

Fifth Beckenham South Scout Group Annual Report

April 2019 – March 2020

Group Scout Leader – Adam Young

Summer term of 2019 saw all sections in full swing as leadership teams worked in harmony to provide adventure and activity for our young members.

The Beavers wrapped up warm for a hike around High Elms and with Keeo at the helm made it back in one piece although I believe the Beaver leaders needed some light refreshment at the end of the day. They also attended the District Superhero fun day at Frylands wood where the Beavers made new friendships ahead of their ever successful summer camp at Wilberforce Scout camp.

Cubs enjoyed a multitude of days out, Docklands water project, Lego Land and a cheeky pizza and movie sleepover at the hut in preparation for their crescendo Whitsun camp, somehow they always secure glorious weather and produce a thousand smiles. There were even driving lessons for the older Young Leaders. Not content with just a Whitsun camp, Cub leaders put on a fabulous week in Dorset for the older Cubs and younger Scouts who were too young to join Scout camp in Canada, I think they gave Canada a run for their money.

The Scouts too had a day out at Docklands water project and an autumn camp at Broadstone Warren Scout site full of activities but their highlight had to be a joint summer camp in Canada, run by our Assistant Cub leader and attended by the older Scouts and the Explorer section. Beaver leaders and numerous adult

helpers attended too to ensure that both sections had a trip to never forget.

Explorers had a full year as the leaders decided to put on events during each term break, they enjoyed outdoor ice skating followed by Nandos, the worm on any hook for teenagers. They took part in Scouts of Steel and won a bronze medal in the timed assault course and had a day out at Thorpe park too. Explorers had a mini summer camp in July at Ashdown forest where they pitched a hammock village and then spent the day at Camber Sands and then in their October half term had a long weekend on the Grand Union canal. Quite a wet weekend if truth be known, perhaps they should have taken some of the Cub's weather with them.

Cubs and Beavers enjoyed a Christmas camp together at Downe Scout camp and then as the new year broke, so did Covid-19 and Scouting moved to a temporary virtual state, providing section meetings for Beavers, Cubs and Explorers over Zoom and the younger sections even put on virtual camps at home, much to the delight of the parents !!

None the less, the Group continues to grow and our annual census has us as successful as ever in terms of the number of young members who enjoy Scouting and adventure at The Fifth. All section teams and back of house support from long serving executive members seem solid and set to see us through the storm and we will come out the other side to enjoy the rainbow together. Roll on 2021.

Beavers Merry Colony (Wednesday) – Madison Stratford

The Merry Colony has had a fantastic year earning lots of core badges and with almost the entire section being awarded their Chief Bronze Awards. This year the Colony hosted 22-24 Beavers and all the children showed themselves to be kind, responsible and hardworking.

We started the academic year by having a Lego Creators Competition during one of our meetings, the children were able to create and put forward their Lego creation for anonymous judging via judging slips. The children were rewarded for their hard work with a small sweet and the top three creations were presented with a small pack of Lego each.

The children were also rewarded for their brilliant behaviour with a Pizza and Cinema afternoon hosted at the hut, the children were invited to the free event ran by the leaders of Merry Colony to watch Hotel Transylvania and eat lots of Pizza and Popcorn. They also did some crafts that day too.

The children focused on many badges this year, one they particularly enjoyed was their healthy eating badge, the children worked hard for three consecutive weeks making good choices relating to healthy food and designing their own smoothie to make in their Lodges. We were able to have a smoothie making night, where the children chopped, shared and blended up their fruits in order to make a healthy fruit smoothie.

Another Badge the children enjoyed was their international badge, the children were in communication with a group in Spain via Social Media and we also had

some communication from a group in New Zealand via Post. The children exchanged scarf designs, mascots, badges and even learnt the Spanish promise! The children had lots of fun getting mucky this year with a few different arts and crafts we had done, Dino slime, colouring and biscuit decorating.

