



**1st Nuneaton  
(Attleborough)**

# October Newsletter 2024

[scouts.org.uk/join](https://scouts.org.uk/join)

**#SkillsForLife**

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## GSL's Report

Welcome back everybody.

I recently announced my decision to step down as Group Scout Leader after 10 years in role, as I feel now is the time to pass the baton to a more energetic, enthused successor. The selection process will be managed at district level, I will remain in role until my successor is appointed, to enable a smooth handover. I wish my successor well as this is a fantastic scout group with an amazing group of leaders, and it has been an absolute honour to work with them. Barbara will also be stepping down from her Explorer role at Christmas. So, if you fancy helping us please contact your child's section leader.

I recently had the pleasure of investing our 2 new Squirrel leaders, a huge welcome to Emma and Dan who are doing a fantastic. Welcome aboard and thank you for volunteering to help us!

Pop up Uniform and badge shop. Jo, our district badge secretary is running a shop once or twice a month at 15th Nuneaton, back of Asda car park (see flyer sheet in Foyer) where you can order your child's uniform. You can also order direct from Jo via the QR code on the flyer. You get free delivery, local scouting 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.

Our annual bonfire night celebration will take place on November 5th, Gates open at 6.00pm, Guy Fawkes competition 6.15pm, (hopefully after last year's struggle in the rain) fire lighting is at 6.30pm, followed by the Firework display 7.00pm. We will have a licensed bar, food and charity stalls indoors fundraising for several local charities. Entrance will be by free tickets (to manage our numbers) but we rely on entry donations to cover the £600 cost of the fireworks.

I have to remind all parents and carers again that parking for drop off, unless previously agreed, is on the public car park opposite the Bull Smoke house. Please do not park at the front of the car headquarters. We need the front car park to be clear so that leaders can access the building with equipment, and young people can cross the car park entrance safely without having to negotiate cars entering at speed to beat the traffic. It is only a 50 metre walk, bring a brolly and coat if the weather is bad please.

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, neckerchief, jumpers etc.

Have a great Autumn.

Mick.

## Parking

Hi everyone,

In order to keep everyone safe just the very busy drop-off and pick-up times (in some cases multiple sections changing at same times) please refrain from parking in the leader carpark directly outside of the HQ.

Instead, if you could please park in the carpark one the corner of Avenue Road and Attleborough Road (opposite the Smoking Bull. WHAT3WORDS ID: [\caller.lift.sank](#). Drop off directly outside the HQ is by prior arrangement with the leader in charge.

With the light drawing in, if you could also ensure you bring your child into the building, and hand them over to the leader in charge (don't just assume someone is there because the lights are on).



## Squirrels

Our newest recruits to 1<sup>st</sup> Nuneaton (AKA The Squirrel Squad) has continued to grow with never ending cuteness and enthusiasm since our introductory news update in June. As you can imagine there have been lots of 'firsts' for our new Squirrel Squad and it's very exciting - new discoveries, adventures, games, stories and some very creative crafting as our super squad continue to work through our badge agenda - read on for our best bits.....

In July we enjoyed a visit with pets - teaching us how to care for rabbits, guinea pigs, a tortoise and stick insects. The stick insects were surprisingly popular (!! ) and huge thanks to Malak from Thursday Beavers who brought the pets and came to show and share with us everything about them. We loved every minute of it!



Squirrels then went on Safari - designing and creating our own binoculars before seeking out some well hidden animals in and around HQ - we are proper little safari adventurers now !



Squirrels love being outdoors and 1<sup>st</sup> Nuneaton squirrels are no different - we are just as keen, so the Scouting Outdoors in 24 challenge has been high on our list of adventures since we started in April!

With this in mind we've enjoyed using natural materials to make paint brushes from twigs, leaves, feathers and flowers (thanks to Kit for helping make them). We used these to create some beautiful tree and butterfly artwork, as well as helping birds out - we made hanging bird feeders from cereals, honey & seeds and tracked their progress - resounding success from our human squirrels and all the birds that visited our gardens !!



