



July Newsletter 2023

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GSL's Report

Welcome everybody.

By the time you read this, you should have received the notification that we are about to raise our subscriptions from September 1st, the first time in almost 10 years. Needless to say, this decision was not taken lightly, and is due to spiralling costs of fuel badges and all resources. If this does cause financial stress, please contact me confidentially, we do not want to lose anybody (and those in most financial need, usually are the more deserving cases). Please also remember that all of our leaders are volunteers and do this for free... none of it has gone on a pay rise!

At our Annual General Meeting in September our long serving Group Treasurer Richard will be retiring, Richard has been with us for over 25 years when his son first joined the group, a huge service to the group and many happy memories...wearing little more than a nappy and turban, painted Blue as Aladdin! George will be taking on the role and we will be looking to ratify this at our AGM in September. We really could do with a couple more current parents on our Executive committee, this is the small Group that ensures we are still legal, insured, the building doesn't fall down and that the leaders have enough money to run programmes. We meet once a month for about an hour and a half, please see Mick for details.

We will be trying to keep our summer closures to a minimum during July and August. Closure dates will be circulated via whatsapp pages and posted on the noticeboard. Please let your child's section leader know when your child will not be attending, there is nothing worse than planning and giving up an evening only for 4 children to turn up. We do not charge subs for August, so this is a freebie!

Pop up Uniform and badge shop. Jo, our badge secretary is running a shop once or twice a month at 15th Nuneaton, Back of Asda car park (see sheet in Foyer) where you can order your child's uniform. You can also order direct from Jo via the QR code. You get free delivery, we get the profits! All profits are ploughed straight back into Scouting in Nuneaton, at the moment we're using this to train leaders on adventurous activities such as Axe Throwing, Rifle shooting, Archery, Hill walking, Kayaking etc.

And finally, we don't like labels on our children, they're all individuals...but we do want labels on their kit... you know drinks bottles, hats, neckers, jumpers etc, with the warm weather here, there will be changes of clothes, wet towels, water pistols, blah blah blah you know where I'm coming from!

Have a great Summer,

Mick.

Group Scout Leader

Monday Beavers

It's said on a popular Saturday Night TV Takeaway show that the 'best minute of the week' happens when the show is on - sometime between 7pm and 8.30pm. At Monday Beavers we say that the best 75 minutes of every week happens between 5.15pm & 6.30pm (with maybe a little extra time for messiness and other adventures elsewhere ...!)

Monday Beavers have, as usual, had an awesome time since our last news update – we've worked hard, played lots, completed challenges, been on adventures and learned a myriad of new skills - and we are all still smiling !

Despite the run of Bank Holidays (always on a Monday), it hasn't stopped us from getting on with being great Beavers, We've completed our Musician, Experiment, Book Reader, Time On The Water and Health & Fitness badges – as well as achieving credits towards our Challenge Awards. Super well done all Beavers – at our recent badge ceremony we awarded a whopping 74 badges!



After chocolaty fun crafts and games at Easter, we transformed ourselves into dragon slaying knights to mark St Georges Day – designing masks, swords and of course creating the infamous dragon before friendly battle commenced! We also enjoyed marking the occasion on our District's parade at Riversley Park – huge thanks to Dobby for organising our sword and to all parents and children who were able to come along and support us.



We've enjoyed looking at healthy eating slightly differently by making fruity kebabs using a syringe - and making a healthy edible flower 'card' (brilliant imagination and mostly devoured before home time so they must have been good !).



For fitness, we studied our heart rate, firstly with a marshmallow on our pulse point, and then with some relay games. We then enjoyed a brilliant evening with a football coach from a local club who put us through all sorts of paces and basically got all of us a bit healthier and a bit fitter!



Naturally, the opportunity to celebrate the King's coronation was a great excuse to be creative and make more crafty mess - so we decorated crowns, designed coronation badges, created royal paper chains in teams, and then ate lots of party food before some musical Royal games. A fantastic last minute Bank Holiday evening – we all loved it.



Our Day visit to District Camp was just amazing with lots of brand new experiences for our Beavers – Climbing, axe throwing, archery, backwoods cooking, canoes, water obstacles, inflatables, tackling the giant spider web and rifle shooting were huge hits (as was a tree climbing obsession with our Monday ninjas !). HUGE thank you to our leaders & parents who joined us to help ensure the day was such a memorable & wonderful adventure for the children.



