

Scouts

1st Nuneaton (Attleborough)

April Newsletter 2024

scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

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GSL's Report

Welcome everybody.

The group had a great District camp at Willesley in May. On the Saturday we had over 120 young people in camp, including Beavers day visitors. Kayaking, canoeing, shooting, bouncy castles much more fun than we're allowed. Leaders from 1st Nuneaton ran the rifle shooting and soft archery for approximately 400 young people. A huge thank you to everyone involved putting this together.

Watch your nuts...we've got Squirrels! Our new 4 to 6 year olds section is now up and running on Sunday mornings. It's fun and has a cuteness that is way off the scale, but I'll let Tictac, Dan and Emma tell you all about it in their piece. We deliberately only took young people up to the age of 5 years, so they will have time to settle before moving up to Beavers. If your child was unfortunate to be older than this threshold, it should not affect their Beavers start date around their 6th birthday. It was great to see Tuesday Scouts Isaac being presented with his Chief Scouts Gold award. This is the highest badge that a Scout can earn. We don't get many as it is such a lot of work, so well done to Isaac.

At our District St George's day celebration, we were highly honoured to be presented with the Dave Mein development award, for the way we have continued to grow Scouting across, not just Attleborough, but across a large chunk of the district.

At our recent AGM we officially converted our Group Executive to a board of trustees, so we're now fully compliant with our Charitable trust status. We have also recruited 2 new board members, so a huge Attleborough thank you and welcome to Kate and Richard. I also had the pleasure of presenting 'Big Ben' Waite with his 5 year long service award, thank you Ben.

We have recently upgraded our group website, there are lots of behind the scenes technicalities that I will resist boring you with, but it does now feature more of our young people, badge location diagrams and even, if you look closely, our young peoples planned programmes. Please feel free to take a peek over on **1stNuneaton.org**.

It looks as though summer has finally arrived, so please remember to dress smart for the weather and as always, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ensure your child's name is on their necker, drinks bottle, in their Jumper, teeshirt ect. As we have several young people all called Primark, Ralph Lauren and Peter Storm.

So, go on, read and enjoy.

Mick Judd,

Group Scout Leader.

AGM Report

Hello everyone.

It's Adam here the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. I just wanted to report back on the Annual General Meeting that was held a few weeks ago. We had a great day and it was so good to see so many of you there. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed it and even the sun managed to come out. If you didn't manage to make it this year we mixed the AGM up a bit with the official part that has to be done taking place first then this was followed by games and activities. We also laid on free hot dogs and drinks. I think this format will be used again in future years as it was so well received.

The key points from the AGM were as follows –

We officially moved to a Board of Trustees and adopted a new constitution.

Mick Judd our Group Lead Volunteer/GSL gave the Group Annual Report and George Reubens as Group Treasurer gave us the Statement of Accounts.

Due to our new constitution, we elected an independent examiner for our financial accounts – Liz Dickinson. I was elected as Group Chair and George Rubens was elected as Group Treasurer. These posts are now for a period of 3 years.

Steven Haynes our District Lead Volunteer and District Commissioner then said a few very kind words about 1st Nuneaton Scout Group. The meeting was then closed.

Two long service awards were then presented – One to Richard Goode for 25 years and the second for Ben Waite for 5 years service.

Adam Barrett. Group Chair

Board of Trustees



Squirrels

Squirrels have officially arrived at 1st Nuneaton Scout Group!

Squirrels is the newest addition to our Scouting family in 1st Nuneaton – our ‘squad’ comprises children aged 4 – 6 years, with three dedicated Squirrel leaders, an equally dedicated 1:1 support team and a phenomenal parent support group who volunteer with us on a rotational basis each week.

We launched with huge excitement on Sunday 28th April and now have 11 members in our new little Squirrel Squad and - after only 8 weeks of discovering everything that is Squirrels – it’s safe to say it’s been nothing short of awesome! We are still finding our feet but already it’s ‘Squirrel-Tastic’!

So what do Squirrels get up to..?

Like all other sections in Scouting, Squirrels have their own set of Activity, Staged Activity and Challenge awards – all beautifully & carefully tailored to our new & youngest members – helping & encouraging them to start the journey of learning life skills, developing confidence, enjoying fun learning with creative crafts and discovering new adventures in the world around us (with lots of smiles & giggles !)

So far in 1st Nuneaton Squirrels, we have completed our Exciting Experiments badge – making giant bubble snakes, discovering the magic of milk and colours, creating rainbow volcanoes, a sink or swim challenge and ‘feely’ boxes to test our taste, touch and smell senses.