We continued with our All about Adventure Challenge, Go Wild & Get Creative badges - teaming the last elements with making our own kites and having our squirrel campfire! Kite craft was a huge hit with all - we made & decorated our own and had great fun flying them before enjoying & devouring mini hot dogs and delicious smore's that we made ourselves over the camp fire. Absolutely delicious and another 'first' for our 1<sup>st</sup> Nuneaton Squirrels!



Mini Olympics came next - with a Squirrel twist. We added a bit of Paris' foodiness' to the day with some yummy French food tasting thrown in. We created individual Olympic torches before starting off the games with some fun races & challenges. Of course everyone was a winner at the Squirrel Squad Olympics and medals were proudly handed to everyone at home time!



Water fun day arrived (YES, our leaders decided overwhelmingly that our youngest members couldn't miss out on this 1<sup>st</sup> Nuneaton group tradition!!). We kicked it off with a very creative 'Team Squirrel' water pistol painting – such fun and we're very proud of our creation – watch out Banksy...!! We had a fabulous hook a duck challenge before a bit of Squirrel mayhem with a (friendly) water battle. Leaders and Squirrels in competition to see who got the wettest - close call but we had to conclude that it was the leaders (again..!)

September comes around quickly and already we have packed in some exciting challenges – discovering our bouldering wall, perfecting target practice with our mini crossbows and learning new games and songs.

We've completed elements of our Local Superheroes badge – a visit to the fire station was awesome and the Squirrels loved learning about fire safety, safety drill, being in a fire engine and of course using the hoses. Amazing strength from such little people – no one wanted to go home !



We've helped out in the community with a litter pick and we've started our Super Chef badge – learning about where our food comes from, mastering some chopping skills and making rocket kebabs, fruit racing cars and banana chocolate sushi. Our final part of this badge will see us tasting foods from around the world and we can't wait.



Before our summer break, we held our first official badge award ceremony – very proud to present almost 50 badges to our amazing little Squirrels – we are super proud of all of you for achieving these and there's lots more to come in the future.

We've also welcomed 2 new squirrels to our Squad and now have 'Rocky' officially named in our Leader team.

So what's next for Squirrels..? Well, we're looking forward to completing our Local Superhero and Super Chef badges in October, tackling Emergency Aid and becoming Space Explorers for our Space badge - as well as working to tick off more of our Acorn awards.

Huge thanks to the Squirrel Leader team – we are still loving every new adventure! – And of course our parent group - who support us so brilliantly with our parent rota and all of our activities. We really appreciate it !

With best wishes

**Tic Tac, Nutkin, Kit and Rocky**

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

## Monday Beavers

Since we wrote our last news update, our Monday turquoise ninjas have been super busy as usual! Before preparing to enjoy a summer break and some long awaited holidays, we managed to attend our District activity day at Five Ways Lakes for some more outdoor adventuring, we've finished our safety badge, started our photography badge, ticked off more key elements of our challenge awards and kept going with the Outdoors In 24 Scouting challenge. We've even managed to squeeze in a sleepover - Read on for some key highlights.....

As part of our Outdoors in 24 scouting challenge & embracing the natural world – we were very lucky to have a 'bee-autiful' visit from bee keeper Brendan who gave us a fascinating insight into why bees are so important to every part of our lives. We got to see a bee hive, honey combs, learned about different types of bees and tasted different types of honey with a selection of fruits and breads. Delicious! We even crafted our own bees and carried out a fun learning (and very messy) pollination experiment – brilliant fun.



Our safety badge was completed with a visit to the fire station – learning the all-important facts about home dangers and fire safety but with fun demonstrations, drills and 'hands on' experience attached. Thanks to Red Watch for hosting us so kindly (and getting us all soaked !!)



We enjoyed discovering how good we are at photography (we absolutely are!! ). A fantastic and very informative visit from a local photographer saw us start our photography badge – we all enjoyed learning top tips on how to take the perfect photo and are budding professionals in the making now!! We will complete the final aspects of the badge with some exciting creations in a few weeks' time!

