

Scouting

Spring 2016

1st Hardwick & Highfields

Get Up And Go Scouting!

www.hardwick-scouts.org.uk



A word from our GSL...

Dear Parents, Carers, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts,

2015 was another great year for our group with plenty of adventurous activities, day trips, camping and scouting skills being enjoyed by both children and parents alike, and with many exciting activities, trips and camps already organized by the team of Leaders already, next year looks to be even better!

Last term also proved to be good for fundraising as in October Richard (Cub Scout Leader and quiz master!) ran another fantastic Entertainment Quiz at the School raising £442.50 for the group.

In early December the Cubs and Scouts practiced their bag packing skills at Morrison's in Cambourne. After 2 hours of hard work and no breakages the generous shoppers donated a total of £326 to the group for their efforts.

To finish off a fantastic term 70 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came together at the School for our annual Christmas Party. After 2 hours of silly games and the help of a great team of leaders from all the sections it proved to be a great end to the year.

I would also like to say a big thank you **Andy Pearson** and **Chris Down** for taking out warrants as Assistant Cub Scout Leaders. As without people like them we couldn't run such a fantastic group giving many children in Hardwick and the surrounding villages an opportunity to enjoy Scouting.

As you are all aware we have a fantastic set of leaders that run the sections, but you may not be aware that we have an Executive Committee that works in the background supporting the Leaders in their efforts by ensuring that they have the finances and equipment needed to run the group. They meet 4-5 times a year with each meeting lasting no more than 2 hours.

We are currently in need of new members for this committee and would like you all to consider joining us in making a difference to the young people here in Hardwick in 2016 and beyond.

If you are interested or would like more information I would like to hear from you.

Wishing you all a happy new year.

Razz

Group Scout Leader razz.scouts@gmail.com

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Diary Dates

Jan 8th-13th	Scouts-Winter Camp
Feb 27th	Group Jumble sale
March 5th	Scouts -CUSAG
April 1st-3rd	Scouts- Walking weekend
May 7th	Cubs- HMS Belfast trip
May 21st-22nd	Beavers - Hardwick Camp
June 19th	Beaver/Cub- Gilwell Fun day
July 1st-3rd	Beavers- The Quarries
July 22nd-29th	Scouts - Summer Camp
Sept 9th-	Cubs 100 Camp

1st Hardwick & Highfields Scout Group: Charity No.1062410

JOIN THE ADVENTURE.



Global Challenge Badge

We started back after the Summer Holidays with 12 Beavers. Chips organised a games evening to get everyone settled back. Our aim for the Autumn Term was to achieve and gain the Global Challenge Badge. So we started off with the Beavers learning what to do in an emergency, who they would ring if they were stranded on the side of a mountain or if they saw a boat had capsized, or if one of their friends was caught in fire and we did some telephone role play. The following week we went on a hike to Caldecote – the Beavers started off with lots of energy, running out in front at times, but they didn't end up that way. We held a session at Hardwick Church where the Beavers dressed the font for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service – thank you again for all your food items – these were greatly appreciated, the Beavers then played wide games in the park. In October they created some autumnal pictures by leaf printing. Then, in the last week before half term, celebrating Halloween by eating donuts off a string, pinning the wart on the witch (a picture!) and various other games.

After half term our numbers increased back up to 20 - we now have 5 Alex's! We started off by learning about the firework code and then the Beavers produced some very good chalk pictures of bonfire night scenes. On Sunday a few Beavers attended the Remembrance Service parade where Oliver was our flag bearer. The following week the Beavers cooked, iced and decorated (some more than others) cupcakes. I don't think some of them made it to the door without being eaten.

At the beginning of November the Beavers learnt about the phonetic alphabet and by the end of the session they were able to spell out their names using this method. Chips organised a session on what he does at work. He brought in his uniform and asked a couple of Beavers to try it on, marked out, on the Scout Hut floor, how big his petrol tanker is and gave out some very interesting facts in a quiz. Chips brought in a model of his lorry and showed pictures of how a petrol tanker operates and more interestingly to the Beavers where he sleeps in his lorry.



Interesting fact:- Chips lorry fills up 2,000 litres per minute, so fast we could fill our cars up in under 2 seconds!!

We ended our Beaver sessions in the hut by making Xmas tree decorations – the Beavers were given pre-cut discs of wood in which they had to drill a hole for the ribbon and decorate with stickers and glitter glue.

There was a very good attendance at the Scout and Guide Christmas Carol Service held at the Church.

All of the Beavers were awarded their Global Challenge Badge and Communicator Activity Badge.

Finally, we have a very exciting 2016 planned with two camps already booked:-

21st – 22nd May, an overnight at Hardwick Church

1st -3rd July we're off to 'The Quarries', Milton Keynes – including a narrow boat trip – can't wait....



