



**1st Nuneaton
(Attleborough)**

April Newsletter 2024

scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

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GSL's Report

Welcome everybody.

Spring has sprung, and this I know as the grass needs cutting again! But looking at the current weather, you wouldn't have thought it. We are steadily moving to more outdoor games and activities as the weather allows, so please don't forget to bring a coat (with your name in).

This quarter I have had the pleasure of seeing two of our Explorer Scout Young Leaders gain their ESYL Belt awards, a real investment in the future. Huge congratulations to Matthew and Daniel for all of their continued hard work. We took the opportunity to ask our current Mayor Martin Walsh to present the awards. Martin, a former Group Scout Leader was more than happy to do the honours.

Speaking of Matthew, I was pleased to be investing both him and Penny as new leaders at our Monday Beavers, also after Easter I will be investing new Thursday Beaver Leader Nat. So a huge 1st Nuneaton welcome to all three, and thank you for coming along to help us out. But watch out...it's infectious!!!

We recently took the decision to ban glitter in our crafting, due to the environmental impact of micro and nano plastics in our food chain. Small but important steps such as this, minimising our waste as well as recycling wherever possible, can make a big difference to the world we leave to our children and grandchildren.

With April at our door, we are looking forward to our annual St Georges day parade, this will be taking place in Riversley park on April 21st, currently discussions are underway over the start time moving to a 1.00pm start, due to a certain football match kicking off at 3.30pm at Wembley, so please watch this space, I'll update you all as soon as I have the confirmed details. PUSB!

We are well ahead with planning our trip to District camp in May, a huge thank you to all of the leaders and parents who have offered to help, both for the day and the weekend.... I do hope the weather warms up a bit.

So read on and enjoy.

Mick Judd,

Group Scout Leader.



Monday Beavers

Monday Beavers started the New Year with a lot of laughs (Oh Yes We Did!) on our pantomime trip to see Jack & The Beanstalk in early January. We loved it!

Late last year we promised our little ninjas that in 2024 we would launch them into space, take to the skies and explore the wider international world – and in this first quarter we absolutely did...!! We've enjoyed our usual packed program of adventures, discoveries, creative crafting, learning - and of course doing all of that with lots of essential fun – read on for some key highlights and a few pics.....

We launched straight into space in January with two weeks of Space related activities. Fascinating visit from 'Astronut' who taught us all about the planets in our solar system and turned us into mini astronauts as we saw moon landings and key missions into space. We followed this up by designing, crafting and launching our own rockets as well as creating aliens and other space creatures who joined our colony for the night!



Burns Night gave us the opportunity to celebrate the best of Scotland - we learned a few Scottish phrases (accents may need some work !!), created mini highland 'coos' and made our own short bread biscuits before having a 'Burns Supper' starring haggis, neeps, tatties, oatcakes & cheese. We were in awe of Piper Bill who came along and demonstrated how bagpipes work before playing some amazing traditional tunes like only a bagpiper can! Huge thanks to Akela Dawn for the introduction. We finished with some mini Highland games – caber tossing and tug of war are definitely new favourites!

We then travelled from Scotland to China where we celebrated the year of the Dragon by creating some stunning and fearsome paper chain dragons to take part in our dragon dancing. We practiced some Chinese phrases, made our own banners – writing our names using the Chinese alphabet and then tucked into noodles, spring rolls, dumplings and other Chinese treats. Yummy !



An excuse for even more eating presented itself as Pancake Day needed to be celebrated.... So of course our little ninjas obliged! We designed and donned our Chef hats before playing various pancake related games - finishing off with tasting different varieties of pancakes and adorning them with a selection of toppings (some very strange combinations but we enjoyed them all and ate the lot !)

Nuneaton Mayor Martin Walsh warmly welcomed us to his Mayoral Parlour where we enjoyed learning all about what he does & some fascinating history around all the trophies and silverware in his office. We particularly liked being mini councillors in the Chamber – a great start to our Community Impact badge..!