The leaders had worked out that the colony had some money left in our budget this year, so we decided to take the children to OXYGEN Free Jumping as a reward for being fantastically behaved and always doing their best. We took 20 children and were booked in for a 1-hour jump session, the children wore their Beaver jumpers so we could easily identify them and were able to run around and have fun at the event centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed this, and the leaders were able to go on the trampolines and jump areas to photograph them having fun.

The children learned valuable skills also this year, such as; the green cross code, safety at home and first aid. They also learnt skills via Zoom Meetings while we were in lockdown due to Covid-19 such as; how to tie various scouting knots, keep fit at home and make your own entertainment with old bedsheets and coloured pens. (We made our own custom scarves).

The section has flourished this year and all of the children have been amazing, earning all the badges they could and always being polite. The Leaders, Maddi (Chip) and Fred, (Moose) went on to get married in August and moved away due to starting their own family, so will no longer be running this fantastic little colony, but hope to continue with scouting when their

own little one is old enough to start the movement. We also lost our longest reining Young Leader, James who has gone off to University in Glasgow to study Aerospace Systems. We wish him the best of luck with his new adventure!

The New Year is due to bring lots of exciting new adventures to Merry with new leadership, new routines and lots of new friends. Fred and I are very excited for the Colony to have someone new leading them and creating as many wonderful memories as we did with them.

Beavers Pippin Colony (Thursday) - Dave Barber

Dave and Spencer were assisted by Anna and Helen, along with young leaders Dylan and Kirsty.

The colony maintained its numbers throughout this period at 24.

A busy itinerary saw the beaver scouts not only attend each week, but they also took part in a variety of other activities.

This year, the St George's Day Parade was held at Downe campsite with groups from all over the district attending. An excellent day was had by the 14Pippin Beavers who attended.

In early June, we attended the Superheroes Funday at Frylands scout centre where 12 Beavers enjoyed activities such as archery, air rifles, obstacles course, bouncy castle and walking a high rope.

Later in June, we combined again with Merry colony for our summer camp. This was held at Wilberforce Scout Centre in Keston and the theme was Space Camp. The beaver scouts enjoyed sleeping in tents, making fires, cooking smores over the fires and of course the campfire.

A total of 11 beaver scouts from Pippin colony attended this two-night event.

In October, 1 Beaver achieved his swimming badge stage 1 award by taking part in the District run event held at the Beckenham Spa.

Also in October, a hike around High Elms was organised and 13 Pippin Beavers attended along with a similar number from Merry colony.

The Remembrance Day parade took place on Sunday 10th November with the rest of the group – a fantastic turnout from both colonies and the behaviour from the beavers was impeccable.

11 attended the Winter Camp in December which was held at Downe camp site. This was a combined camp not only with Merry colony but also our Cub packs. The beavers enjoyed a variety of activities including grass sledging, crate stacking, abseiling, arts & crafts plus, of course, a visit from Santa.

The new year started as planned but the Covid-19 pandemic meant adjusting to the circumstances.

We decided to continue with the weekly programme although our last face to face meeting was 12th March.

OSM was opened up to the parents by use of the Programmes at Home and Badges at Home facilities, allowing distanced scouting to continue.

Throughout the year, we carried out work to achieve a number of badges:

- Outdoor, Skills and Personal Challenge badges
- Book Reader, Camp Craft, Space, Safety, Communicator, Global

Issues and Animal Friend activity badges

- Hikes and Swimmer staged badges

And 3 Beavers achieved their Bronze Chief Scouts award.

A busy and enjoyable year with lots of fun.

A final word goes to the parents who kindly assisted on many of the events, for which we are extremely grateful.

Cubs – Liz Martin

The two cub packs have had another busy year with attendance at meetings ranging from 24 to 30 cubs with 5 leaders and 6 young leaders.

We continue to run a varied programme through the year. Our activities have ranged from wide games both inside and outside to tin can cooking, orienteering, archery and repeating the success of last year our own Burns Night at cubs (not quite matching the adult version on the preceding Saturday), followed the next week by Chinese New Year. During the Autumn term the cubs made bird boxes and hope the parents who received these as gifts were impressed with the woodwork skills.