We’ve also completed our Musician stage 1 badge – a fantastic visit from music teacher Naomi saw us learn songs, dances and musical scales – before learning and trying different musical instruments, conducting our friends and ending with a fantastic performance with boom whackers - pulling together all that we learned.

We then got creative and made jingle rainmaker sticks – noisy and messy but brilliant fun!



We’ve been on a nature scavenger hunt, enjoyed playing in the park, have crafted some quite unique pasta portraits, planted sunflowers, coloured our own squirrels, made acorn characters and perfected our ‘Squirrel Jingle’ (if you know – you know !) We have our very own wooden squirrels which go on our very special tree each week (thanks Baloo for making the tree and Nutkin for sorting the squirrel characters!).



Sammy the Squirrel is our mascot who goes home every week for a different adventure with one of our squad – he has been exceptionally busy and it’s a weekly highlight to find out just what he has been up to at story time!

We had an exceptionally proud Investiture day on 2nd June when our Squirrels all made their promises and became ‘official’! We welcomed family and friends who joined us for cakes and refreshments, games and

activities outside – before a special ceremony with our GSL and DC. Super well done to all our Squirrels – you were all superstars



We are looking forward to learning about caring for pets with a special animal visit, discovering and completing our Explore Outdoors, All About Me and Super Chef badges in the coming months. It's all still new but very exciting, so keep watching this space for more updates as we continue to grow.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this new section possible. Our new Squirrel leader team is already addicted – but we couldn't do it without the involvement and support from all of the parents and of course our GSL / Volunteer Lead (Baloo / Mick Judd), our group Board of Trustees and our DC / District Lead Volunteer (Steven Haynes)

Squirrels is here to stay in 1st Nuneaton!

With best wishes

Tic Tac, Nutkin & Emma (Squirrel leader name for Emma coming soon !!)

** We have a private parents Whatsapp Group where more pics and details of all our Squirrel Squad adventures are posted **

Monday Beavers

Time flies when you're having fun and all of a sudden another quarter has flown past with no end in sight to the new adventures, learning and discoveries for our Monday Beavers!

'Teamwork Makes The Dream Work' has been our Monday Beaver theme this last quarter & we have excelled on all fronts – focussing on building our team ethic as well as learning more skills, discovering new adventures and embracing Scouting's 'Outdoors In 24' as we continue to tick off our Challenge awards.

We've completed our Community Impact and Air Activities staged badges, attended St Georges Day parade, proved ourselves to be very competent chefs for our Cook's badge, started our Safety badge, had a fantastic time with family and friends raising some funds for much needed quality crafting materials, and we've been to District Camp. Read on for some of the highlights that our Monday turquoise ninjas got up to.....

After Easter we teamed up with McDonalds as part of our Community Impact badge and went on our first ever litter pick. Great to participate and learn about how our actions can impact and improve our local area.

We were rewarded with a well-deserved ice cream from Tony - huge thanks to him and the Community team at McDonalds such great support.



We then got straight to discovering how good our cooking skills are for a couple of weeks – learning kitchen safety, food groups and some excellent chopping skills before making salad kebabs with a dressing, designing and making our own pizzas and having our first attempt at the Australian ‘fairy bread’ classic. All boxed up and taken home in our individually designed pizza boxes – everything was delicious and we are very proud of all our mini ‘master chefs’ 🍳



Safety is a crucial part of everyday life, so we were delighted to start our safety badge with a visit from Warwickshire Police to talk us through some key elements of dangers and how to ensure our awareness and communication are at the top of our game. It was great to learn all about the police equipment they carry and then of course lots of fun exploring the police car and what all the controls mean. We do hope that local residents weren't too alarmed with all the ‘sirens and alerts’ that we got to try out..!



District Camp 2024 was nothing short of fantastic – the weather was perfect for our day visit and the adventures were mind-blowing. From an underground ‘cave’ to rifle shooting, canoes to paint balling, go karting to archery and inflatables to water slides - it was brilliant! All of that, plus backwoods cooking & the Monday Beavers obsession with tree climbing, made for a day of ‘camp-tastic’ memories for all.



We enjoyed a team challenge evening with some serious brain teasers and team building scenarios, demonstrating to us just how important working as a team is. Thanks also to Keo and Chewy from Friday Beavers & Cubs who brought the tomahawks to us as part of our evening – we loved it..!