A trip to the library saw us start our Book Reader badge - learning about how to care for books and enjoying some of our favourite authors, as well as getting to design our own bookmarks. Story time from Carol was just brilliant and the children were fabulous joining in as we heard her bring to life a wonderful Julia Donaldson story.

We then got stuck into more creative crafting for Father's Day – hope all the super heroes we chose as recipients loved what we did as much as the children loved making them!

We've said goodbye to Beavers who are moving to new and awesome adventures in Cubs, and we've welcomed new Beavers to our Colony whose Scouting adventures are only just beginning. Super well done to Connor and Harry who achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze - you've worked really hard in the two years you were with us and we could not be more proud of you.

Over the next few months, we are looking forward to more Beaver learning and more new badges. In August, our program will be slightly reduced due to Leader holidays – but please rest assured that we have lots of activities and adventures planned for the next term – including our Sleepover. Watch our section emails and Whatsapp group for the latest updates.

Thank you as always for the exceptional support and involvement our Leader team gets from our parent / carer group. We really do appreciate it.

Very Best wishes from your Monday Beaver Leader Team

(Tic Tac, Dobby, Chip, Hawkeye, Bubbles & Chatter)

** All pics of our adventures and activities are posted on our private parent Whatsapp group **

Monday Cubs

This term we have been working on our outdoors badge, learning how to build fires (including toasting some marshmallows, which were a hit with the cubs!).

As with most of the group, we have been on our first night away of the year with our visit to district camp, here the cubs got to take part of lots of key scout activities including archery, backwoods cooking, climbing and rifle shooting.

Unfortunately we didn't manage to get on the water at camp so Akela organised for us to go kayaking at Five Ways Lakes with Kev! The cubs had a wonderful evening on the water, as they always do!

This term we have also covered some local history alongside our Easter crafts, and preparations for the King's coronation which saw us designing some bunting which we have included within our display on wall at the HQ!

After the Coronation, we did our part of the Big Help Out and undertook some litter picking in the local park for a couple of hours! In just one sweep of the park we filled three bin liners of rubbish which had been littered, after all that hard work we had a quick play in the park before we headed back to the HQ to our waiting parents.. only a few minutes late 😊

We have also designed our own 'Positivity Rocks' and painted some positive affirmations on rocks, which we planned to leave at Hartshill Hayes along the trail for others to find... however the cubs decided they would like to take them home so we did that instead.

At our trip to Hartshill Hayes we instead identified different trees with their leaves, and Max even used some sticks and twigs to show us some tracking symbols.

This term we have said hello to Connor, Harry and Cassie.

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With Rusty (Dave) off at Stonehenge for the summer solstice, we decided we would look at the history of Stonehenge and the summer solstice celebration. Taking the barrows and also pitches, the troop all took it in turns to transport heavy objects across the back of the HQ using the rolling method. Basically, putting the heavy object on top of the rollers and pushing it across whilst also moving the end rollers around to the front. We additionally used Jenga bricks to build replicas of Stonehenge - however the scouts were blind folded to add a little challenge!

The quarter also marked a special occasion for a number of troops leaders as they were presented with some awards from our District Commissioner.

Matt – 5 years' service award

Iain – 10 years' service award

Robert – 15 years' service award

Skip – Award for Merit

Lastly the troop welcomed new members Ben, Albie and Vinnie who have joined from cubs and sadly said goodbye to Charlie and Will.

Tuesday Night Scout Leaders



Explorers

Hi All

Well, Summer seems to have arrived!

April began with the District Target Shooting competition which involved both Archery and Air Rifle Shooting. We had three members attend to represent 1st Nuneaton and Dillon won both the Archery Section and the overall prize. We had an evening playing Human Battleships where the unit split into three teams and positioned themselves on grids. They took it in turns to call out co-ordinates and as each person was 'hit' they had to sit down. The last man standing won the point for their team.



We had our obligatory Pub Games Night in April.

To round April off, we sent the unit on a 'Penny Hike'. This was where each team had a coin and had to flip it every time they came to a junction. Before the coin was flipped, they had to decide which direction was heads and which was tails and then follow the instruction based on the flip.

With District Camp looming, we took the opportunity of the good weather to do some tent pitching and striking. It's amazing how well they can pitch a tent but taking it down and getting it back in the bag tidily is a different matter. We did a bit of navigation, working on bearings and once we had covered a bit of the theory, the unit went out in groups to plan a route for one of the other groups to follow. As they failed to put distances on the route plan we have yet to use these plans.

