Scouts

1st Nuneaton (Attleborough)

October Newsletter 2022

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GSL's Report

God Save the King!

This last month we paid our respects to our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at her recent passing. After 70 years of devoted service, whether you are a Royalist or not, it is a lesson we can all learn something from, now I need to practise getting the new promise right.

As I'm sat here writing this in a damp cool late September, all of the hustle and bustle and the heat of the summer seem a long long time ago. We are currently busy planning after, 2 years off, to get back to our Bonfire celebrations on November 5th. A bit of a change this year, as we need to tighten up on our risk assessments, the cost is still free, and donations to cover the £500 cost of fireworks are greatly received. This year it will be ticket only, you will receive more information on this in the next 2 weeks.

150 young people plus leaders have had an absolute blast at Ragley Hall for our 'Get In' County Camp. Fantastic weather and a humongous effort by the Leader team and Group Executive gave our young people a weekend they will remember for the rest of their lives.

4 of our Explorer Scouts took a weeklong trip to Canada, if you came to our AGM, you will have seen Matthew's brilliant and witty presentation. Well done Matthew! 10 Explorers and Leaders took a week long Narrowboat trip to Stoke Bruerne, again if you came to the AGM you will have seen James presentation. It was good to see them learn the true value of a Scout neckerchief, a roaming gang of teenagers to be avoided, suddenly become Scouts and respected in the community, a far cry from the peer pressure many at their age feel in their own neighbourhood.

All three of our Beaver colonies will have had a Sleepover this September, which begs the eternal question, why do we still call it a sleepover? As they don't do much sleeping, I know the Leaders don't get any sleep.

We have recently been on a bit of a recruitment campaign, leaders numbers at Beavers and most Cub packs are healthy, but we do desperately need extra help at Monday Cubs, Tuesday and Wednesday Scouts, plus a relatively narrow leader at Explorers....as there are up to 15 adults squeezed into that small room on a Wednesday night.

Please remember that the car park out front is for leaders only unless by prior arrangement, please use the car park opposite the Bull/Smokehouse Pub.

Parents are not allowed in unless invited.... BUT if you need to find your child's coat/jumper/ etc , please wait until the initial rush has subsided down then please ask.

And now comes my usual Autumnal reminder, please send your child suitably dressed for the weather, not just the 100m sprint from Bull Street car park. We are often outside in the dark, maybe not offsite but still outside. AND please ensure your child's coat, hat, jumper AND necker are all named so they can be returned if left.

Monday Beavers

Summer has been amazing – if just a little bit TOO hot at times ! However, we managed to 'stay cool and carry on' with some brilliant Monday Beaver adventures as usual.

Since our last update – we decided (and got the weather just right this year) to have a water party. And boy did we..!! Although - it was quite surprising to see just how good Monday Beavers are at Teamwork – when it came to soaking the Leaders ! (Leaders retaliated in the end though!)!

This last quarter, we've been working on our Sports, Cook and Safety badges as well as continuing with completing new adventures towards our challenge awards. We have enjoyed an evening of Taekwondo and more recently loved having a coaching session from Nuneaton Rugby Club – we were all put through our paces and learned new skills (and hopefully a new sports hobby !).

We've been on a nature trail to collect different flowers for our live flower vases- we've had fun doing some campfire cooking, practised our climbing and archery skills, learned some knots and got creative doing some bubble art – something we've never tried before but we were very pleased with the results !

Five Ways Lakes welcomed us for a great night out on the water with canoes –super well done to all Beavers who tried this (and loved it!) for the first time.

We had a visit from the local police and a police cadet and discussed safety, stranger danger and the role of the Police in the Emergency Services. Of course we then got to try out some bits of police kit and have a go in the police car (sirens and flashing lights probably drove the neighbours mad for a short while – but we think we are forgiven!!)

We've said goodbye to three of our Beavers who are now enjoying new challenges in Monday & Friday Cubs – and very well done to William for earning his Chief Scouts Bronze Award - we are very proud!

In addition, our 2022 Beaver of the Year is Riley – special congratulations Riley on all you have done to achieve this award and it was a pleasure to present this to you at our AGM. We are super proud of all of our Beavers and everything we work towards is a celebration of our collective achievements. So well done everyone for taking part in and enjoying our Beaver adventures !

We had an absolute 'hearty' blast on our weekend pirate adventure, from picnics to creative pirate crafting, from games and treasure, to walking the plank and SOOOO much more ! We were entertained with some fabulous balloon modelling and then giggled in amazement at a magic show– it was an adventure that will be hard to beat - mini pirates and bigger pirates all slept quite a lot on the Sunday (maybe not so much on the Saturday night)!!

