



2nd Bulford (St. Leonards) Scout Group

Annual Report 2014/15

Registered Charity Number: 284682



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Chairman's Report

This, my first year as Chairman, has been a very busy one. The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their hardworking leaders have supported several local community events - e.g. Bulford Church fete in June 2014 and the Durrington Fun Day back in August. The Group has also been busy raising funds for our own use; the Christmas Bazaar and the Family Bingo in May are just two examples. All of this activity is of course in addition to the time and effort expended just to keep the weekly programme, and the weekend camps, running throughout the year. I would therefore like to thank the Leaders for their hard work since the last AGM.

There are two issues which keep arising. Firstly, the Leaders find it difficult to maintain the pace needed to sustain the Group. Secondly, the "traditional" fundraising events are no longer yielding the level of income which was traditionally the case. Hence I am appealing to those parents who feel able to devote a little time to help out with either of the following - to form a fundraising committee (suggested by our previous Chairman) or to help out with the regular programme. In both cases, you would be well supported and your efforts would make a big difference to the children.

Finally, the new hut in Milston Road. Progress has been painfully slow. Between September 2014 and late February this year the site was at a standstill. In late February, nine energetic and enthusiastic QinetiQ apprentices, under the supervision of Richard Alman, and with the background support of Carl Orme, started to make a big difference on site. I am happy to report that their efforts have brought us to within a few weeks of having the building signed off.

Gerrie Mullen

Treasurer's Report

HSBC

Balance	1 st April 2014	£2371.00
Balance	31 st March 2015	£4571.33
Commitments of		<u>(£4012.60)</u>
Leaves balance		<u>£ 558.73</u>

Nationwide

Balance	1 st April 2014	£36684.88
Balance	31 st March 2015	£ 3858.99

Nationwide fund has been spent on the new Scout Hut.

We have other donations and grants in HSBC which have also been used on building work.

We had one grant £3000 which was stipulated for new tents only.

Mary Morgan

Group Scout Leader's Report

This year has been a busy year for the Group. We have started the new build of our Head Quarters at Milston road. This has been after a long spell of fund raising and trying to secure a builder.

The Group sections have been busy with in the District events calendar where many of the beavers, Cubs and scouts taken part in these.

Group has been successful at uploading all the young members on to the new Scout Head Quarters Compass. We got the Census done and inputted on time. We have had a slight numbers increase. This is with securing leaders as well as young members.

As a group we have also taken part in a number of local community events. Ranging from Durrington Community, Bulford St Leonards Church fetes and Netheravon community Fete.

This Year we have seen a Explorer Unit move in and start meeting with our Group. This is a positive step as the older scouts have another step up.

We are looking at trying to encourage more parents to become active with in the Group. Especially in Fund raising areas .So if you think you can help out please contact me.

Bob Jones

Beaver Scout Leader's Report

It has been another year of fun-filled activities for the Beavers who have enjoyed a varied programme with many activities being off site or outdoors and in all weathers.

April started with the Beavers wearing their clothes backwards and the whole evening being run backwards. As it was April Fool's day the Beavers also brought in jokes, which produced many smiles.

Easter is always celebrated with lots of chocolate makes and our famous egg hunt around the grounds. The Easter bunny certainly knows where to hide the eggs! Easter bonnets are also made and worn for a parade.

St Georges Day is always a big event for the Scouting movement as St George is the patron saint of Scouting. The Beavers attended 2 St George's day events, where all scouters reaffirm their promises, one at the local church where a dragon, damsel and George appeared and the 2nd at a district event in Salisbury where lots of fun activities were enjoyed.

The Beavers have attended other church parades including mother and father's day along with their parents, Christingle service, harvest festival, where they bring in a gift for people who are less privileged.

One special church parade was Remembrance Sunday. The Beavers spent several weeks participating in a variety of activities. They all made a poppy to place on a grave of a soldier in Bulford cemetery, which was very poignant and a spectacular sight. They were read poems written by the soldiers to give them a better understanding. They also enjoyed playing traditional games played by children in the war.

