

1st Sunningdale Beaver report

AGM Meeting 23 April 2010

We now have two Colonies with 24 Beavers in each, with 27 on the waiting list - proof (if any were needed) that Scouting is still as popular as ever and thriving in Sunningdale.

With two Colonies we needed to come up with names for each and after much deliberation we decided on DARWIN (Monday Beavers) and BRUNEL (Tuesday Beavers). Perhaps not quite the traditional Beaver-esque names which automatically leap to mind, but for us both men had a love of the world around them and a burning desire to explore and find out more. They inspired those around them and created so much, that we felt it was what being a Beaver was all about....oh yes and having fun too!

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

As the weather was so good we were still able to have one of our meetings at Earleywood in **SEPTEMBER 2009**, before the weather turned. The Beavers do so love rushing about in the wide open space and we're very lucky to have it on our doorstep

You say potARto and I say potAto. Yes, in **OCTOBER 2009** we spent one whole session on the humble spud. Needless to say some tasting (crisp eating) was involved, as well as getting messy with potato printing.

NOVEMBER 2009 saw us down at Broomhall Rec playing in the dark and waving sparklers in celebration of Diwali, as we spent the next six weeks or so finding out about different religions and working towards our Faith badge.

Sue had us up to elbows in glitter glue for some festive crafts in **DECEMBER 2009** and just before Christmas we joined up with the Cubs and put on a Christmas Show at Cordes Hall. Our splendid indoor campfire (with flashing light and mini hedgehog) was centre stage as we all sang our hearts out (Leaders n' all!!) to well loved favourites like "Everywhere to Go", "My Name's Jo", the "Superman Song" and of course the "Lonely Moose".

In spite of the snowy start we kept busy in **JANUARY 2010** with a Keep Fit session, finished off with Vikki's Burn's Night celebration, with Highland Games as well as some Scottish delicacies like haggis and shortbread. The Beavers were definitely more adventurous when they thought the haggis was a "Scottish sausage", but it will come as no surprise to know the shortbread was just that little bit more popular!

In **FEBRUARY 2010** Sue had the imaginations running riot with Scrapheap Challenge. It's amazing what treasures can be produced out of the week's recycling and whilst this is always a VERY popular session with the Beavers, it must fill all parents with dread, as they know what they were hoping to get rid of, will be turned into a fantastic work of art destined to clutter bedrooms for weeks to come.

And in **MARCH 2010** Sue has had us acting out the stories of Hairy McLairy (of Donaldson's Dairy fame). These stories are well known and well loved by all the Beavers and they had us in hysterics with their antics. Finishing off just before Easter with Chocolate nests (always popular!).

And then in **APRIL** we've had our first Climbing Experience Day of the year, having (literally) roped in some of the parents to help. Nine parents came along the day before for some training and had a go themselves of climbing the Earleywood Tower, before belaying the Beavers and Cubs the following day. It was our most climbing popular day so far with almost 40 children enjoying the Experience. In April we were also thrilled to welcome three new leaders Olivia, Christian and Caroline to 1st Sunningdale Beavers.

In **MAY** we're having a joint Colony meeting with ALL the Beavers together in the most massive wide game EVER (should be fun!!) and some Beavers are joining in the District Challenge and Sleepover, whilst a few more will be coming along to the Centenary Camp at Youlbury.

And in **JUNE and JULY** we're aiming to be out and about as much as possible, as well as enjoying the District Fun Day and 6-side Beaver World Cup Football Event (which we WON last year...in case anyone didn't know!!), so the pressure is on for us to retain our title. Fortunately there's no such thing as relegation in this league ☺! And then to finish the year off there'll be the ever popular family BBQ and in the infamous Tug-o-War.

As in previous reports I'd like to end with a note of thanks to all the people who make 1st Sunningdale Beavers what it is. We can do so much more with the Beavers and offer a much more varied programme when we have help and the involvement of other people alongside the Leaders.

So a HUGE thank you to

- Sue (aka Kingfisher) who has been leading the Darwin Beavers sadly stepped down at Easter. We will really miss her enthusiastic commitment and creativity!!
- Vikki (aka Woodpecker), Stuart (aka Robin), Will, Olivia, Christan and Caroline who run the weekly sessions, plus Valerie and Alison whose continual and ongoing help behind the scenes makes running two Beaver Colonies possible.
- Drew for coaching our Football Squad to Victory
- And all parents who come along each week to help and experience the exuberance and creativity (noise & mess) that is Beavers.