HUGE thanks to the Leader Team & the Young Leaders who put in so much time and effort to make our Pirate weekend so magical for our children – it would not have been possible without you and everything you did was very appreciated !

** PS - All pics of our Pirate Adventures were posted on our Pirates Whatsapp Group

We've got lots more exciting Beaver adventures planned for the Autumn /Winter terms – watch our Whatsapp & FB groups for more details.

Thanks as ever to our fantastic parent / carer group – your support in all we do with your children is very welcome and appreciated.

With our best wishes

Tic Tac, Dobby, Bubbles, Chip, Hawkeye & Niasha

Monday Cubs

Although we closed for some of the summer, Monday cubs managed to get up to lots of fun and completed plenty of badges! In September OSM notified us that there was over 140 badges to award!!!

We have been working on personal safety, including how we should look for warning flags at the beach and around lakes, we then put this into practice on our visit to Fiveways Lakes in order to have a kayaking session with Kev and Janice. The Cubs had a great time, even some of the cubs who have not been before were racing along by the end of the session! Joe showed us his skills he has from his own kayak and even Ella had a go!

We also had some fun with water activities and games with a little help from Baloo.

At the sad news of the Queens passing, Ella bought in a letter she received when she wrote a letter to the queen in 2002 for her Golden Jubilee. The cubs then had a go at writing their own letters to the King of condolence.

As the weather starts to draw in we have plenty of interesting evenings planned including a visit to the Snowdome for snow play in the next few weeks,

We can't not mention Akela receiving her 10-year long service award! BRAVO!

We can't wait to see what this term brings as we move into the Autumn and Winter months,

Akela, Bagheera, Riki Tiki Tavi and Helen 😊

Tuesday Scouts

Well, what a quarter that was! From scorting heat and little too no rain, then thunderstorms and finally a return to "normal" British weather conditions.
The quarter began with the troop attending the District Scout Sport event held at Higham Lane School. The troop got the opportunity to participate in several school sports day type events including tug-a-war, Frisbee golf and sponge javelin to name but a few. They had between 5 and 10 minutes at each activity with the overall event lasting a couple of hours. All in all, everyone had a great time.
The end of July and August is always a bit of a hit and miss time with numbers of the Scouts as well as the leaders taking holidays therefore producing a programme can be difficult and must be fluid. This year was no different with only having 6 scouts on one evening and another week virtually the whole troop.

There are times when the scouts don't believe what we teach them so during my holiday this year I went to a Viking village and inside a house they had a fire going which could clearly be seen made in a pyramid style. This is one of the things we teach them, and they always ask why!
We did manage a couple of weeks of fire lighting though including a one match, one piece of wood challenge. Each of the scouts were given one piece of wood with each patrol getting one match. They all managed to complete the task and some even managed to cook and eat their giant marshmallows.

The quarter ended on sad yet celebrational note with the Scouts paying their respects to our Patron Queen Elizabeth II. We shared stories and talked about what will happen with things like stamps and money. We ended that evening by re-taking our promise to the King.

The quarter has seen a few movers with Dan, Hayden and Jake moving on to Explorers and George, Isobel and Floyd arriving from Cubs.
We cannot end this quarters newsletter without congratulating Johan on being selected as the Tuesday Scout and also to Dan on completion of his Chief Scout Gold Award. Well done to you both for your hard work and dedication.

Tuesday Night Scout Leaders

Explorers

Hi All

Time, once again, to let you know what the Explorer Unit has been up to for the past three months.
We have had a very busy time with lots of trips to various places including Twycross Zoo, and The Ballroom Climbing centre. More of these later.
We started the quarter at Springfield Road recreation ground for an evening of non-stop Cricket. I'm not sure which team won as we lost count fairly early on. This didn't detract from the fun that was had trying to put the other team off. We rounded off the evening, satisfying the inner child by spending some time on the playground equipment.
The Explorers took part in the District Canoe Challenge and had a great time but without much success in the speed stakes. Bearing in mind, though, that it was Krystal's first ever time in a canoe, and that we don't go canoeing as a Unit very often, the fact that they all managed to get around the course without falling in was, in itself, an achievement.
The Twycross Zoo visit was a great success. We started with some free time to look at whatever animals they liked and then we had a 'classroom' session. This was focused on endangered species and what the effects would be for other animals in the food chain if any one of them became extinct.