One night in May they all got a takeaway and had a board games night. We were asked if they could bring Cards Against Humanity, but as we meet on the same night as Scouts this was denied.



Kerrie ran a Saturday event to make Campstove donuts. This went down well with those attending and very tasty they were too.

James's last night as an Explorer was spent Air Rifle shooting. Thank you to Mick for running this. James continues to come to the HQ on a Wednesday evening but now as a Scout Leader. The unit will miss you.

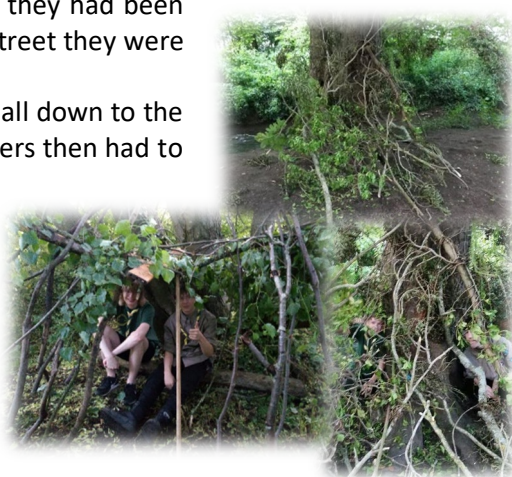
Another form of navigation was a Monopoly Hike around Attleborough. The patrols had a Monopoly board each and two dice. The throw of the dice dictated where they had to go to and then take a photo of the area/place to show they had been

there. One team got stuck on their third throw as they couldn't find the street they were looking for.

The unit ran a wide game for the Scouts, called ManHunt. We took them all down to the wooded area by OakWood School and the Scouts had to hide. The explorers then had to go and find them all. They managed to find all but one and therefore Reuben won for the Scouts. The Explorers then went and hid but there was a bit of cheating going on because the Explorers declared that they had to be caught, not just found. As a lot of them were up in trees this was made difficult for the Scouts. This will be properly explained next time.

Two unit members attended an Archery afternoon run by Chewy of Friday Cubs. This was arranged at the request of the unit but everyone else seemed to drop out at the last minute.

It was then back down to the woods to build shelters but I'm not sure I would want to sleep in them as they weren't that waterproof!



Until next time

Babs, Kerrie and the Explorer Unit.

Wednesday Scouts

We began this term with several investitures and some team building exercises. Once again we worked closely with our young people for their input to create an exciting programme and we have done our best to give them as many of the activities that they suggested. St. George's Day was very well attended by our Scouts and we had great fun watching Scouts dressed as Dragons being chased by Beavers and Cubs dressed as Knights!

In the first few weeks of the term we flexed our creativity and painted a Giant Version of the Scouts Commemorative Badge in celebration of HM King Charles III's Coronation. It weathered the rain quite well, but eventually succumbed to the weekend's downpour!

Alongside the rest of our group, many of our Scouts stayed overnight at District Camp in tents. It was a fantastic event packed to the brim with adventurous activities including Climbing; Paintballing; Archery; Cooking; Axe-Throwing; Crafting; Kayaking and many more! (We are pleased to say that the Camp's Ceremonial Opening Bonfire was built and lit by our Leader Team!).

Taking a customised Nuneaton Board and dice per patrol, our young people took part in Scout-Sized Monopoly. We were thoroughly impressed with the navigation skills on display – especially since one patrol managed to get around the board completely! Our thanks to Skip at Wednesday Scouts for his hard work creating this activity for the Scouts - they really enjoyed it!

As part of our Air Activities Staged Badge we created and tested Paper Airplanes – many of which were very different from the traditional dart and resembled UFO's! We then held mini competitions to test how far they flew, how accurate they were, how acrobatic and how cool they looked!

Recently reignited our pioneering skills as we creating Trebuchets and Catapults to launch Beanbags and Sponge Balls at each other. Despite neither Siege Weapon working as expected, we still managed some distance and refreshed our memory for key knots! Following this, our Explorer section volunteered to lead a Wide Games evening – setting great examples for both Leadership and Teamwork – our thanks again to everyone who got involved to lead this evening.

We continue to grow as a Troop as we welcome a new Leader to our section – Jag. Leading several games and activities, it is clear that our Scouts will benefit from his involvement already!