Camp fires and cooking over them is very popular with Beavers and anything that involves making and eating food. The Beavers have all participated in healthy eating including healthy lunch boxes and fruit smoothies. We have been very lucky to be able to use the local school cookery classroom for a lot of the cooking tasks. The Beavers enjoy being in a big school classroom and the lovely facilities. The Beavers made and iced Christmas cakes, which were decorated and boxed beautifully. They have also made, cooked and eaten leek and potato soup and pancakes cooked on a flame outside. Pancake tennis is great fun and enjoyed by all. Burns night is also a fun night with the making of tatties and neaps (carrot and swede) and the reciting of the Selkirk Grace to welcome the Haggis. Beavers are all asked to taste the Haggis, which they readily do until they are asked what they think it is made of. In the words of one of the Beavers it is made of all the bits you wouldn't

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normally eat!!

Beavers also enjoy dressing up. They have had plenty of opportunities including uniform night and onesie night. The Leaders have also dressed up as well. Playing games dressed as a bat is great fun!!!

Beaver leaders are named after woodland creatures, named by the Beavers through a vote. Two Beaver meetings were spent making woodland creature activities including masks and finger puppets. Each year the Beavers make bird feeders and take part in the RSPB National bird survey looking at and recording the birds in their gardens.

Beavers have also enjoyed many parties including Halloween with the other Scouting sections and a Christmas party at Pizza Hut, where they have great fun with the ice cream factory!!!

The children are encouraged to look at different faiths. This year they celebrated Diwali with traditional food and the making of candles for a display of light. The Beavers also dressed in bright clothes and made Indian sweets.

The Beavers are also encouraged to participate in local events and to help with raising money for other charities. They have helped out at Bazaars, jumble sales, fetes and attended the Pantomime.

Badge work is important for the Beavers and there are a variety of badges which they complete at home. They have also enjoyed completing their First Aid badges Stage 1 and 2. They are taught how to make an emergency phone call, how to treat burns, recovery position, scalds, bleeding, etc. Badges have changed this year and we look forward to introducing a different variety during the next scouting year.

We are fortunate to have a full Beaver group with a healthy waiting list and an expression of interest list for those who are not old enough to start yet. We also have a very strong leader team, which is important in the running of the night and for supporting the children who require one to one.

We're all looking forward to the forthcoming scouting year.

Caroline Lewis

Cub Scout Leader's Report

This has been another eventful year for the Cubs. We have been to two camps, and during the Cub meetings have done shelter building, fire lighting, first aid, hikes, DIY, pioneering, map-reading.

We have had Cubs representing us in district events. These include a Sixer and Secunder training day, District Cycling Event, the Scrapheap Challenge and the Swimming Gala.

Cubs have attended the monthly Church Parades at St Leonards Church and helped at the church's fund raising activities. They also helped at the annual clean of the church, with liberal amount of soap and water and polish being applied.

We have had joint activities with the Beavers and Scouts which helps the children when they move from section to section in that they know some of the children and the leaders they will be with in their new section. These joint events included the summer program, Christmas and Halloween parties and the Prize Bingo evening.

We have had the pleasure of presenting the Chief Scout Silver award to four Cubs who have managed to complete all their challenge badges.

In the last year the number of children in Cubs has gone from 17 to 21, although a number will be moving up to Scouts shortly. We have added another adult leader, but there is always room for more!

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents and Cubs for your support this year. It is greatly appreciated and without it the Cub pack would not be able to work half as well.

Rob Morgan

Scout Leader's Report

We have had another busy year in Scouting and numbers continue to grow.

The Troop has taken part in many District events. Ranging from incidents hike, raft race, District Camp and Grose Trophy.

We have had new leaders join the troop and this has improved the ability to provide more outside activities.

Scouts have made a progress through with activity badges and challenges. We have a number of Scouts who are completing their Chief Scout Gold award in the near future.

A new era is approaching the Scout movement with new programme zones and badges. This takes full effect in September this year. The troop is making great progress with regular turn out through out the year.

Numbers are at 14 and have plenty of scope to increase further. The troop has gained a lot of experience on camps.

The leader team look forward to the next year and the continuing growth.

Bob Jones