We studied Rhino's and Bonobos and discovered that, contrary to most ape species, the Bonobo group is led by a female who negotiates through any disagreements between group members rather than using heavy-handed tactics. After lunch there was again a small amount of free time followed by a walk around the nature reserve to study the insect and butterfly population and learn about British habitat that is being destroyed and therefore leading to the decline in numbers.
Seven members of the unit spent a week on Narrowboat Centenary, and you will find their report elsewhere in this newsletter. This was nearly a non-event as the boat we were originally supposed to be going on got stuck behind lock closures and also needed repairs, so the company cancelled on us two days before we were due to leave.

We welcomed visitors Shaun and Gary who came to the HQ to teach the Explorers how to do Axe Throwing.
They were throwing three types of axes ending up with the full tomahawk. All of the members found their targets at least once although there were quite a few misses!

The old Hotel Leofric's ballroom has been turned into a climbing centre and this was where the unit spent one evening. They were led by instructors who started the evening with warm up exercises, then progressed to the traverse wall.
Then the challenges started with them hanging upside down and still moving from hold to hold finishing in a very small space doing monkey impressions.
We had our obligatory 'Pub Games' night which, as always, was well received and thoroughly enjoyed.
Following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II we had a change to the programme and held an evening based around respect and duty. The leaders took the opportunity to point out that the Promise will now change to reflect that we have a King as the monarch and that the Queen's Scout award will now be known as the King's Scout award.

We rounded off the quarter with an evening at Nando's where Hayden not only had a large first course but managed two puddings as well.

Whilst we were on the Narrowboat trip, four of our members were on a District led trip to Canada and those of you who were at the AGM will have seen a presentation regarding this. All four, Matthew, Henry, Daniel and Hayden along with Joe from Tuesday Scouts, had a fantastic time and were a credit to the group.

We have welcomed three new members to the unit, Daniel, Hayden and Jake and hope they have a great time with us. Sadly, we have also said goodbye to two members, Conell and Zach and have sent Reece to be a leader with Friday Cubs as he is now too old to be an Explorer.

In August our explorer unit members were privileged to spend a week on a narrowboat, journeying from Hillmorton in Rugby and arriving in Stoke Bruerne in Towcester and then back to Hilmorton. The unit had to overcome multiple challenges such as the locks. Locks are an enclosure of water held by two gates which are opened when the water has lowered to allow the boat to exit or enter the next part of the canal. The explorers worked as a team to open and close the locks and as a reward for this we would get what Mick would call a sticky-licky, but to us common people this translates into ice cream.

The locks, however, were not the only challenge the explorers faced we faced a few problems with the boat but thanks to the resilience from Barbara and Mick and some bloke called Kev these were sorted ASAP.

The explorers would also worked together to cook meals on the boat using a rota to make sure everybody helped out. due to the boat being quite slim in width whilst people were cooking the other explorers would be sitting on the front of the boat having conversations that we will remember for life.

At one point in our trip, we went through a mile long tunnel. To keep us entertained we all had a lovely little sing song as we moved forward whilst mick drove the boat however when we left the tunnel, we couldn't find Mick. We could just find the man in this picture who we decided to call Grampy due to his lack of hair and grey beard. This man had many stories to tell and some great life advice for us young people.

The weather whilst on the boat was extremely hot, reaching highs of 36 degrees. This meant we couldn't go as far as planned however every day was different and had amazing experiences bringing people together and allowing us to be closer friends then before which allowed our teamwork to be better than ever. After 7 nights, on rock hard bunk beds, we left the boat and went home still rocking, feeling as if we were still on the boat for days to come.

I know how grateful all of us Explorers are to have been given this experience and just wanted to say a massive thank you to Barbara and Grampy once again for putting up with us.

Wednesday Scouts

This Term has seen the completion of the Master at Arms Badge, culminating in a Shooting Competition hosted at the Jaguar Rifle Club with Live Bore Rounds. All of the Scouts that attended practised their shots very well and hit a bullseye at least once!

We integrated an evening of respectful reflection for the Queen, along with quizzes and activities testing their knowledge of the Royal Family, as well as learning some interesting facts about Queen Elizabeth II and her reign.

The Scouts worked together to solve riddles and complete the Challenge of the Sphinx in an Egyptian Riddle Themed Evening. Their lateral thinking skills were tested but they managed to earn enough points to open the Chest and claim their treasure!

