



Annual review 1st Haddenham Beaver Scouts - 2021

Unfortunately the Beaver colony didn't get off to a flying start due to the ongoing challenges of Covid-19. Given the inclement weather and the age of the Beavers it was felt that it would be impractical to re-start safely in the Baptist Hall.

Finally after several months of waiting, Beavers re-started on 22nd April 2021 at the recreation ground, where 4 new members were warmly welcomed and the colony enjoyed making paper aeroplanes.

June saw the Beavers enjoy a lively cricket session kindly put on by Steve Bodell and grandad and where the boys were able to burn off some energy and show their batting and catching skills. The beaver colony numbers grew further with an additional three beavers joining.

This was swiftly followed by camp crafts in the Orchard. Thankfully the rain held off and the boys enjoyed building dens, learning how to light a fire safely and toasting marshmallows over the campfire. The boys returned home with big smiles, smelling of smoke and hyper on marshmallows - but despite this it was described by several as "the best night ever".

Later in the term, saw a return to the recreation ground to enjoy the outdoor space and summer sun. Activities included tug of war, sack races, football skills and bubble making.

The final meeting of the summer term was a tractor and trailer ride down to Nine Acre Wood where the boys once again built some impressive dens.

Unfortunately as the uncertainty in relation to Covid-19 continued the beavers weren't able to enjoy their usual fun packed camp in the summer. Despite this, the team arranged the next best thing - an activity day as part of the Haddenham Cubs activity weekend on 7th August 2021. Those that attended enjoyed a fun packed day of arts, crafts and campfires.

Thankfully there were no further restrictions in relation to Covid-19 and the Autumn term could start as planned on 16th September 2022 with a scavenger hunt and toasting of marshmallows.

A wide range of activities followed in the autumn term including boxing, army style training, bug hunting, a mini-hike, halloween and remembrance day crafts.

Several beavers attended and participated with the laying of a wreath in the remembrance sunday memorial service on the Green.

The activities for 2021 culminated in the annual visit by The Animal Experience and a visit to Haddenham Galleries for glass making crafts. Judging by the smiles - the boys relished in most cases the opportunity to hold a range of creatures!

The year ended with 16 signed up Beavers.

In December 2021 Haddenham Beavers said a fond farewell to Tim Barker as leader.

A very big thank you must go to Tim and Alli for their time and effort in maintaining such a successful Beaver colony throughout a challenging year.

Jo Gothard, a former scouting volunteer at a neighbouring scout group kindly volunteered to lead the Beaver group and had been regularly helping at the sessions to ensure a smooth handover and transition.