The long anticipated final part of our Air Activities badge was how we celebrated the end of the school year and saw us take off on a 'flight around the world', stopping at six international destinations where we learned some key facts, a bit of the language and tried food from each area. We had a great flight! Thanks to our pilot (Hawkeye) Security Chief ( Dobby) Destination Manager (Zip), Chief Engineer (Chip) and flight attendants (all Leaders !) for making sure we understood the safety rules, had our passports stamped, didn't lose our luggage and for serving us with all our in-flight refreshments. Such a fun and informative evening!



Our annual water fun night is now famous with our little ninjas and it didn't disappoint this year – the fun never gets old so we had a fantastic ( if exceptionally soggy !) evening with water relay races, boat building challenges and then of course our annual water battle – this year the Beavers won – we've never seen our leaders quite so soaked !!

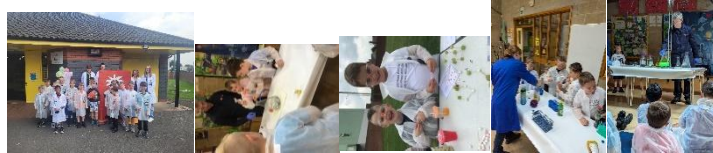
Of course we had to mark the 2024 Olympics, so we held our own Olympic games – making our version of the iconic torch and competing in various athletic games & challenges. There was fierce competition, but phenomenal teamwork and we were all gold medal winners in the end...!!



We eased back into Beavers in September with some autumnal crafting and something new - we discovered fishing! A fabulous visit from The Reel Rod Squad gave us an insight into everything fishing related - from water safety & different fish species', to bait and reel techniques - everyone loved all of the activities and games and we are looking forward to going Lakeside soon to do it for 'reel' and land actual fish!



Without doubt, the biggest highlight of September has been our 'Mad Science' sleepover. This year we turned our HQ into a science lab and we enjoyed a weekend of creating, discovering and experimenting - all of us now properly certified mini (and big) mad scientists. ! We completed lots of different and fun experiments before a visit from two 'real' scientists who blew our minds with some amazing hands on tutorials and the chance to take part in space launches, explosions and some awesome test tube creations. Ending with a multi coloured campfire, songs and stories - it was truly awesome, a bit tiring but a totally 'science-tastic' weekend for everyone. HUGE thanks to all of the team and everyone who helped make such a brilliant weekend of memories for the Beavers.



As ever in Monday Beavers, there's lots to look forward to - after October we will be completing our Photographer badge, starting our Communicator & Disability Awareness badges - as well as doing more autumnal crafting and celebrating all the key dates and festivals that come before the end of the year.

We will be saying goodbye to a few Beavers who are ready for Cubs and officially welcoming new Beavers - more of that in our next update though as it doesn't happen until October!

Meantime - it's important to shout out our appreciation and thanks as ever to our amazing Monday leader team & parent group who continue to support us so brilliantly with everything we do. Thank you all !

Very Best Wishes

**Tic Tac, Dobby, Hawkeye, Zip, Chatter, Chip, Echo & Mole**

*\*\* All pics & details of our adventures (especially sleepover) & activities are shared on our private Parent WhatsApp group \*\**

# Monday Cubs

Think the photos say it all 🤔 Great fun working towards badges! - scientist, outdoors, adventure, world, nights away, first aid, skills - a big badge ceremony coming up 🌟

Here's a write up of District camp from Cassie - Thank you

- 1. I enjoyed my hotdog & hot chocolate
- 2. I loved doing the knots 🧶 it was fun!
- 3. I enjoyed making my own fire and lighting it
- 4. I did not like doing the pigeons  
It made me feel sad

- 5. I didn't like falling over and getting wet and our tent flooding 😞
- 6. I enjoyed spending time with my cub friends and freedom

Thanks to all the leader team including our fine young leaders Krystal and James for making the camp fun, especially as the weather was so changeable !

We should also mention Krystal had a fantastic opportunity to meet and chat with our new Chief Scout Dwayne Fields - she even got on the telly 😊

We said goodbye to Noah on his move on up to Scouts, who was such a good role model to all our Cubs and we wish him well.