After this we got our little financial heads on and over a couple of weeks we completed the Money Skills badge – new to Monday Beavers - and we absolutely loved doing it! We learned about the history of money as we know it today, earned interest on items we 'saved', designed our own money, did some coin rubbings and created individual money caterpillars.

We finished with a fantastic evening dedicated to Trading (another first for our Beavers) – children working hard in teams to complete a myriad of tasks and challenges to raise funds, make a profit and please the

nominated (and very strict) bankers. A very competitive 'The Price Is Right' game concluded one of the most fun sessions of the year so far!



As promised, we then took to the skies in March for the first part of our Air Activities badge. Thanks to Captain Malone and his co-pilot John who, along with wing man Alfie, gave us a fascinating insight into all sorts of aircraft, their history, how they work and brought along many models of different aircraft for us to see and try out. Captain Malone helped us design and make various paper planes and allowed us to try out for ourselves mini flight simulators, plane engines and working models – we've almost earned our little pilot stripes with only one more session to go before we 'qualify'!

After making delicious chocolate truffles and flower vases to spoil the mums and superheroes in our lives for Mother's day – we also managed to squeeze in a Skills and Adventure session – working hard to earn our Challenge awards one step at a time – we are very proud of all the first achievements of our turquoise ninjas, especially your climbing and knotting skills!

We finished this quarter with a night of Easter fun – crafting baskets, painting eggs, rolling (and smashing) eggs, creating chalk rabbits and then of course an egg hunt – everyone was pretty exhausted at the end but rewarded with an Easter Egg so went home happy!

A few of our Beavers have now moved to Cubs – and are loving it! Super well done and congratulations to Arthur and James on achieving Chief Scouts Bronze – we are exceptionally proud of you for working so hard to get this award – so well deserved.

Welcome too to our newest Monday Beavers – your adventures are only just beginning!

Over the next few months, we're looking forward to completing our Air Activities badge with an awesome air adventure in May, helping out in the local community, doing some fun fund raising, ticking off more elements of the Scouting 'Outdoors in 24' challenge during the spring & summer months, testing our cooking skills, going to District Camp and much more besides – there's never a dull moment in Beavers!

Thanks as ever to our fantastic Monday Leader team & to parents who support us with such enthusiasm – we appreciate very much everyone's contribution to all of our adventures.

Very Best Wishes

Tic Tac, Dobby, Hawkeye, Zip, Chatter, Chip, Dillon & Sam

** All pics & details of our adventures and activities are shared on our private Parent WhatsApp group **

Monday Cubs

Birdfeeders from recycled milk cartons and identified characterises and names of common British birds, in readiness for RSPB Birdwatching weekend.

We Learnt 2 handed British sign language - As part of disability awareness badgework - completing tasks with one arm - making sandwiches, writing messages with our other hand! Played blindfolded Pictionary, looked at access at Hq and aids that can be used to help people with disabilities.

Pancakes - 😊😊😊😊

Welcomed new faces to our leader team Krystal and James starting his young leader training, alongside Isabelle starting on her Duke of Edinburgh scheme adventures, all supporting our leader team by volunteering.

Mothers Day cards and gift of Hama bead coasters for that well earned cuppa ☺ oh and by the way here is Krystal impressing us with her ironing skills...take note Mum!

James ran an informative session on how to fold a paper plane including a varied range of design and difficulty. The Cubs set up a flight path testing their



District Cubs
Chocolate Bingo



finished plane capabilities and looking at design differences trying to work out which was the most aerodynamic.

Riley and Cassie were "All eyes down" for the District Chocolate Bingo event - bet you can't guess what the prizes were.

We'll done Cassie for getting a line (and a nice Easter egg which she shared with her Sister ☺)



Eyes down....
PIC-COLLAGE

Acknowledging the onset of Spring, we painted Easter ☺ sun catchers to hang in our windows with the help of Isabelle.