Finally – we would like to extend our heartfelt Congratulations to Gar and Ella on their Marriage! Our young people continue to be grateful for the time of our Leaders and appreciate it must have been interesting planning a wedding alongside leading a programme! We hope you enjoy the Wedding Present that our Scouts helped to craft for you.

We continue to have very exciting plans for 2023 and beyond – watch this space!

Keep Scouting and keep Smiling!



Wednesday Scout Leaders

Thursday Beavers

Thursday Beavers have had a fun filled, fantastic few months since the last newsletter and worked hard to achieve lots of new badges. We have welcomed two new beavers Adam and Anay to our colony, who were invested at the end of June, but sadly we are saying goodbye to Patrik who is swimming up the dam to Friday cubs. It has been lovely seeing Patrik enjoying Beavers and we wish him well in cubs. We had an awesome time at District camp making lots of memories back in May where our Beavers went canoeing, climbing, went shooting, did archery and cooked on a camp fire. It was a long, tiring day but the Beaver smiles were huge!



There have been so many memorable nights at Beavers this term it has been difficult to narrow it down to a few to put into this newsletter. This term has seen us celebrate the Kings Coronation where we welcomed family and friends for afternoon tea with the most amazing scones. It was so lovely to see so many faces and to watch a PowerPoint of all our Beavers photographs from the year.

Another highlight has been completing our Hike badge and our Explore badge. Both were new badges for everyone and we had a great time as we went on our first ever hike as a colony over the fields in Whitestone towards the Lady Brook Bridge. We even learnt how to play pooh sticks and saw the competitive side to Sunshine! Visiting Hartshill Hayes was an amazing evening! As a colony we built a huge den which we all fitted inside. The Beavers comments were 'this is great', 'this is the best fun ever'. It is comments like these that make scouting so fantastic and in this spell of warm weather it is great to enjoy the outside world.



We also visited Malak's dad's allotment and started our Gardner's badge. It was great finding out about plants and Ralph (Malak's Dad) was pleased that we pulled up so many weeds! We planted three different seeds and these have been growing steadily over the last few months. Each Beaver has been monitoring how the plants have changed and grown as they need to look after them for three months to complete their badge. Keep the photographs coming Beavers you are caring for them well.

Having visitors has been great this term as we had a visit from Asa from the Dance Unit who put the Beavers through their paces teaching them street dance moves and tricks as part of the Health and Fitness badge. We also had an awesome visit from Jen Warren who works at UCHW as a consultant anaesthetist but who is also an Invictus Games competitor winning at least 18 medals. It was great to hear her story and see her medals.



Thank you again for all your support, we will continue to use the What's App group to share photographs each week. We are looking forward to another busy few weeks with a visit to the fire station coming up, going to Five Ways to use the Canadian kayaks as well as going to Funtastic for our end of term treat!

Thanks again,

Malak, Rusty, Sunshine, Chip and Dobbie

Thursday Cubs

This term some of our Cubs attended District Camp at Willesley. They took part in many of the activities including Abseiling with Alex showing no fear at all. The spider Web seemed to be a firm favourite with Cubs, as well as the inflatables and the Kayaking at Conkers.

We have looked at various things this term, we started with a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III with decorated Cup cakes and bunting. We had a small party afterwards with party food and our decorated cakes.

We started the Animal Carer badge with looking at the dangers that animals face. This also contributed to the Digital Maker badge. For the rest of the badge we looked at on-line safety and finished with an on-line quiz to see how much we have learned

We had an evening exploring foods with a particular name such as Yorkshire Pudding, Cubs were asked to go home and research these type of foods. We finished the evening with an Eton Mess, with cream cheese, meringue, strawberries and cream. This went down a treat with the Cubs not a scrap left to take home and share.

We went out for a walk in Attleborough and while out the Cubs had to follow some instructions where to go and write down the answer.

We have looked at the Entertainers badge and made sock puppets, when these were finished the Cubs got together in small groups and put on a short puppet show.

Sorry no Photos this quarter will get them posted on our Whats app page

Walsh Pack Leaders

Friday Beavers

Hello, we had a great start to this quarter. We were tasked (or Keeo volunteered us) to make a dragon head for our St. George's day event. Ella from Monday cubs kindly created the dragon, leaving our beavers to make him look realistic. They did a fantastic job and he was paraded around Riversley Park on St Georges day.

