

Bransgore Report for District AGM May 2010

Our beaver leader writes, "The one thing that can be said with certainty about the Beavers is that they are all different. Different sizes, different enthusiasms and different levels of confidence. Knowing this, it is interesting to see how they start at the age of 6 and contrast it with the 8 year old moving on to Cubs." We can replicate this for Cubs and for Scouts. When we consider the change from the 6 year old to the 14 year old leaving the Group for Explorers, it is an amazing journey they have travelled.

Their scouting journey will have included a very varied menu of activities. This last year beavers put up bird boxes and learnt to do a morris dance, the cubs did tracking and learnt Makaton, the scouts did canoeing and learnt orienteering. Their scouting journey will also have had a global feel; the beavers tackled the Global Challenge and the scouts had a visit from a soldier who had served in Afghanistan. The cubs went 'far and wide' as pirates at camp and sought hidden treasure with the aid of a map.

Traditional scouting remains a part of our programme whether its teaching the beavers about Baden Powell, doing backwards cooking with the cubs or encouraging self-discipline at parades with the scouts. But without doubt, fun and the 21st century are clearly on the programme too. Across the group, the young people have done zip-wire, ski-bobbing, ice-skating, abseiling, crate stacking, krypton factor challenges, sailing, quad biking and many more.

As a group we have enjoyed not only a stable leadership team but also some new leaders. We welcomed Chris and James to cubs, Jeremy to scouts and Jackie as GSL. Behind that leadership team has been a small but excellent committee led by Liz who has kept the infrastructure going.

We have been pleased with two increased opportunities for our young people this last year. We have taken on more Young Leaders and have worked closely with Chris (Young Leader Leader) to ensure they are given opportunities and also have fun. It is working well and they are all now contributing successfully to the running of the Group. And we have welcomed, and worked with, a new explorer unit who have set up at Braggers Wood. Nine of our scouts have moved on to this unit and are enjoying their scouting still, some of them are in their tenth year now.

The Group continues to be involved with many District events. It was a highlight for us to win the Emlyn Competition for the first time in 88 years. We were fortunate to hold several trophies last year but this one was the icing on the cake (don't mention raw broccoli!). We were duty group too and enjoyed contributing more fully to several district events.

Last autumn we celebrated 50 years of continuous scouting in Bransgore with a fantastic scouting evening with bonfires, songs, food and displays. Our scout leader was just a scout in 1959 when the troop restarted after a few years gap. That sense of continuity plays out every term when we watch new young faces as they make their promises.

We find ourselves looking back over a fabulous year where the young people had fun and the leadership team did too. We have a fantastic site, a fantastic team and a fantastic future to look forward to. Let's Be Prepared.

Jackie Dawson, Group Scout Leader