Visited gang show - saw Ellie performing on stage, following 6 months of



learning songs and dances. Ellie you are a super star 🌟

Highlight of the quarter was definitely the Holi - Hindu festival of colours when we got to throw

special coloured powder over our friends celebrating the beginning of Spring and the victory of good over evil. The pictures say it all!!! 🎉

We've worked hard towards lots of badges but best of all had loads of fun! Badges will be presented beginning of April.

Sadly Harry is moving to Scouts now after earning his Chief Scouts Silver 🏆 award, we will miss him but wish him well on his continued Scouting Adventures.

Coming up.....local knowledge badge work with map reading skills, fire station visit and many more outdoor activities 😊 👤 🚒 📖 🕒 👍

Hope you all enjoy your Easter break Happy Easter from Monday Cubs leader team - Akela, Ella, Helen, Krystal, James and Isabelle x



Tuesday Scouts

2024 has arrived and Tuesday Scouts have certainly packed in a lot during the first quarter of the year.

We began 2024 by learning different New Year traditions in different countries as well as learning 'New Year' in the country's languages. Here are some examples:

India	नए साल की शुभकामनाएँ
Japan	あけましておめでとう
Poland	Szczęśliwego nowego roku
Saudi Arabia	نए साल की शुभकामनाएँ

The following week we were joined by Ben, leader from Thursday Cubs, who did a presentation of his expedition challenge for his Gold Duke of Edinburgh. It was very engaging and the Scouts asked lots of interesting questions.

As part of the Scout challenge badges, the Scouts have to carry out a series of household tasks, which we simulate. This quarter, the Scouts learnt about different types of lights bulbs and how to change them, they learnt about washing labels and how to iron (including ironing their own neckers) and lastly about different types of house thermostats and how to set them.

With our weekend camp coming up with Wednesday Scouts we used the opportunity to cover more skill badge requirements, this time the Outdoor challenge. The camp itself was a great success with

the Scouts enjoying activities such as air rifle shooting, archery, trampolining and the cresta run.



Each year we try to find a new way of cooking pancakes for pancake day. This year we found a new activity of cooking them over a candle in a cupcake metal foil case suspended with clothes pegs. Akela Teresa from Monday Night cubs liked the idea so much she decided to stay and watch and, of course, help out. All the Scouts managed to cook and eat one as well as having a normal size one cooked with a camping stove.



Mother Days gifts was next on the agenda with the troop designing bags for their Mums or whoever else they wanted to give them too. The Scouts used crayons to design a print onto sandpaper which they then ironed and printed onto a bag. You have to draw the design on the front of the sandpaper and then turn it over, put onto the material and iron. We hope everyone who got one enjoyed their gifts, plus it covered some more badge requirements.



To end the quarter, the troop took part in in team activities including a trading post and also a trust-games night which saw some of the troop walking around the rest of the troop holding a rope. Last they went out on an egg hunt just before easter collecting an easter egg at the end of the night.



We have said goodbye to Felix and Sam who have moved up to Explorers - we wish them all the best. We have also welcomed Harry and George who have joined us from Cubs.

Tuesday Night Scout Leaders

Explorers

This quarter, the Explorers baked chocolate chip cookies, working towards our chef activity badge. We were provided with a recipe and ingredients, then we individually produced our own batches using equipment brought from home, working together in groups. In the end, everyone left with full stomachs and sticky fingers, bringing home mountains of cookies for the parents to gorge on!

We were also privileged to have visitors from Bramcote who taught us much-needed fire-building techniques, including methods of fire lighting, and building different types of fires. For example, long fires (two parallel logs with a fire built in the middle) are best used for keeping warm, as they burn for a long time, and are also good for cooking over. No more winter camps spent huddling over a single ember!