Coming up more Silver awards for two more of our Cubs and loads more fun!

Here's to the next Adventures 🤖...

Monday Cubs -  
Rowallan Lead Team



## Tuesday Scouts

As the summer ended and the Autumn arrived with vengeance, we look back on a very busy summer which saw Tuesday and Wednesday Scout come together. However, before the schools finished, the Troop got to learn some life changing skills, including accessibility, CPR and first aid.



Much like all the other sections in the summer, we had a water night, with a water slide, water pistols and a generally wet evening. We visited the old Pingles running track field, now known as the carnival field, for a sports day themed night and also made throw arrows. We had our own version of monopoly using our own Attleborough based monopoly board and some dice to walk around the area. Each time the scouts passed GO, the HQ, they got to pick up some sweets. The last evening of our joint session was a cooking evening, however the weather was against us! Despite this, the Scouts did manage to make fires and the Leaders cooked them burgers and sausages. Thank you to Wednesday Scouts for joining us for the summer and we look forward to doing something similar next year!



Returning after the summer holiday feels like the start of a new year and for us it felt the same. This year we had a couple of Scouts moving away and a change in life priorities. We wish Olly and Lucas all the best for the future! That did leave us with a hole to fill, so new Patrol Leaders and new Assistant Patrol Leaders have been appointed. We have also re-introduced our code of conduct and behaviour policy so ensure everyone, including the Leaders, enjoy their time at Scouts.



Having had the district tomahawks returned to the HQ, we had an evening of tomahawk throwing; this is one of the favourite activities for the Scouts and you can see each time how much they are improving. Pinching an idea of another scout group shared online, we built and set up 4 giant marble runs in the HQ using soft footballs instead of marbles. Each patrol had to build a run which would return the ball back to start. It is fair to say there was some success and some failures!

The quarter has ended concentrating on the Model Makers badge. The Scouts had to copy a model using K'nex and, in some cases, they enhanced the designs making some interesting hats! They have also all been given a 21-in-1 solar kit which they built and designed their own models.

As well as the goodbyes above we have also said goodbye to Albie and finally officially welcomed George!

Tuesday Scout Leaders

## Explorers

This last quarter has been a little haphazard due to Babs being away and Kerrie mostly unavailable due to work and illness. We would therefore like to thank James, Reece, Pumba, Tricky and Sue for their assistance in keeping the unit open over the summer.

A couple of meetings were also held in conjunction with the Scouts and one evening was spent getting very wet on a water activities night. The Explorers ran a wide game for the Scouts at the beginning of September down at the grassy area over the road from the Pingles. The final night of the quarter was also a joint meeting – a karaoke night. There were some great singers and a couple of really bad ones but I'm not naming names on that one.

Pumba ran an evening whereby the Explorers prepared fish and cooked them in newspaper over an open fire. Another one ticked off the survival badge. I know a couple of members weren't impressed with the smell but when the leftovers got home their pets thoroughly enjoyed the results.

Tricky and Reece ran an air rifle shooting evening at the HQ and Reece and James ran a First Aid evening

The unit attended a District Activity evening at 5Ways Lakes where there was canoeing, archery and a Tug of War against a Landrover.

We have welcomed several new members to the Unit and also lost a few. New in are Oliver, Sam, Jacob and Isaac and leaving us are Dan, Burt and Jonah. Dan is off up north for military training and Burt and Jonah feel it's time to move on to pursue other interests. We hope that the newbies all settle in well and have a great time with us.

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## Wednesday Scouts

We have been very busy this summer - trying to make the most for the great weather as well as including as many activities out Scouts requested as possible. We welcomed several new Cubs who are already an active part of the group, as well as preparing a few of our older Scouts to become Explorers.

We made the most of the fantastic hot weather by ending the Summer with our Annual 'Water War' joined by the Explorers – an evening filled with Water Bomb challenges, a massive Slip'n'slide, Slippy Tug of War and of course a Water Fight to end the evening. We even managed to perform as investiture on the Slip'n'slide, followed by a barrage of Water Bombs for a welcome to the group! We were grateful to join with the Tuesday Scouts for a Joint Summer Programme, alternating meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This gave our young people the chance to interact with members of different sections and experience activities ran by different leader teams. Our sincere thanks to the Tuesday Leader Team for hosting their evening activities.