We are also proud to say that Dillon Rogers earned Wednesday Scouts' Scout of the Year Award. While the competition was very tight this year, the Leadership Team agree that Dillon embodies the Five Values of Scouting that we all strive towards.

Keep Scouting and keep Smiling!

Many thanks,

Mick Tom and Gareth (Baloo, Chief and Gareth)

Thursday Beavers

It has been 6 months since I started running Thursday Beavers and I can honestly say I have enjoyed every moment! It has been a delightful few months of fun and activity since our last newsletter. We had an amazing time at our Circus Sleepover at the beginning of September and despite Malak's snoring all the children (not Sunshine) slept! It was lovely to see the beavers putting up tents, challenging themselves with circus equipment and working as a team to complete activities.

It has been great to welcome new leaders over the last few weeks and months to join our ever-growing colony. First Amy came along who the beavers named Chip and then Mark came along who we have named Rusty (one of the name choices was Wally which leaders though was hysterical)! Both leaders have been fantastic and settled in really well.

It has also been lovely welcoming many new children in the last few months to join our colony. Unfortunately, with new young beavers arriving we have to sadly say goodbye to 6 of our beavers who are continuing their scouting journey as they start the transition into Thursday cubs. We wish them all well. Malak has finally invested her first Beaver (I'm not sure who was more nervous) along with 2 other new beavers that have been invested.

The children have been having a brilliant time each week and have worked very hard on earning some new badges. We had great fun cycling around Pauls Land and finding out about our bikes to earn our cyclist badge. We have started our Global Issues badge where we investigated recycling in Nuneaton and tried different Fairtrade foods and where they come from. We had a great time canoeing at Five ways with many children getting their Time on the Water badge, lots of children were very brave and tried something for the first time. The Circus Sleep over saw the children get Nights Away and Camp craft badges and some children completed the Outdoor Challenge badge which they had started previously.

We are spending this term finishing off badges that have been started over the months before Malak started. We aim to finish the Safety badge and Global issues badge in the next few weeks. As the nights draw in we will be starting the Space badge and we are looking forward to finding about the planets in our solar system.

All of our Beavers are working towards completing their Bronze Award whilst in beavers, I am so pleased and proud to announce that Oliver has now completed this award. Well done Oliver for all your hard work completing this award. I am looking forward to this being presented to you. We have a few other beavers that may complete this award as they move into Cubs as they have an additional 6 months to finish off little bits.

As we move into the Autumn term there are lots of things planned for the up and coming months. We have visits from the Police and Fire Brigade, a Halloween Party and a whole host of Christmassy fun and frolics! Thank you to all our parents and carers for their help and support we may be a small colony but we are mighty!

Thanks again,

Malak, Sunshine, Dobbie, Chip and Rusty

Thursday Cubs

"SILVER" Bravo to Isabel for achieving her Chief Scouts Silver Award, Isabel was also our Cub of the year. Blue Six was our Six of the Year! Well done to everyone

We have said a sad farewell to Isabel, Floyd, Noah, James and George all will be sadly missed but they continue their Scouting adventure in Scouts.

This term some of our Cubs went to RAF Cosford as part of the Nuneaton District outing, the Cubs had a great day out and gained their Air Activities 2 badges, I think it is fair to say everyone enjoyed themselves and the Adults were shattered.

We have been completing various Challenge badges and also our Athletics badge this was run over two weeks with a bucket toss, and egg and spoon race and ended with an assault course where the only time to beat was your own, every Cub managed to beat their own time, What an achievement.

The Cubs had a to try out their moves with a visit from th e Taikwondo . Learning to punch, kick, turn and break boards, so much energy required the leaders were exhausted just watching it. A big thank you to Danielle who came down and put u s through our paces and to Cub George who impressed us all when he helped to lead and give instructions in Korean.

The Cubs had a trading post night which is always a favourite as they worked to increase the 10 pieces of pasta to as many as they could, by completing tasks, paying for equipment and challenges. This is as much about teamwork as it is about individually growing your wealth.

A few of our Cubs took advantage of an Archery day at Weston Lawns with Mike from Friday Cubs even the leaders and parents had the opportunity to join in. We did soft archery in the week for those who could not attend.

Several of our Cubs represented the Pack at the District Activity Day, they met some interesting creatures, a canon obstacle course, water fun and canoeing on the lake.

Very much looking forward to the next term

Friday Beavers

Hello and what a quarter! Friday Beavers kicked off the summer with the sports badge, where we learnt all about the exciting sport activities that our beavers did. The beavers were also taught how to play non stop rounders and had a great time.