From November to February, a team of us explorers decided to do a fundraiser for Coventry and Warwickshire Mind to complete the community impact badge. The team consists of Joseph, Kylan, Burt, Henry, and Joshua. We decided to fundraise for this charity because mental health is a sensitive topic due to it involves deeply personal experiences and emotions. Unlike physical illness, mental health conditions are often less visible, which can lead to stigma and misunderstanding. Additionally societal attitudes and cultural beliefs about mental health varies, further complicating discussion around it. People may fear judgement or discrimination if they open up about their mental health struggles, which can hinder seeking help and support. Moreover, the complexity of mental health issues and the diversity of an individual's experiences make it challenging to address in a one-size-fits-all manner, requiring respectful conversations. We decided to set a target of £500 we smashed it by the end of January with £743 as our final total. During January we split up into two teams and we handed out leaflets in Nuneaton town centre. On the 3rd of February, we completed a 5 km run.

In February we went for an overnight hike around Nuneaton and surrounding areas. We planned our route and figured out bearings a few weeks in advance and we started at Shenton and then hiked back to the HQ. We met at the HQ at 7 and began our hike at 8 pm after we got a minibus together. We were put into 3 groups of around 3 or 4 and we set off equipped with maps and compasses. On our journey we walked along dirt tracks, fields, roads, and canal towpaths where we encountered different wildlife such as birds, frogs and even a deer. We met with leaders at 3 different checkpoints along the way and Barbara met us at the HQ with hot chocolate and food which we were all very grateful for after our long hike. We were walking for between 5 and 7 hours with the earliest group getting back at 1.30 in the morning and the latest group getting back at 3.40 in the morning, we then stayed the rest of the night at the hut. This was a great opportunity to bond and get closer as a group and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. It helped to develop our navigation, communication and our team building skills and was a brilliant night all round.

Our inevitable pub games night was a little different this quarter as we were hosted by 1st Bramcote. This also added variety to the games played and included table tennis, air hockey and table football. Thank you to Pumba for organising this.

Another group also covered their Community Impact badge by organising a litter pick at Chetwynd school. A lot of litter was collected including a garden light that had been thrown over the fence, and the school staff were extremely grateful.

We have four new members this quarter making a total of 19 in the unit plus our two friends from Bramcote. Welcome to Sam and Felix from Tuesday Scouts, James from Wednesday Scouts and Oliver who has joined us as he has friends in the unit.

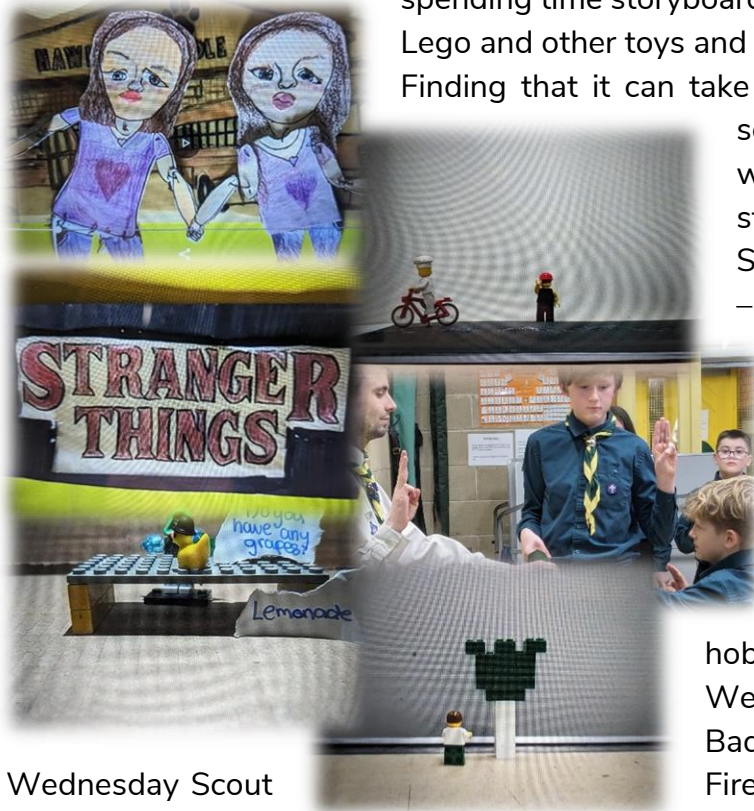
Last but by no means least, we have presented four top awards this quarter. Firstly a belated Young Leader belt to Matthew who completed the requirements prior to his finishing with us due to becoming 18 in October. He is now working towards being a fully fledged leader with Monday Beavers. A second Young Leader belt went to Dan who is continuing to

