

## 5<sup>th</sup> Beckenham South Scout Group – Trustees Report 2015/16

The Scout Group experienced another wonderful year with two sections for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and a very close relationship with our very successful explorer unit.

Camps, trips and other adventures happened as usual and thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the enthusiasm of our members, we saw more young people than ever before wearing the brown and blue scarf.

We are the biggest scout group in Bromley and that brings its own challenges. Our support team is small and our treasurer is remarkable. A scout group could survive without a section or two or a scout hut but if the accounts are not done, it will fail in months if not weeks. Our secretary manages our waiting list with tact, delicacy and efficiency - it is by far the worst job in the group to refuse places to dozens of youngsters.

John looks after our hut and is a constant presence at meetings. In the past few years, we have seen new windows, roofs, heating, floors, toilets and more. John has done all of this himself and either got his hands dirty or occasionally supervising contractors.

Our minibus is still breaking even compared to hiring commercially but it will need careful consideration when the time comes for replacement

We look forward to a trip to Austria in 2016 and more everyday adventure for the whole group.

*Chris Elmer, Group Scout Leader*

### **Beavers - Merry**

---

#### **Another successful year for Merry Colony.**

Lisa was assisted once again by Kate, Chris and Maddi and supported by two young leaders, Luke and James. We had a regular number of 24 Beavers.

The Scout associations new badge programme was welcomed by all and the Beavers have been encouraged to view the different activities and challenges on the Scout website so that they can earn activity badges linked to their interests outside of scouting,

The Beavers have also been working towards different Challenge badges and have taken part in a variety of activities including making cakes in a cup and icing cookies.

The usual indoor and outdoor games were enjoyed by all.

All 24 Beavers took part in the First Aid meeting and learned how to call for help in an emergency and how to give basic first aid including how to place a casualty into a recovery position. 24 1st Aid 1 badges were awarded.

Outdoor activities have included cooking on fires, water slides and team challenges.

14 Beavers were awarded their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

The Robin Hood themed Summer Sleepover in June was attended by 21 Beavers. This was a very enjoyable event and once more, we had beautiful weather.

We were assisted by some of the Cub and Scout Leaders and we are very grateful for the support, hard work, and enthusiasm that they offer the colony.

Activities included Archery, Throwing wet sponges at Leaders in Stocks, learning how to make fires, Craft activities and a treasure hunt.

The Beavers slept outside in Tepees and everyone had a quiet night.

In November the Beavers attended the Remembrance parade along with the other sections of the group.

We had a Halloween party with the Beavers wearing their scariest costumes.

Our Christmas Sleepover in December was attended by 18 Beavers and once again, this was the first night away from home for some of the Beavers.

The Beavers took part in singing songs, playing games and making Christmas crafts.

After a delicious dinner cooked by our parent volunteer, the children settled down in their PJs and onesies to watch a film. The film 'Frozen', was a big hit with the Beavers and some of the leaders with everyone joining in with the songs!

The New Year brought us new Beavers with some of the children moving up to Cubs. Feedback from their parents has been great and all seem to be settling well into their new section.

The team ensured that all meetings and activities were interesting and fun, encouraging Beaver scouts to try many new challenges. Feedback from the Beaver scouts and their parents has been very positive.

## Beavers – Pippin

---

This report represents the second full 12 months for Pippin colony.

The section was run by Dave & Spencer and assisted by Alison, with great support from young leaders Lizzie and Charlie.

Throughout the year, the Beaver scouts worked towards achieving their challenge and activity badges, with 6 achieving the Chief Scout Bronze Award.

The Cowboys & Indians themed summer sleepover was held at Pinewood Scout Centre in Shirley, attended by 16 Beaver Scouts.

This was the first time that they slept in tents and thankfully we had great weather until it was time to leave.

Activities included starting and cooking on a fire, learning new knots, building a bug hotel, going on hikes, and enjoying songs around the campfire.

Other activities during the year included attending the district Easter Egg Hunt, the Circus Funday at Frylands, a Camp Craft morning and the annual Swimming Gala.

Winter camp was also held at Pinewood and the beavers enjoyed themselves building dens, climbing trees, following trails, building bird boxes and, of course a visit from Santa.

The colony was fully subscribed throughout the year, attended all church parades and, of course, represented the group at the Remembrance Day Parade meeting with other groups and local dignitaries.

The help and support of the parents is acknowledged and greatly appreciated – their participation helped to make many of the events so successful

## Cubs

---

Our Whitsun camp for 2015 took the theme of Cub Scout Agent with a fully kitted out HQ tent for agent registration upon arrival, here they were issued their agent ID papers and secret agent missions and activities for the weekend.

The autumn term saw us taking part in “A Million Hands”. Cubs voted and chose the topic of water and sanitation. We looked at the work of “Water Aid” the charity and the Cubs looked at “water walk” then had relay races carrying containers of water. They learnt about harvesting fresh water and made models of water collection devices. We continued into 2016 by looking at sanitation and Cubs wrote and performed sock puppet plays about hygiene and the need for clean water. The topic was rounded off nicely with a visit from a volunteer Water Aid speaker who had visited many developing parts of the world and gave the Cubs a slide show and presentation that cemented everything they had been looking at.

Christmas camp had been at Downe with the usual crafts, Scotch pancakes and s’mores. Cubs had a first aid refresher on their staged level 2 badges and also had a night out at Quasar, which was definitely their favourite part of the year.

## Scouts

---

Both troops continued to flourish. Thunder is still led by Chris Elmer with Nick Chrumka as his able assistant. We are grateful to all our Thursday leaders for their hard work. Adrian, Oliver and an array of other helpers are vital to the section.

Adam is leader of Lightning and has a solid team of help from Don and alex but is looking for more volunteers.

A special mention goes to John without whom both sections would struggle and who makes so much possible.

A busy 12 months has included (in chronological order)

- Fake wounds makeup
- Burger and milkshake night

- Nerf night
- Water night
- Helping St. Christopher's hospice's fun walk
- Narrowboating
- A zombie Camp
- Water sports at Danson Park

### Summer Camp at Betteshanger

We visited Deal, Joss Bay, Fowlmead, revolution skate park and climbing wall, and had a mammoth assault course built for us by Adam and Debbie. A huge thank you to all the adults and young leaders that made the camp possible and to the scouts for playing the game so well.

And that was in addition to wide games, silly sports, scout craft, Chinese cooking, pancakes, air rifles, archery and more.

Over 50 super scouts and a brilliant team of volunteer leaders making it happen.

## Trustees

---

THE REV CANON JOHN MADDEN

MR JOHN BLAIR POTTER

MR PHILIP COLE

MRS HELEN ARMSTRONG

MRS ELIZABETH JONES (Treasurer)

MRS LISA STRATFORD

MRS KEELEY DAWE

MR CHRIS ELMER

DR CHRISTOPHER MARTIN (Secretary)

MR ADAM YOUNG

MR DAVE BARBER

MR OLIVER COLVILLE

### Special Note

*Cannon Jack Madden died in December 2016. He was a solid supporter of the 5th. He would offer practical help when requested and his prayers when it wasn't. He was chairman of governors of Bishop Challoner School as well as one of our trustees. He will be missed all of us who knew him and counted him as a friend.*