After losing Fiona and Jane as assistants in the Summer, the Autumn started by welcoming my new team of Jackie Hamilton, Chris Down and Andy Pearson –We started the term very early in September with the start of the celebrations of the 100 years of Cubs, which will be playing a big part in the next 15 months, so the Autumn term started with a Treasure Hunt, with the Cubs

having to find 100 Scouting related items to find around the tennis court/ play-ground area, then it was time for an early camp, a sleep-over at Warwick Castle – along with 17 other Scouting and Guiding groups, giving ourselves plenty of time to negotiate the M6 in a couple of mini-buses, we arrived early so had time to use up some energy at the local play-park, before arriving at 5pm to register... Before we could relax and enjoy the weekend, we had to put up 12 tents in an hour, which with 30 excited Cubs looked like a daunting task, but with the help from some cubs we did it, and so it was time to start our adventure with food, a Medieval jousting and archery displays before bed-time. The following morning it was even more of a mad rush to get all the tents down and loaded into the trailer before breakfast...we made it in time and so enjoyed a well earned breakfast before the exclusive Birds of prey display, once that had finished the gates opened for the public and we were able to walk round the grounds until it was time to leave at 3 pm, another camp over another group of Cubs worn out.



The activities continued on the 17th – with parents and grandparents travelling the length of the country to witness the cubs unique and exclusive trip to the Senate House to receive their own degrees from the stand-in VC (aka Akela)...with also a talk on the history of the ceremony and Senate House plus lots of photographs later and it was time to lock up and head back to Hardwick, after another successful Senate House trip.

The final meeting in September and with the light still visible we took the Cubs for an orienteering session to Wandlebury, with lots of wandering around and getting lost, they seemed to enjoy themselves. As an extra activity on Sunday 27th September, 20 Cubs, siblings and parents went off to the St Neots

Footgolf course....and yes you've guessed it ... it's golf with footballs, obviously with bigger holes.

1st October arrived and it was back to Cubs 100...with some totem pole making, once the poles were made, the Cubs drew and coloured their own masks, and finally a wolf's head was placed on each of the sixes Totem Poles. After the Cubs Dodgeball tournament on the 8th it was back again to Cubs 100 and a special 'Cub dine with me' where we invited 5 ex-Hardwick Cub leaders and each six prepared and served their own course, receiving marks for them, this also went towards the Team work challenge badge. The following week there was some more cooking involved, this time for 'Cake in a Mug' all was needed was a mug, a microwave, and some ingredients.



Following a 2 week break, while we all enjoyed half term and the fireworks, we returned on the 12th for an incident hike set up by the Explorer Scouts, the idea was to hike around in 5 groups to each base set up, from Spaghetti Tower Building to cooking dough sticks. The following two weeks we split them into 2 groups, making Christmas T-shirts for next terms Christmas camp, choosing their own design for it, and a Quick-fire 100 True or False questions, changing over the following week.

Now it's December and we took the Cubs to St Neots Eat N Bowl for some Ten Pin bowling, and food and our final Cubs say the return of the OsCubs awards, all with our very own red carpet with some wacky racing too. The following day some Cubs turned out to join the rest of the Scouting and Guiding sections for the joint Carol service. Now with barely a week until Christmas on the 17th we joined up with the other sections of the Group for a Christmas party, concluding another fun year at Cubs.



Most of our Scouting year seems to take place in the dark which can be a little restrictive. However, this term has been unseasonably warm which has allowed any outdoors activities to be considerably more comfortable than usual! In fact many evenings this term have been warmer than some of the days on our Medieval-themed summer camp back in July. We spent a great week at Gradbach in the Peak District, camping next to a beautiful picturesque river. The weather was somewhat challenging but what we lacked in sunshine, we made up with in fun!

We spent a couple of evenings at Harlton Woods – it's always a great novelty to run around in the woods in the dark, and even more of a novelty in that there are hills and slopes! Some Scouts find it rather challenging on their Fen-legs!

One focus for this term was supporting the Scouts through their Chef's badge. We covered aspects of food safety and hygiene and had a soup-making competition. At home, the Scouts cooked for their families; we saw photos of all manner of delicious treats, cooked and served beautifully. Well done – don't forget to take some time to sew on your badge. We also learned how to make apple juice using windfalls and an apple-press. The Scouts drank gallons of the stuff! The warmed, spiced juice was also popular.



We enjoyed a visit to Cambourne Police Station this term, and although the Scouts were a little disappointed that there are no calls there, we had a great time anyway. Sitting in a patrol car and being allowed to play with the blue lights was a highlight for many. The Scouts also had the opportunity to race the speed camera on foot; Oli W, Ryan J, James and Emmeline all managed to run at 11mph across the police car park! Thanks to the PCSOs who hosted us.

Some of the Scouts attended Scarefest – a Hallowe'en themed camp at Gilwell Park (Scouting HQ). They had a great time taking

part in adventurous activities and jumping out at people from bushes!

The Scouts also worked on their camp blankets, adding new badges and old scarves. The camp blankets are a great place to celebrate past achievements, events and camps. When the Scouts are as ancient as their leaders are/feel, they can look back at their camp blankets and remember how they gained their badges or reflect upon their emerging sewing skills!

Well done to everyone who managed to attend the Bag Packing fundraiser and the Remembrance Sunday parade. The service took place at Comberton this year, the Scouts looking very smart as they paraded with the flag. We had made special poppies this year and some of the Scouts added theirs to the wreaths at the war memorial in the church. Behaviour was exemplary throughout.

Here's to more memorable times in 2016!