help out at Friday Beavers. Dan also achieved his Platinum Award along with Henry and these were presented by our District Commissioner, Steven. Well done to all of you!



Wednesday Scouts

This quarter, Wednesday Scouts have spent some weeks learning stop motion filming. We downloaded a free software onto devices and then used them to make short, animated films. We started by building film studios from cardboard boxes and learning how to use lighting. After spending time storyboarding our films, we made props from cardboard, Lego and other toys and then actually filming our pieces.



Finding that it can take up to 30 minutes just to animate 10 or 15 seconds footage proved quite a challenge, but we were really impressed with the variety of storylines, props and practical effects that the Scouts were able to achieve in such a short time – we may have some budding Film Directors among us!

Then on the final week we had our own film night, complete with popcorn.

Starting with the basic free app, some of the troop have since chosen to upgrade their app to include sound and many other features and are now enjoying a new hobby.

We worked towards the Fire Safety Activity Badge as the Scouts created their own Fire Brigade and rallied to tackle various simulated pieces of paper!) with the appropriate fire

Wednesday Scout fires (words on extinguisher. The leaders were very impressed with the amount of fires that were successfully matched and extinguished and we finished the evening with a joint fire drill with the Explorer Unit. Earlier in the term we ran Winter Camp as a joint event with Tuesday Scouts – the Scouts were mixed in their teams and took on many challenges over the camp, including the Obstacle Course, Cresta Run, Quiz Challenges, Gladiator Duelling and Archery – all of which earned them points during the course of the camp. As we were the only Group on site we were able to have a massive Camp Fire, with campfire songs and activities near the roaring flames! The Winners of the camp earned very special woggles – uniquely hand-turned wooden woggles from retired oak barrels in Ireland.

This Quarter we welcomed Elliot and Toby from Cubs, Elliot has now been invested, Toby will now be invested after Easter, as he wanted to go on one last sleepover with Cubs before moving up. We hope you both have a brilliant time with us.

Sadly we also said goodbye to James too. James has been with the group since Beavers, we have had the pleasure of seeing James grow into a keen, charming, witty and confident young man. We know James will do well as he moves to Explorers and is also now one of our amazing Young Leaders working with his old Cub pack.

Keep Scouting and keep Smiling!

Thursday Beavers

Thursday Beavers have been very busy having fun and learning new things since our last newsletter update at the beginning of the year. Our first news, hails back to our 'Under the Sea' sleepover where the beavers created an under the sea collage which we entered into the Nuneaton Festival



of Arts. Amazingly, we won first place and our 'Under the Sea' collage will shortly be on display in the museum in the park. Malak has been invited to a presentation evening to collect our trophy! Well done Thursday beavers you are all fantastic. Sadly, in the last few weeks we have lost 6 of our Beavers, Vinnie, Kallie, Jack, Alfie, Amelia and Caleb as they have swum up the dam to

Thursday and Monday cubs, they will be missed but we all hope they continue their scouting journey. It is with huge pride that Kallie, Jack, Alfie and Caleb were presented with their bronze award by Nikki our Beaver DC. They all worked so hard to complete this award the highest award a beaver can achieve. Well done all of you! This term we also said a tearful farewell to Dobbie who has moved on to help Monday cubs but welcomed Alyx aka Willow as our new young leader.