A family fun night with a cake sale to boost our funds for specific craft and games resources was a huge hit – we combined this with outdoor crafts, games & a campfire that everyone enjoyed. HUGE THANKS to all parents and family who joined us and of course to local businesses who kindly contributed delicious cakes and raffle prizes. We are extremely grateful for all of your support and generous donations – and hope you are still enjoying the sun catchers and necklaces that we made!

Father's day was an opportunity to get creative for any superhero figure in our lives and we hope all recipients enjoyed our emoji car air fresheners and our handmade truffles!

A hike, combined with a scavenger and mini beast hunt got us another notch on our ‘Outdoors in 24’ challenge – amazing fun getting (very) muddy whilst discovering and enjoying the best of the natural world that surrounds us.



An evening dedicated to the Euros finished this quarter - flags and wristbands for our teams, training tips, agility tests, penalty shoot outs and more team challenges – ending with the loudest game of soccer bingo ever – well done everyone for being such great team players and earning your prizes!

We've welcomed Isaac and Tom to Monday Beavers as well as new leader Echo. We've said a fond farewell to Alex, Amelia and Erin who have moved to Cubs. Super proud of you for working so hard to earn your Chief Scouts Bronze Awards. A fantastic achievement - special thanks to our ADC for coming to present them.

Coming up – we're looking forward to the District Beaver activity day at Five Ways Lakes in July, plus a summer of more 'Outdoors in 24' scouting challenges - as well as Olympic games 'Beaver style', our end of term celebrations and more new adventures– not forgetting our Monday Beavers Sleepover in September!

Appreciation and thanks as always must go to our amazing Monday Leader team & parents who continue to support us so brilliantly with everything we do.

'Teamwork does indeed make the dream work'

Have a great summer everyone!

Very Best Wishes from your Monday Leader team

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

Hope This quarter we had two cubs awarded with their chief scout silver awards and two of our cubs have now moved up to Wednesday scouts where they can continue their scouting adventure. We have been working on our environmental conservation badge this quarter. We started by learning about renewable and non renewable energy sources which the children seemed to really enjoy and were very eager to learn about. We made wind turbines using milk bottles which the children tested outside to help them understand how wind can generate electricity. We continued this badge on another night with a visit to the local park where the cubs did some litter picking. We split off into groups and the children got competitive seeing who could find the most litter. We had a quick stop at the park and the children really enjoyed cleaning up the park.

Pets at home also invited the cubs to visit and learn about some of their animals, the children learnt about what every animal needs to survive and be happy including food, space, medical care and friends. The children found this trip very interesting and really enjoyed petting some of the small animals such as Hamsters and rats.

During this quarter, we have also covered a lot of map work where the children learned the eight main compass points. The children also looked at the map symbols and what each symbol meant. We tested their knowledge a few weeks later with a game of map symbol bingo. The children really enjoyed the bingo and also learnt what a lot of the symbols meant whilst enjoying competing with each other. The children also really enjoyed celebrating with each other when they would get a full row or a whole card.

The children also learnt some knots and pioneering skills this quarter. They learnt how to do a reef knot and some square lashings, which they put into practice the next week. The children built chariots using some rope and staves and the knots that they had learnt. Whilst some of the children struggled with some of the knots, they kept trying and didn't give up until they had successfully done the nights. The children then worked together to carry each other across the garden which they really enjoyed and worked very well as a team.

Monday Cubs leader team - Akela, Ella, Helen, Krystal, James and Isabelle x

Tuesday Scouts

After what can only be described as the wettest spring on record, the troop continued to battle through despite lots of last-minute programme changes.

We began the quarter by having an evening of dodging the rain showers whilst throwing tomahawks and staying dry using the bouldering wall inside the garage.

The following week was St George's day and we wanted to try and do something a little different, so this week the Scouts go to design and cook a St George's Day themed pizza as well as learning the history of St George and his connection to Scouts.





Continuing the cooking theme, and having an actual dry Tuesday night, we got hold of some Swedish logs (Thank you Keeo!). These are logs with a cross cut in them that you stuff full of material to burn and then they light and burn for approximately 2 hours. The scouts got the chance to cook s'mores on them.



It wouldn't be May without either a district or county camp and this year was no different. So, some well needed tent pitching practice was in order, as well as the opportunity to check the tents out prior to the camp! We can still hear it now, "not tent pitching". Not unsurprisingly a few reminders were necessary but come the time of camp the troop successfully pitched and packed away their tents plus this year we had the added bonus of seeing the Northern Lights.



We ended the quarter with a couple of evenings of patrol challenges including an evening of the scouts protecting an egg each until the end of the evening when it was dropped off



the top of the container. A number of the troop also gained their Axe and Saw certificates meaning they correctly know which type of saw to use for which type of material that they have to cut and the correct use and carry of an axe.