We were extremely lucky to have The Teddy Bears hospital join us. Student Doctors from Warwick came and talked to the Beavers about what happens in hospitals, washing hands, where the organs are in your body what the doctors have to learn and wear. It was a great evening and the Beavers loved putting all the teddys in plaster.

The following week we did some climbing and set our Beavers a mini pioneering task. This involved using pasta sheets and babybel cheeses to create a ramp. This was very tricky but they enjoyed the challenge!

We finished our navigators badge off by going on a hike around Riversley park. We followed our maps and used our skills from our previous meetings to help. We were rewarded with a visit to the park where the Beavers had a great time.

The weather is HOT HOT HOT, so we thought we would encourage butterflys into our garden, so we made butterfly feeders. We cut out flowers stuck them on straws and attached a bottle top to hold sugar water in, which apparently butterflies love. We did a tree identification around Holy Trinity Church and spotted evergreens, different hollies and and maple trees. We also talked about Silver Birch which is good fopr starting fires.

The Beavers did some backsward cooking. First they were shown how to light a fire using kindling and a pyrimid shape fire. The Beavers then prepared pizzas in pockets, wrapped in foil then put in the fire to cook. The Beavers ended the evening by toasting marshmellows and singing some traditional camp fire songs.

Keeo, Badger, Foxy, Mouse and Ringtail.

The Beavers did a great job at raising £40 for the guide dogs by doing a talent show for their parents. We finally got to present this money to Frankie and Brody and their owners Di, Gordon and Steve who were most grateful. Watch out at the bonfire night this year guys as we will be having a cake stall to add to that fund raising.

We had a sad week where we lost our Patron HM Queen Elizabeth. Our evening was about reflection and how the queen might have affected our lives. Our Beavers embraced the evening and shared their stories and their sadness and also happier times during the Jubilee.

Your Majesty,
Thank you for all you've done for us,
For your kindness and for your service.
Thank you for giving so much time to help others
And inspiring us to do the same.
Thank you for your encouragement
To do our best and to do our duty.
Thank you for showing us the way
By being our shining light.
We'll never forget you, and promise
To carry on your good work by
showing kindness in all we do and supporting our communities.
Thank you for being our Queen, our Patron
And a friend to Scouts everywhere.

To finish our faith badge we visited Holy Trinity Church where we met Dave Parr who told us about the church and what they do, we sang a lovely song and had a story which linked to our promise about being kind. A special thank

you to Dave for taking the time to show us this lovely building and for the chocolate.
At the end term we did a pirate themed sleepover, where we built boats and sailed them, painted swords, went on treasure hunts, climbing, pirate ship crossbows, maps, dug for treasure, compass work, Axe (angel) throwing (thank you Hawkeye) and of course everyone had to walk the plank!!
Everyone had a brillant time and they all said they want to do it all again next week!! I think our amazing Beaver adult team who made this possibe including Baloo and Skip, may need a few months to catch up with their sleep first!!
Finally well done to our 4 Bronze Beavers we are so proud of how hard they have worked to gain this badge. We want to say goodbye to our leavers and wish all the Beavers who have gone to Cubs good luck on your scouting journey. Also goodbye and good luck to Ringtail who goes back to University for her second year.

Friday Cubs

Friday Somers Pack
We are losing Isla, Kristyna, Daniel and Kajetan to Scouts we hope you all enjoy the next stage of your Scouting life.
Friday Cubs now has a new Cub Leader Reece Buxton
Well done on receiving Young Leader of the year at the AGM

We have some new Beavers starting with us Jack Thomas Jos and Leyton and hope you all enjoy your time with us at Friday Cubs
This term the Cubs have done Archery and some attended a session with Mike at Nuneaton Archers
The Cubs enjoyed an evening playing with water on what was one of the hottest days of the summer of course this ended in a water battle Cubs against Leaders not sure who the victor was wet leaders and wet Cubs call it a draw
We have completed Personal Safety badge and have done pioneering they have also enjoyed Team games evenings, rock wall climbing and fire lighting with the usual marshmallow toasting at the end.
Many thanks to Steve and Kevin for the brilliant evening the Cubs had at Fiveways Canoeing. Some of the Cubs had not canoed before and really picked up the technique quickly they had a few collisions and went around in circles while the leaders shouted encouragement them they then had races with Reece Paul and Joshua.

Yours in Scouting
Friday Leaders and Young Leader Joshua

Sue Mike Aaron Paul Reece