We were very lucky to invite Ant and Kate who ran a bamboo weaving workshop recently. The beavers had great fun working individually and as a group to create models from bamboo. They are looking forward to taking part in the up and coming stained glass window sculpture project that Ant is undertaking for the whole community in the next few months.



We learnt many new facts about food when we completed our Cooks badge over several weeks, after a visit from a nutritionist who talked about eating a healthy balanced diet. As well as food related crafts, it was great to find out about different foods, food groups and identifying kitchen dangers in a scene set up in our HQ kitchen. Thursday beavers also enjoyed cooking and eating when they made scones with Rusty (busman's holiday for him!) as well as cooking pancakes on the fire (with the help of Noah from Wednesday scouts), omelettes and sandwiches!



Early on in the term, as part of the International badge, the beavers enjoyed celebrating Hogmanay, where they tried haggis, neeps and tatties and celebrated the Year of the Dragon for Chinese New Year. After trying Chinese food, the beavers danced under a full-sized Chinese Dragon made by Rusty and Mrs. Rusty (thank you to both

of them). We ended our International badge with an international banquet where each beaver brought food from a different country around the world.



Sunshine showed us pictures of beavers around the world and we also learnt how to say hello from different countries around the world. We are looking forward to linking up with a Joey pack in Australia later in the year when we have our 'Down Under' sleep over!



We had great fun when we completed our Experiments badge this term and were all amazed when we made ice cream in a bag! It was so creamy and delicious and so quick and easy to make, definitely an activity we will make again. It was also great seeing the awe and wonder on the beavers faces when we made lava lamps. The children used a light to see the magic of the bubbles fizzing around when we added the alka-Seltzer tablet.



Interspersed with the badges that we have achieved this term the beavers have enjoyed being creative for Mother's Day and Easter and also shared things that they would like to do at beavers during the Summer term when we had a 'log chew'. It was great fun taking part in the district 'Chocolate Bingo' and we then ended the Spring term going to watch the Gang show which was amazing, the best yet!



As we move into the Summer term we are looking forward to working on a variety of new badges including the Faith badge where we are visiting a local temple, Animal Friend and Sports badge where we have a variety of sports coaches introducing different sports. We also intend to get out and about going pond dipping, den building, hiking, bug exploring and also continuing our 'Outdoor 24 challenge badge.

Thank you again for all your support as parents but also thanks to the leader team that support me each week! Each week we will continue to use the What's App group to share photographs (when Malak remembers).

Thanks again,

Malak, Rusty, Sunshine, Chip, Phoenix and Willow

Thursday Cubs



Well done to Toby who has gained his Chief Scout Silver Award.

We have said a sad farewell to Toby and George who have both moved onto Scouts.

We have invested Toby, Idris and Amelia into our pack as well as investing Grace at our sleepover. We have also been joined by 6 Beavers who will be invested shortly.

This Quarter we have completed our DIY badge which started with a visit from Kaa's Dad who introduced us to the tools we would need and how to use them safely, as well as the different types of wood available to use. Once we had learned this we made Bird Boxes to take home for the garden. Thank you to Kaa's Dad.

We celebrated Burns night learning what it is about, sampling Haggis and Tatties with some traditional Scottish cheese and biscuits, we also learned how to say Good Health in Scottish Gaelic "Slainte mhar"

We had one of our fun nights playing games and making chocolate rice Krispies, yum these went down very well with the cubs it would be surprising if they all made it home.

We have also been looking at the Money skills badge, We looked at currency, Then the Cubs designed their own money, how to use money and make it grow. We also had an evening for Trading Post which is always fun, The Cubs learn how to turn 10 pieces of pasta into hundreds by choosing carefully which tasks they complete to make them a profit.