Some of the summer activities held over the Summer Break Programme included:

Water War - another one to make sure we all got a chance to splash around in the spectacular weather!

Home-made Throwing Arrows – some of our Scouts managed to launch their arrows across the football field!

Monopoly Run – racing around Attleborough to 'collect' various locations.

Fire-lighting and BBQ – finishing the summer with sausages and burgers!

This term we have already started focussing on more indoor activities -its cold outside! Our thanks

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to Chip who came down to HQ to run a Karaoke evening with our Scouts and Explorers – bringing his audio equipment and disco lights to teach the Scouts how to mix music as well!

Youth-Led Camp Planning – we challenged our young people to plan their own camp, encouraging them to think about things like site preparation, wood chopping area, first aid/ safety requirements as well as accommodation and food for the event. We were very impressed with the ideas that they had and will be looking to integrate them into our future camps.

Chief has not been able to attend Scouts for the past few weeks due to his studies, but on behalf of the group we would like to express our thanks to Jag (James) for stepping in as the main leader during this time to lead an exciting programme filled with teambuilding games and challenges. We would also like to thank Julie and Helen for assisting – your help was really appreciated to allow us to meet with the right leader support!

We have some exciting plans ahead for our Scouts coming up this term – and while we will definitely be using their suggestions we want to keep some of them a surprise!

Keep Scouting and keep Smiling!

Wednesday Scout Leaders

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## Thursday Beavers

Despite having a few weeks off in the summer Thursday Beavers have been busy having fun and learning new things since our last newsletter update in July. We have welcomed and invested two new beavers Arthur and Pippa and have had a bonza, G'day 'Down Under' sleepover (more about that later)!

Shortly after the last newsletter we had a fantastic day at the Beaver District day at Five Ways. From tractor rides, to kayaks, to cooking on a fire with many things in between the Beavers had an excellent day. It was great seeing the beavers meet and make new friends.



Knowing how important our local community is to us at Thursday Beavers we decided at a beaver log chew that we would like to litter pick within the area. Dressed up in our new high viz jackets, holding litter hoops and litter pickers we soon collected 2 black sacks of rubbish. Later on, in the year, we are going to continue our work in the community when we visit a local residential home for National Smile day and have already made gifts to take with us.

We ended Beavers in July with a BBQ Social where we invited family and friends to help us raise money for our new plates, bowls and cutlery that we brought for all of 1<sup>st</sup> Nuneaton Beavers to use. The money left over Malak brought food and donated it to the local foodbank. The evening was a great success, Rusty cooked all the food without burning any sausages! It was lovely to welcome Dawn (Cub ADC) and Steven (DC) to award Seth his Bronze award at the end of the evening.



During the summer holidays we ran two fun sessions which were energetic and in one case very wet! The beavers had great fun celebrating their own mini Olympics and we were definitely enthusiastic about the Paris Olympics. Our annual water fun night was WET! The children loved getting the leaders wet (in particular Chip) and we had some super sliders!



At the beginning of September, we had our fantastically awesome 'Down Under' sleepover. Rusty worked super hard and did really well gaining his Nights Away Permit. Well done Rusty. The beavers played in a mock Bondi Beach, took part in a bush tucker trial, held an Australian lizard and made some



great down under themed crafts. Malak was amazed that all the beavers were asleep by 11pm. (Save the date March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 for our next sleepover)!

We started the new term with a visit from a very talented lady called Camellia who worked alongside the beavers to show us how to make origami butterflies and caterpillars. The evening was great fun and the beavers loved their models. Lots of beavers went to visit Ant's art project in the park where we saw the stained glass windows the beavers had made on display on the Windmill. When we went on the Canadians recently at 5 ways we were also able to tick off lots

of activities from our 'Outdoor 24' challenge badge including kite flying and blackberry picking. One of the activities for the 'Outdoor 24' is to see a waterfall, apparently the weir by the job centre in the park counts as a waterfall so if you can please take your child to view this one or send us any photos of waterfalls your child may have seen.



