

1st Sunningdale Beaver report

AGM Meeting 21 June 2008

The last 12 months have absolutely flown by in a haze of Beaver-ish activity, which Rosa and I (and all the Beavers) have thoroughly enjoyed.

We still have a full Colony of 24 Beavers, with 41 now on the waiting list of which 16 are already 6 years old - proof (if any were needed) that Scouting is as popular as ever and thriving in Sunningdale.

So what EXACTLY have we been doing at Beavers this year?

For the whole of the Autumn term we chose The Environment as our theme and had various activities culminating in a spectacular Christmas Show. We started in **SEPT** with a quiz to find out how “Green” we were and I’m pleased to say our conclusion was “Very.” We also got creative n’ messy, painting and decorating Harvest Festival boxes for the old folks of the Parish.

As if 24 Beavers weren’t enough, Rosa and I said each of them could bring a friend (just one) to one of the meetings in **OCT**. We held the meeting at Earleywood and fortunately the weather was kind to us, so we were able to do blindfold trails and other outdoor games. For our Environment focus we “helped” Graham plant bulbs down at the Broomhall Lane Rec. This is always a popular activity as it involves getting messy with mud.

NOV saw the start of rehearsals for the Christmas Show and full credit goes to Rosa for writing a completely original script on an environmental and Christmas theme. Rosa also organised all the Beavers with their parts, lines and costumes. We also didn’t miss an opportunity to get messy again, as we painted various bits for our scenery.

With all this preparation it will come as no surprise The Christmas Show at Cordes Hall in **DEC** was a fantastic success and a great evening for 1st Sunningdale Beavers, Cubs and their family and friends. Maybe not an annual event ☺! But definitely worth doing again at some point....

In **JAN** Rosa showed us how to make pasta from scratch. No matter how many times I see Rosa do this I am always impressed as she just starts off with a pile of flour and eggs in the middle of the table. The Beavers were equally enthralled and got messy with flour rolling the pasta out and cutting it up, before cooking and sampling it with some home-made-by-Rosa tomato sauce. Yummy!

FEB was a busy month too: we made and decorated Italian Carnival masks (more creative mess) and learned some new card games.

In **MAR** we practised some cycling and cycle control in the Holy Trinity playground and just before Easter got messy with chocolate as we made some seasonal nests. And as if

that wasn't enough mess for one month, we went up to Earleywood and made bird feeders. This involved mashing seeds, bread and nuts together with some melted lard, and pressing the mixture into yoghurt pots and hanging them upside down in the trees – proving to be both messy and sticky!

In **APRIL** some of the Beavers visited the National Maritime Museum to earn their Explore badge and we had Super Hero Night, when all the Beavers came dressed up, as part of our Imagination badge. We also had our first session of the year on the climbing wall at Earleywood.

More recently in **MAY** we've decorated our Summer t-shirts and completed our Healthy Eating badge. A few more Beavers have climbed on the wall and some Beavers attended the District Challenge Quiz and 4 stayed afterwards for the first ever District Sleepover. Although our 2 teams represented us very well at the Challenge, we were unable to win the Big Shield for a second year running.

And only last week we had our very own Bring-Your-Camera hike at Virginia Water, with the instruction “to take a photo of anything you find interesting.” As you can imagine once one Beaver found something interesting, the rest of them did too, so at one point there was a small dachshund dog surrounded by a swarm of about 10 Beaver Paparazzi all taking its picture. Rosa and I can't wait to see the resulting photos!

As in previous reports I'd like to end with a big thank you to all the people who have come along to help at Beavers. During the past year we've been very fortunate to have help every week from Harriet Crofton (aka Pigeon) as well as many of the Beaver parents. We can do so much more with the Beavers and offer a much more varied programme with more help and cover completely new and different topics like...

- “Being a Pilot.” Greg's Dad, Fraser, did his talk again and as before, one lucky Beaver got to pull the toggle and inflate the life vest and yet again Fraser's cap was tried on by all.
- “All about Money”. Andrew's Dad, Grant, came along and told us all about how money moves electronically between banks and shops when we buy something. He brought the whole process to life with some great audience participation, so they were completely wow'd by how quickly it all happens, and how far (geographically) some of the electronic messages travel.

So a big thank you to Rosa and Harriet and all parents who just come along to help and experience the exuberance and creativity (noise & mess) that is Beavers.

And both Rosa and I are looking forward to what we know will be the next 12 even more action-packed, fun-filled months of Beaver-ish-ness!