We held our first Sleepover at the Scout hut in March, and chose a Pirate theme. We walked the plank, (using blow up putle sticks, gladiator stye) to make it more fun. We made our own hats and bandanas. We then learned how to make a catapult from canes and elastic bands. We had fish and chips for supper, then watched the Muppet Treasure Island with popcorn and a bed time drink. Not everyone saw the end of the movie though



We invested Grace on the Sunday morning after breakfast before the Cubs went home. A massive thank you to Tic Tac who came along to help and to Kim who organised it. We had so much fun we forgot to take any photos.

We attended Gangshow to support Amelia and Bagheera who were both taking part, what a great show this year.

One of our leaders, Kim was invited to attend the Annual Scout and Guide Service at Westminster Abbey, for Founders Day, In recognition of his service at The Coronation last year

Friday Beavers

We've had a great start to the year!

Our young leader Dan helped the Beavers to raise over £100 this year for the Guide Dogs and we had the pleasure of inviting back Brody and Frankie to present the cheque.

We went back in time and had a nostalgic night with marbles. The Beavers learnt how to play marbles, made their own marble maze and played marble skittles.



We started our Navigators badge in which we used playdough to show mountain contours, what to pack for a Hike and played Beaver battleships showing how grid references work. Next quarter we will be doing the final part which is a hike around Weddington.

We have been learning about different animals and have painted animal models, looked at which ones are endangered and also identified animal poo! Which, strangely enough, the Beavers were really good at!!



We have celebrated Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday. For Chinese New Year we made and decorated lucky red envelopes and had special coins to go inside. We also made a dragon head and paraded him around the HQ to Chinese music. Shrove Tuesday was pancake fun and games and



of course pancakes (Thanks to the scout camp, we had a lot of choice of toppings). We had our artist skills tested when we decorated t-shirts with sandpaper printing and fabric pens - we definitely have some future clothes designers in our mist!!

We got to do our Space badge this term. We played a game about planets, looked at constellations and made them out of cocktail sticks and marshmallows, made our own space buggy's from Lego and learnt about Neil Armstrong and his mission to moon. We also learnt about moon phases using Oreos as the moon, who knew that the moon tasted so yummy!



We have had several outings this term including a trip to the Abbey Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk. We also had a visit to the mayors parlour where our lovely Mayor and his wife showed us different parts of the town hall and played eye spy with us. Our last event this quarter was the District Chocolate Bingo where everyone had a great time and everyone had chocolate, thanks to Nicki and her team for organising another fun evening.

To finish our term, we had an easter egg hunt, where we played games and of course got an easter egg each! Wishing you a very Happy Easter from Keo, Badger, Foxy, Mouse, Ringtail, Erin, Issac, Henry and Daniel.

Friday Cubs

The Cubs enjoyed our version of Burns night

Ode to the Haggis along with Neeps and Tatties washed down with Irn Brew.

The Cubs enjoyed an evening visit from PC Rogers learning all about his job and trying on various bits of Police Kit thank you PC Rogers for a brilliant evening.

We did our usual refresher on First Aid and went on to personal safety, Internet safety.

Our thanks to Kerrie our Explorer leader came down to give the cubs a talk on how to look after your body which led onto possible trauma which could happen due to rough playing.

Disability was our next Challenge

They learnt about various disabilities and how people adapt and live.

How difficult it is for a blind person or a deaf person to get from A to B with all the hazards, without a guide dog or hearing dog

We also discussed that disabilities may not be visible eg Mental Health and possible causes.

We are hoping to have a visit from the Alzimers Society.

Communication

This is still ongoing

To date we have covered various forms of communication

Phones, emails, letters, Chinese Whispers, morsecode, semaphore, how communication has changed over the years. Codes and other forms of writing.

They learnt to write their names in Braille and morsecode and how to direct a blind and deaf person around an obstacle course.

We told them a story at the beginning of the evening and asked questions last thing its surprising how much is either forgotten embellished.

We asked the cubs in their sixes to write down exactly how to make a jam sandwich.

Following their instructions the leaders proceeded to try and make one a lot of fun was had.

Many thanks to Babs for teaching the Cubs the Makaton alphabet they all managed to sign their names.