This term we are looking at the Money, Global Issues and Community Impact badges and are looking forward to welcoming new visitors during the term. 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

## Friday Beavers

We set off this term with holidays on our mind so we got started on our Air Activities badge where we heard all about the Beavers airplane adventures. We made model planes, wrote our names in phonetic alphabet and played top trumps with different planes.



For our end of term treat, we went to Bermuda Soft Play. We had a great time!

We also had an adventurous activities night and did mini tomahawks, climbing and crossbows. We all hit a can with a crossbow and all managed to do some of the bouldering wall.

On the evening of the opening ceremony of the Olympics, our own Beavers made Olympic torches, we participated in some Olympic activities and everyone got a trophy at the end.

The weather was so nice that we had a wet night, we started with relay games and throwing water bombs which eventually lead to a full-on water fight which was definitely encouraged by our young leaders!!

We carried on a sports theme and learned to play rounders; I think we changed some of the rules as we went but the beavers definitely enjoyed it once they got the hang of it. We finished with parachute games.

I've got to say knots is not my favourite pastime but we decided to try and make it a little bit more fun by tying a reef knot in strawberry laces: the bonus being you could eat it after. We made bubble wands by attaching a piece of string with a clove hitch knot to 2 bamboo sticks and made a hoop, to dip in bubble solution and make bubbles! They really enjoyed playing with the bubbles. We ended the evening with the Beavers making a huge cats cradle between 8 chairs using wool and the knots they had learnt. This resulted in a giant ninja course where the Beavers had to take it in turns to navigate. The Beavers thought it was great!

As we were going Kayaking the following week, we did some prep. Water safety, learning how to sit and paddle, and making our own boats and floating them.

Kayaking was held at 5 Ways, Thanks to Kev and his team for sorting it out for us. We decided we would get the big Canadian canoes out, then we all got loaded up for a fun night on water. The weather was nice and no one got to wet thankfully!



A real fruity night! After playing the game 'fruit salad' we split off in to groups and made fruit kebabs, smoothies and tried some more unusual fruits. The Beavers all got stuck in and were eager to take all the spare fruit home!!

We learnt all about different disabilities, the Paralympics and aids that can help the disabled. We looked at how to push a wheel chair safely and how we could help if we encounter a disabled person.

Finally, our sleepover, organised by Nicky and our district team. We were so excited to be camping

with all our friends in Mancetter, the weather was nice but a bit chilly at night! We did camp crafts including pioneering, cooking sausages on an open fire, catapults, leaf pictures and pitching tents. We then had a brilliant trip to Lucky Tails alpaca farm where we got to walk and spend time with the alpacas. After tea, we had a campfire. Ask your Beaver (if they went) if they have a mango!!! We had a disco and games then hot chocolate and cake followed by the film, Toy Story. By this time, we had lots of tired Beavers. The Beavers slept well and were awake by 6am 😊 Breakfast was followed by sports day, where all the Beavers from the district mixed up and competed for pots of slime!! Keeo, Foxy and Badger are so proud of our Beavers and it felt such a privilege to take these young people away. We also want to Thank Skip and Romarna for all their support. 😊



We have had to say goodbye to Dan and Isaac, 2 of our young leaders, they were both great, a massive help and our Beavers gained lots of knowledge from them. We wish you all the best on your next steps and really hope you come and visit us!

**See you soon,**

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

# Friday Cubs

Hi All

We have had a busy start to the Term

We held a challenge evening building models out of Lego

Lot of fun was had the models were amazing well Done

The Cubs started the My Faith badge

They have visited the Sikh Temple and learnt about the Sikh faith

They had so much fun

Last week they visited St Nicolas Church Nuneaton and were showed around by the By

Vicar

We invested Amelia, Max, Darius, Mason

We welcome Kimberly and Brendon to our pack

Hope you enjoy your time with us