

GSL Report – AGM 2010

What a busy year we are having. We have started up an additional Beaver Colony and Cub Pack and are celebrating one hundred years of Scouting at 1st Sunningdale Scout Group.

The Beavers have gone from strength to strength thanks to Hilary, Sue, Stuart, Vikki plus all the parents who volunteered to help during the year. Sadly we have lost Sue to other commitments, but she will continue to help us with jumble sales where her eBay experience will continue to provide us with additional income. However, we welcome Caroline Small and Olivia Hockham to our Beaver team, plus Christian Leigh is on the cusp of joining in.

Before summer term last year the cubs were meeting as one big cub pack at Earleywood, then in September the Monday night pack started up. Harriet has done a great job with this pack with help from Gareth Edwards, who has not always been able to help due to his teacher training commitments. Mark, Norman and Simon have continued to run cubs, despite their boys having moved up to Scouts. Dave now has his second son in cubs. I would like to welcome Michael Hewitt, whose son Ian joined us from Bobcats in America, who has agreed to be a uniformed, warranted Cub helper.

The Cubs, Leaders and I had a great time on HMS Belfast and then on the Imperial War Museum. What a relief it was not to lose any of the Cubs on our travels. Note for Mark – get a compass. Mark took us round the houses to get to the Imperial War Museum.

Well done to the Cubs for winning the District Cub Quiz, something I never managed to achieve when I ran the Cub Pack.

Scouts – we only have the one Troop, though there are probably sufficient numbers to start an additional Troop. There are currently twenty four young Scouts and we will be taking an additional ten Cubs this year. In 2009 Shaun had twenty seven Scouts which was far too many for him to manage on his own, hence he had the dubious pleasure of my company every Troop night. However, I would like to thank John Rathbone and Lee Underwood for volunteering to be uniformed helpers.

We all had a great Winter Camp at Gilwell. Trying to light a fire using frozen wood was extremely challenging. In fact, it was impossible. Only by using kindling we got from another Troop did we manage to get the fire lit. Note for Shaun – take some kindling wood next year.

I would also like to thank Alison Grieve who has done a great job looking after the waiting lists.

In 1960 when the Group was a mere fifty years old, the Scouts went on a fourteen day summer camp at Dunster in Somerset. They met up with 15th and 40th Fulham Troops at Reading station on their way to camp. In the same year Bob-a-Job brought in £47'19'6.

In 1985 the Group celebrated its' seventy five years with a birthday party at The Scout Hut. Also a Barn Dance was held to celebrate the 75 years and raise money for the Scout Hut Floor Appeal. At this time the Group were appealing for adult help. Not heard that one before!

Now we are one hundred years old thanks to so many adults who have given their time for the enjoyment of so many youngsters.

So far this year we had the tree planting ceremony which was extremely well attended, not just by current families in the Group but also past members of the Group. What a great sight we must have been, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders marching to Broomhall Park from our HQ. Our thanks go to Catherine Bursnall, Deputy Mayor for joining with us in this Ceremony. And to Eric Reed, who was the Scout Master between 1947 and 1954 who was also at the tree planting ceremony. Eric kindly phoned me afterwards to say how much he appreciated being invited to see the tree being planted.

We are also extremely fortunate to have a strong and committed Executive Committee without which we would be unable to function nearly as smoothly as we do. My thanks to each and every one of you for all you have done over the last year. Unfortunately, two key members of the Committee are standing down this year, Geoff Streeter is resigning as Treasurer, however, having been in the role for over ten years he leaves with our eternal thanks. Also Jennifer Adams is stepping down as Secretary as she has another role within Scouting which requires her time; thank you Jennifer for keeping us in line and for the 'prompt' meetings. Joanne Taylor has kindly agreed to take on the Secretary's role. Thanks also go to Lynne Ringshaw and Norman Cook for serving on the committee as parents, who are also stepping down.

I would also like to thank my ladies, Vanessa Crook, Cheryl Potchinsky, Lynne Ringshaw, Vikki Grimes and my wife Louise for doing a great job in organising the one hundred year celebrations. They did a great job with the Tree Planting and Bingo Night.

Last year Ann Minchin took over the role District Commissioner, I wish her all the best in this very challenging role. Allen Davies continues to support the Cub Leaders and Cubs. We thank him for encouraging two of our cubs Matthew Ringshaw and Alex Griffiths to join the Gang Show, which I know they had a great time participating in the show.

Margaret, Alan, John and Ken continue to do great job in the shop at Coopers Hill, not only providing the leaders and parents with essential kit but also giving us a cut of the profit as well.

Thank you for coming to the AGM.

Doug Home

Group Scout Leader, 1st Sunningdale Scout Group