Finally, congratulations to Isaac Simpson on completing his Chief Scout Gold Challenge award. This is the highest award an individual can gain which in Scouts. The troop also said goodbye to Sam and Isaac who leave us having reached the grand old age of 14. Good luck both in future endeavours!

Tuesday Scout Leaders

Tuesday Night Scout Leaders

Explorers

Wednesday Scouts

Thursday Beavers

As always, Thursday Beavers have been very busy having fun and learning new things since our last newsletter update in March. We have welcomed and invested Addie, Evelyn, Ronnie and Xander and more recently two new beavers Arthur and Pippa who are due to be invested into our colony soon. With so many moving up to cubs in March it was a good time to redo our lodges and we welcomed Seth, Theo and Zac as our new lodge leaders along with Hayden, Iris and Jacob as assistant lodge leaders.



We have spent lots of time outside over the past few weeks and have been mostly lucky with the weather. It was great to go pond dipping at Bermuda lakes recently as part of our World challenge badge and the beavers had a fantastic time finding tiny fish, water snails, cad fly nymphs as well as a whole host of other wriggly things. On the same night we also went on a mini bug hunt using the pooter pots and to the delight of the beavers found, bugs, ants, spiders and beetles in abundance!



We started off our recent Hikes badge by learning to cross the road, this was the final part needed by some of the beavers as part of the Adventure challenge badge. We then hiked across the fields surrounded by the new building works towards the Ladybrook bridge where we had snacks and played pooh sticks before hiking across the wheat field with tired beaver legs which were suddenly revitalised when we hit the Crowhill park for a 15 minutes play!



We have completed our Faith badge in the last few months after visiting our local church and finding out how they impact the community. Malak had tried to arrange a visit to the new Hindu temple along Arbury road but unfortunately it is still a building site inside! It was lovely bringing in the pets as part of the Animal friends' badge and a special thank you needs to be given to Jenny (Chloe's mum) who brought in her dog Coco. This along with guinea pigs, a rabbit, a tortoise and stick insects was a lively, fun entertaining evening with lots of beavers stepping out of their comfort zone to hold a stick insect! To complete the badge the beavers had to look after their pet for 4 weeks, for those beavers without a pet they took home one of Malak's cuddly animals and found out where they lived and how to care for them. It was interesting to find out about giraffes, monkey's and otters to name a few!



After our football coach visitor, then our Rugby coach visitor couldn't attend our launch of the Sports badge, Malak managed to convince Rusty to don his shorts and whistle and re live his rugby coaching days. The children had a great time finding out about the game of rugby and had a mini game as well. Six weeks later each beaver had completed an activity chart of the different sports they did from archery to running to marshal arts, we definitely have lots of sporty beavers in our colony who were happy to share their sport.



We all enjoyed building fires and cooking on them as part of the Camp Craft badge recently. Malak introduced the beavers to 'blackbirds' which were very tasty and didn't involve any birds! They also cooked popcorn in skittles (2 metal sieves screwed together and put on a long stick), which was a new cooking experience for Rusty. Thank you to Rusty who made us some more skittles! With the help of

our leaders and Noah (from Wednesday scouts) the beavers also cooked sausages which were yummy!

We weren't so lucky this year with the weather when we went to visit Hartshill Hayes as it was a little damp and wet! This didn't stop us from having fun though and making beaver memories. We collected huge pieces of wood to build a den



which we could all fit inside and then we all collected fallen debris from the trees in readiness to make bug hotels the following week. Hopefully the bug hotels and the bird feeders you made have helped lots of bugs and birds along the way!

Lots of our beavers had fun at District day camp in May and for lots of beavers they went on the water in canoes and kayaks for the first time. They enjoyed a whole range of activities throughout the day and went home tired and happy! They are hoping to do some of these activities again when we go to the District Beaver Day coming up shortly in July.



Interspersed with the badges that we have achieved this term the beavers have enjoyed being creative for Father's Day and had the 2nd part of Ant's art project. We have ticked off lots of activities from our 'Outdoor 24' challenge badge and hope to tick off a few more as we move through the summer.

Moving forward we have the Camp Craft badge and Community Impact badge to finish. Over the summer we hope to host a mini Olympics and a wet and wild night and the leaders will start to plan next terms activities we are hoping to complete the Money, Global Issues and Community Impact badges.

