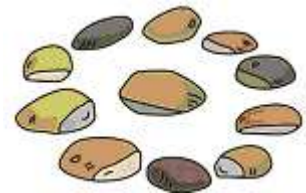
Wet 'n' Wild Wide Game

The Scouts' penultimate meeting of the term was a joint one with the other Troops from Haslemere District. Here is Duncan Codd's report of the evening:

"We knew by the fact that our parents had been advised to bring plastic sheeting for us to sit on for the way home that we'd get wet tonight, but we didn't realise how wet! I am sure my weight doubled with all the water that my clothes managed to soak up during the event!

The evening was spent trying to collect different coloured water in beakers from the Explorer Scouts hiding all over Marley Common. One group of Explorers managed to hide themselves so well that no one found them all evening - we hope they're not still out there!!!

I will never forget the look on our parents' faces when they came to collect us in their shiny (and dry) cars!



Ash Wingate

Very sadly, Ash Wingate, father of one of our Scouts Emily Collins-Wingate died suddenly on the morning of Saturday 3rd July 2010.

Ash had been a Cub leader in 1st Easebourne Scout Group for some years and was a keen supporter of Fernhurst Scout Group.

Our thoughts are with Emily, mum Jayne and the rest of the family as they begin to come to terms with their loss.

Diary Dates

11-12 September	Fernhurst Furnace
18-19 September	Family Camp, Fernhurst
25 September	District Cub outing to Hollycombe
9 October	Night Hike for older Scouts



Crisis at Fernhurst Scout Group – message from the Group Scout Leader

For various reasons, the numbers of our leaders at Fernhurst Scout Group has reduced over the first part of this year, and some sections of the Group may now have to close due to lack of uniformed leaders.

As many of our Beaver parents already know, Louise Buchanan has decided that she is unable to continue as leader of the Beaver colony from September, and, over the last few weeks, an urgent hunt for a new leader has begun. Unfortunately no one has come forward yet, and as a result I will be standing in as Beaver leader for next term. This also means that if someone decides to take up the challenge, I will be there to support them over the term. I cannot continue as the permanent Beaver leader however as I already have work commitments in addition to being Group Scout Leader.

Also, as had been previously reported, the Cub pack is low in leaders, and this has been particularly obvious since Chris Lloyd, or Baloo as the Cubs know him, had to take a few weeks off to have a hip replacement. John Martin, or Kaa, who is Chris's assistant, was able to continue, which was excellent for the Cubs as John has many years of valuable experience as a leader (as shown by his recent awards for 50 years service to Scouting and a Silver Wolf for continuous outstanding service). But, this does show us all that we need more leaders urgently. Ideally we should have at least two uniformed leaders per section.

Both the Beavers and Cubs have regular helpers, who have made a commitment but are not able to go into uniform, or are too young, and we do appreciate this, and the time they give up to the group. Helen Marston, Sarah Poland and Nick Davison help regularly with Beavers, and Catriona Gibbon is a young leader with them. Agnes Bacon is a young leader with the Cubs and Ellen Hayward is staying on for another term as a helper for her Duke of Edinburgh award.

Without volunteer leaders, both in uniform and regular helpers Scouting would not happen, and we have become a strong and popular group within Haslemere District and the Fernhurst community and it would be a shame to have to close due to lack of adult support. I do appreciate some people do not feel happy working with young people, but there is always something for parents to do outside the regular meetings if you feel this is you. For example looking after the hut and the land around the hut.

Without your support in whatever way is possible this popular and thriving group will not continue for much longer as it is. Please consider how you can support us, and think if you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a leader, with any section. If you would like to find out more, whether for yourself or for someone else please contact me at fernhurst.scout.group@google.co.uk

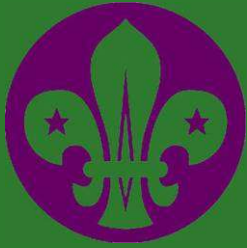
Sue Gibbon, Group Scout Leader

Fernhurst Scout Group

www.fernhurst.net/scouts

Ropes Lane
Fernhurst
Haslemere
Surrey

Tel : 01428 645979



Family Camp

1pm Saturday 18th September
until
1pm Sunday 19th September

Fernhurst Furnace site

Come along for just part of the day or bring your tent and camp for the whole weekend

Our AGM will be held at 6.30pm followed by a BBQ

Games and activities for the whole family

£10 per adult, £5 per child (under 3 free) – includes all food

For further details or to reserve your place please email

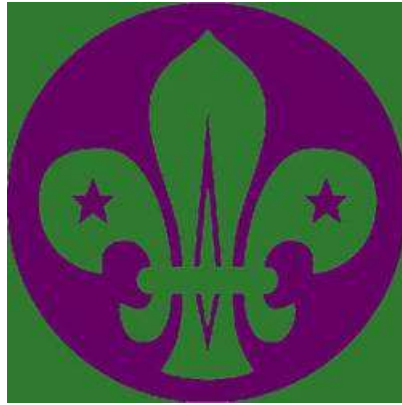
fernhurst.scout.group@google.co.uk or call

Sue on 645979 or Liz on 722037

Fernhurst Scout Group
www.fernhurst.net/scouts

Ropes Lane
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Your Scout Group Needs You!



FERNHURST SCOUT GROUP URGENTLY NEEDS LEADERS

Full Training Given ~ Free Uniform

If you think you can help, or know someone else who may be interested please contact:

Sue Gibbon, Group Scout Leader on 01428 645979 or
Email fernhurst.scout.group@google.co.uk