A big thank you to Beckenham fire station who let both packs come on 2 consecutive evenings and showed us round the fire engine, round the station and allowed us to use the fire hose – everyone went home wet but a memorable evening! We also had an evening bowling in Bromley which became very competitive for some of the cubs.

Outside of our weekly evening meetings we have been to the watersports day at the Docklands Scout Project and the cubs tried their hand at dinghy sailing, kayaking

and more in July. Many of the cubs achieved their water sports activity badge.

We had our annual sleepover for pizza and film night at the hut in October resulting in some weary cubs going home on Sunday morning to enjoy the rest of their half term.

Remembrance Sunday saw a good turnout of cubs to the annual parade and service at the War memorial.

In early December cubs, leaders and YL's set off early from the hut in 3 minibuses to Legoland. The cubs had a great day on all the rides on a cold but exciting day.

Our Christmas camp at Downe was again shared with the Beavers and the cubs enjoyed a variety of activities including a night hike, abseiling, wall climbing, and fires with many of the activities contributing to badge requirements. The most memorable part of the Weekend was meeting Father Christmas in his house.

The highlight of the year is always our Whitsun camp near Dorking. This year was a pirate themed camp and all had a great weekend doing backwoods cooking, go karts, archery and of course the traditional barbeque and camp fire. We also had a bouncy slide and assault course on Sunday.

The cubs have worked hard on their badges this year and all the cubs moving up to scouts are gaining their chief scout silver award with many of the younger cubs well on their way to achieving the award.

Well done to all the cubs and to our young leaders who have attended weekly to help out and have now all done their YL training.

Scouts – Don Mullane and Tim Younge

Unfortunately, Covid-19 and the lockdown brought a premature end to our scouting activities this year. Prior to lockdown both troops were flourishing. Thunder, on Thursdays, is led by Tim Younge and Lightning, on Fridays, is led by Don Mullane. We are grateful to all our leaders for their hard work: Spencer, Nick, Oliver, CJ, Helen, Alex, Emily, Alison, Marc, Simon, Nicole and Connie. And to John Spence and Daphne who left the Fifth during the year. There's also an array of other helpers who are all vital to both Troops. A special mention goes to John Potter for all he continued to do.

The highlight of the year for most must be the Scout Summer Camp in Canada. Kudos to Liz Martin for all her work in planning and organising this, and to the helpers who assisted and made it all possible.

This was all in addition to the usual fire lighting, nerf fighting, water night, pancake night, Chinese cooking, reptile encounters, Quasar, and a host of other activities.

Finally, not forgetting our 4th annual Fireworks Display and all the other fund raising done for the group during the year which enables us to provide better experiences for our Scouts and our community events which also supports other charitable causes – this includes the Great East Egg Hunt for younger children. Unfortunately, the 2020 Fireworks Display, like the 2020 Great Easter Egg Hunt, will not be proceeding because of Covid-19 but we look forward to the resumption of both in 2021, bigger and better than ever. It would be remiss not to thank all those who give their time to make these

possible especially Jed Mendez and Chris Martin.

Keep safe.

Don and Tim

Canada 2019 – Scouts & Explorers



In July 2019, 69 explorers, scouts and leaders from 5th Beckenham South scout troop went to Canada for 10 days and I can honestly say that it was the best Scout trip I've ever been on.

I liked this because the views were incredible from the zip wire and the tree trekking was challenging but really fun and like no tree trekking I've done before.



My favourite activity was the tree trekking and the zip wire over Heart Lake. I really



We also did a jet boat tour on Niagara River where we got soaked, and rafted down the Grand River and swam.



The campsite at Blue Springs Scout Reserve was beautiful and it was just stunning to watch the sunset over the lake. Probably the best part of the trip was at night when we could just hang out with our friends because we all became really close. There were so many different activities that we did including climbing a real rock face at Rattlesnake point, going up the CN tower, canoeing round the islands in Toronto and walking behind and then sailing into the Niagara Falls.



They were activities you couldn't do anywhere else. As we were so far away from home we had to support and be there for each other when we felt homesick and my friends became friends I will keep for life. Overall the trip was amazing and everyone there had a time they will never forget.

Kirsty (Explorer)

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