We finished our Global badge. We started with a game called the Unfair Trade game: this is a game to illustrate how unfair trade can be. We then got to try some fairtrade products. Water filtration is a significant world issue so we did an experiment to show a simple method of filtering dirty water using a pop bottle, sand, gravel, filter paper, kitchen roll and soil.

Next was the Science badge. We started off by powering up a lemon and potatoes using a copper coin, some electric probes and an amp meter. The beavers discovered by linking all of them together, they could get a higher wattage enough to light a small light bulb. We also tried the cornflour and water experiment (non-Newtonian liquids). This mixture is different, it's called a 'suspension' and acts as both a liquid and a solid, very messy but a lot of fun! 😊

We also tried chromatography with food colouring dots in water. This experiment showed the Beavers how the colours travelled and the different colours it made. The Beavers loved the last experiment and did a big countdown as we launched our rocket – a bottle powered by baking powder and white vinegar. The first 2 attempts weren't great but once we had experimented with the quantities, it really flew!!!

The King's Coronation was celebrated by us having a party. We made crowns and decorated biscuits with the English flag.



We got to be part of our Nuneaton Bedworth District Day camp. The Beavers arrived early at Willesley and were welcomed with a lovely breakfast. We had lots to do so we headed for our first activity which was of course the bouncy castles, the beavers then did a ninja style course where they had to get themselves through the elastic bands. This was followed by canoeing and then a well-deserved lunch. The afternoon was spent climbing, angel throwing, zip wiring, go carting and shooting.

We all got back to camp where we had our tea which was roast chicken dinner. Such a brilliant but tiring day. Thank you to all the amazing leader, parents and helpers to make this weekend possible.

We used crafting essentials – lollipop sticks and wooden spoons – to create catapults. We experimented with different sized ammunition to see which would fire the furthest! We also captured some brilliant footage of them being fired!

The Beavers talked about different disabilities and thought about the everyday challenges faced. They did a taste test blindfolded, felt items in a bag and had to guess what they were and used their smell to identify different food items and wrote their name with the other hand.



We started our next evening talking about water safety preparing us for Kayaking then the rest of the evening was dedicated to Father's Day. We celebrated all the father figures and male role models in our lives by making personalised keyrings and cards for them.



We had a fabulous time at 5-ways lake when we went kayaking. The rain stayed off and the Beavers had a great time. Thank you to Kev and all our leaders for making this possible!

We were very lucky to have Claire visit us from the North Warwickshire fire service. Claire brought 4 Resuscitation Annies with her and taught all our Beavers how to do CPR. She talked about dangers, keeping safe and how and why we use a defibrillator. Thank you Claire for your time, it was much appreciated.



We put together a mini-Olympics style event which covered the health and fitness badge, involving sports like throwing, jumping, balancing and other mini challenges! At the end of the evening, all the beavers received a trophy. They were all winners because they all improved and made their own personal bests.

We are super proud that 2 of our Beavers have achieved their Bronze awards. Unfortunately, that means we have said goodbye as they are swimming up the riverbank to cubs. Good luck!

Have a great summer,
Keeo, Badger, Foxy, Mouse, Ringtail, Chip, Henry and Daniel.

Friday Cubs

The cubs have really worked hard this term now the better weather is with us we can spend more time on outside pursuits.

We completed the Chefs badge over several weeks doing food preparation, kitchen safety, what foods are good together,

Food tasting with foods from around the world. Lots of different cheeses meats fish and unusual fruits. We then asked the cubs to bring in something from their fridge to see what meals they could make.

Following on from the food tasting we had a Karaoke Evening it was load and so much fun the highlight for me was Paul singing Barbie Girl I was laughing so much I forgot to press record on my phone. A big thank you to Chip for running the evening, we had a couple of weeks doing Team Building games.



Mike bought his Bows in (he has a lot of them in different shapes and sizes) and explained the history of Archery. I believe a bow was found frozen with prehistoric man.



We had an evening on Maps, Mike has a collection of Fantasy Maps he brought in we got the Cubs to design their own some brilliant concepts from some

Moving on to their next adventure Albie, Gracie, Jack, Joshua, Lewis, Rohan and Vinnie are off to Scouts we hope you all enjoy your time in Scouts

Lizzy and Patrick have joined us from Beavers hope you both enjoy your time with us

We also have a new Explorer helper Ky

Coming up we have Fire lighting, a visit from a collector of spiders and other things that creep. Archery at Nuneaton Archery Club

Yours In Scouting

Friday Cub Leaders and Explorers