

1st Markfield Beavers AGM Progress Report – 29th November 2022

I have been asked to produce a report on the beavers' activities from 2020, this obviously covers a long period of time so there is a lot to get through.

On March 17th. 2020 the beavers, oblivious to what was to follow, made an invitation for their mothers to our annual Mother's Day tea the following week. By which time the Scout Movement had cancelled all meetings followed by the government cancelling everything. Little did we know then that it would be over 6 months before we could meet again. During this time Liam tried to keep in touch with suggestions for badges, competitions, colouring sheets etc. Predictably interest in these waned over the months.

In September we finally got the green light to restart with outside activities only. On Oct 1, 4 beavers met for a walk round Hill Hole and on 29th Oct, 7 joined us for a Halloween trail which Liam had organized.

Then we were back into another lockdown. However, this time we started doing zoom sessions and from 12 Nov 2020 until 18 March 2021 we held weekly meetings, averaging 8/9 beavers and a variety of parents and siblings each time. Holding zoom sessions with 6- and 7-year-olds did obviously prove testing at times, however we managed to provide a varied and we hope interesting programme. These included games, keep fit, cooking and crafts, not forgetting Liam's duck race which proved a big hit. We even managed a Mother's Day tea by delivering a cake and tea bag to each mother. Enjoyable as this was, we were very grateful to get back to live meetings in April.

At this point Liam announced that he wouldn't be coming back as he was moving to run cubs with his mother, obviously we were very sorry to see Liam go as his youth, enthusiasm and skills had been a huge asset to the colony and we knew we would all miss him. However, Lily has stepped up to take Liam's place and has shown herself to be a very able and enthusiastic leader.

March 25th 2021 saw us back at the hut, with such young children we were able to hold normal sessions although we had to put procedures in place to keep the parents at a distance. We started with 8 beavers and increased to 12 over the term. Through the Summer we were able to get out enjoying our usual outdoor activities.

We resumed after the summer break on Sept 9th and have thankfully been back to normal since. We have been concentrating on our badge work both the challenge and activity badges as such a lot of this had been missed

Spring 2022 saw us holding a Burns night, pancake making and finally a proper Mother's Day tea whilst continuing with the badge work.

April saw the first District St Georges Day parade for 3 years with a ramble through the woods to Conkers for a service. This was very enjoyable although we had to watch the flags did not get tangled in the trees. Sue and I were presented with our 30-year service awards, albeit 2 years late.

The big event of the Summer was a return to camping at Willesley camp site for a Jubilee themed joint district event for all sections. All our beavers and 3 cubs attended for at least a day and 6 beavers slept overnight all in the same tent. This proved to be a very short night starting at around 11.00 and ending at 4.00 in the morning. However, it was lovely to see them enjoying some real outdoor scouting activities which had been missing for so long.

Next year's camp will be the traditional 1 to 1 with each beaver having a parent with them so hopefully we can get a few hours more sleep.

Also, in the Summer we had a den building session at Beacon Hill and a cycling evening, ending the year with our usual water fun night at the hut.

We are now finally back up to 18 beavers and have recently invested 7 new beavers on one night, The first beaver since 2019 has received the Chief Scout Bronze award and another is being presented tonight, we hope to see many more in the future now we are able to offer our full programme.

Well finally we have got to up to date and hopefully the colony can now grow and prosper.

Margaret Beck (1st Markfield Beavers)

1st Markfield Cubs AGM Progress Report – 29th November 2022

During the first year of the pandemic, Dianne and I were actively supporting our communities as key workers, Dianne taking on a new role as an ambulance technician and I was continuing to support young adults with additional needs. We kept in touch with our Cubs on Facebook setting challenges and badges to complete at home. As the country began to return to a new normal for many, Dianne and many others were still, and are still, working above and beyond and Dianne made the difficult decision to step down as Cub Leader to focus on her work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dianne for all of her hard work and support over the years, I couldn't have ran Cubs without her. At the same time, Liam, my eldest son, moved into his first home. Having supported Beavers for many years, Liam suggested he join Cubs so we could continue to spend time together.

Cubs restarted on 13th April 2021, the Cubs had been very busy and we spent the first meeting playing socially distanced games and signing off badge work. We continued our programme, mostly outside during the summer months, den building, making kites, cycling and creating our own drive in cinema. We spent the remainder of the year catching up on challenge badge activities and ended the year with a trip to laser quest.

This year we have continued to grow in numbers, retaining a number of older Cubs as Scouts was not running at the time. We have completed pioneering, a night hike, litter picking, firelighting, orienteering and trampolining, we have learnt about the history of cubs and introduced our jungle book friends, completed our DIY badge making flowers for the community, planting sunflowers in our newly cleared grounds, and hosted our first camp in some years – hiking to and from John Lees Woods.

After being persuaded on more than one occasion by Cubs, Liam and Lily started Scouts in September. A number of our Cubs moved up into Scouts, and sadly a number had other commitments and were unable to attend a Monday night.

We end the year with 14 Cubs. We look forward to presenting seven chief scout silver wards tonight and we know that our other Cubs are working really hard to earn their awards in the near future.

As always, we would like to thank all of our parents, supporters and the group leaders for their support.

Yours in Scouting

Lyn and Liam (1st Markfield Cubs)

1st Markfield Scouts AGM Progress Report – 29th November 2022

After many years of not having a scout troop, I am delighted to be here today with Lily and our Scouts to report to our first AGM. Scouts officially opened on 12th September 2022 with 8 Scouts. Since then we have been delighted to see some familiar faces join us having left the group as Beavers or Cubs pre-pandemic, and some new faces as well. We are now running at 11 members and continue to receive new enquiries each month.

The Scouts have completed a night hike to Thornton Reservoir, problem solving, pioneering, we host a bring a friend night, and have recently created our own rocket launchers which we launched in the heavy rain two weeks ago. We look forward to ending the year with a bowling trip in a few weeks time.

We are extremely proud of our scouts, with special mention to their contributions in remembrance of our last patron, HM The Queen, and attendance at the remembrance service held this month.

We met with Scouts this week to plan for the year ahead, and look forward to many camps, expeditions, learning new skills and working through the very long list of badge criteria.

We would like to end our report by encouraging you all to share our recruitment posters online and encourage others to join the group, and would like to thank parents and group leaders for their support whilst we have worked to set up the section and for volunteers who have put themselves forward.

Yours in Scouting,

Liam and Lily (1st Markfield Scouts)