Thank you again for all your support as parents but also thanks to the leader team that support us 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

SILVER! Congratulations to Amy who has achieved her Chief Scout Silver Award. Amy was awarded her Silver award at District Camp by ADC Cubs Dawn Williams. Amy was the First in the district to receive the award from Dawn Williams. Bravo Amy and thank you Dawn.

Well we have had a very busy quarter starting with District Camp. The weather was glorious so all activities could take place as planned. All the Cubs who attended camp had a wonderful time, All tried new activities and pushed themselves, Archery, Rifle shooting and many more activities.... We were treated to the magnificent show put on by the Northern Lights, WOW. We left the camp on Sunday sleep deprived leaders and tired happy cubs. The pictures say it all.



We have been looking at the Scientist badge this quarter and learned about density, launching a bottle rocket, this was particularly popular, the bottle went so high.... We have made a hovercraft and learned about chemical reactions using vinegar and bicarb again this was a really popular experiment, and how could we forget the cress heads!



For our international badge we looked at foods from around the world, sampling a typical food from each country, the Cubs loved this as it involved eating! We looked at different ways to cook food and made fruit kebabs and a stir fry, all went down nicely



We have started rehearsals for "Walsh has Talent" as our end of term finale, but more about this next time

Friday Beavers

We started of this term with our one of our challenges badges the skills badge, this included setting a very traditional type alarm clock and an alarm on a mobile phone, lighting a candle and a game using the parachute to sort laundry for washing. We followed this up a couple of weeks later with preparation for St Georges day and let the Beavers polish theirs and the leader's shoes, iron their necker and the best bit made England flags from icing and biscuits. This quarter we have planted Cress, learnt about different gardening tools and how there used, talked about and learnt about the different seasons. We have had some great cress diaries and pictures from home well done to all those green fingered Beavers.



We have been really lucky to visit Father Roger at Abbey Church. We learnt about the ruins and the Priory of Nuneaton which was founded in the mid-12th century (c. 1155-9). The priory, originally, a nunnery, gave the town its name Nun-eaton; 'Eaton' meaning "Water Town" due to its propensity to flooding. Who knew that we had so much history on our doorstep and the amount of rain we have had our town really is living up to its name. Thank you to Father Roger for making us so welcome.



We managed to avoid the rain and the puddles and got on our bicycles and did our cyclist badge around the church carpark. The beavers learnt how to pump a tyre up, know the importance of safety equipment like a helmet, reflective clothing and lights and show how to correctly put on and wear a cycle helmet. Before we knew it District day camp was here and what a team the district are to organise such a fun filled packed day. We had the perfect weather where we enjoyed, canoeing,

shooting, paintballing, bouncy castles, archery, lawn games, merry go round and backwoods cooking to name a few. Keeo, Foxy and Badger stayed to help with the camping of over the weekend for the older sections and we all had a great time even though we were tired and Foxy and Badger can't wait to go camping again. 😊



Coding and beebots were this next week's challenge, The Nuneaton Library Technology team came to visit us and brought their iPad and beebots for us to program. This is a great resource for the library to share and we learnt lots of new skills. This summer at Nuneaton Library, children aged 4-11 years can visit, and get involved in our annual Summer

Reading Challenge which celebrates children's creativity. Thank you once again to Mark for organising the visit and for Steve and Lee from Nuneaton Library for visiting us.

We finally had some weather and did our Hikes 1 badge. We met at St James Church and followed the Weddington Walk back to Churchfields park where we had ice lollies and awarded 1 of our Bronze Beavers.

We have started our cooks badge covering Kitchen safety, hand washing, healthy foods and of course cooking where we made pizzas which were delicious. Father's Day is always a

special day to celebrate so we got to make shrinkable keyrings and did hand print cards. Well, the Euros started so we coloured in the all 24 flags of the Euros. Everyone got given a random flag! Whose flag will be left on display??? England??? Whilst the artist was at work, we also did a Swedish log fire and made smores. We ended the evening with a penalty shoot out! Let's just say our young leaders were a lot better at it than us leaders!



Safety was our focus. Stranger danger, rail safety and the green cross code. The Beavers were very knowledgeable which is really good to see. They practiced crossing the road, and used model trains and cars to help know where its safe to cross and stand whilst at a railway station.



We are really proud to present 2 Bronze Beavers this quarter, unfortunately we are also saying goodbye to these 2 amazing young men. We wish you all the best at Cubs. Thank you Nicki our District Beaver leader for coming to present these 2 special awards.



See you soon

Keeo, Badger, Foxy, Mouse, Ringtail, Erin, Issac, Henry and Daniel.

Friday Cubs