

1st North Springfield Scout Group



Annual General Meeting.
18th May 2006
Skreens Park, Roxwell.

Agenda

Opening – Introduction
Family Wide Game
AGM for adults
Sports for Sections
Refreshments
Close

Introduction & GSL's Report.

This is my second AGM since becoming GSL and a lot has happened over the last year. I, personally, have attended various training days and events, helped at Beavers, visited the Sections during their colony, pack and troop meetings and during their respective camps and have been part of the cooking team at Royal Pack Cub Camp. All the sections have had a really busy year as documented in their reports. I would urge you to check our wonderful web site at www.fnssg.org.uk where you can not only read this report, but also check out the leadership team, programmes, photographs and much, much more.

For anyone not aware, by January 2007, the Scouting Association has stated that all sections must be co-educational. To this end we already have girls in Scouts and Cubs and, with several on the waiting list for Beavers, the transition will soon be complete. Through personal preference, Scarlet Pack have chosen not to accept girls but, as Royal Pack have, we are fulfilling our obligation. It has been agreed that children already on the waiting lists should not be disadvantaged by this new influx so now is really the time to put names of any brothers or sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins or friends, no matter how young, onto the relevant waiting list. Please see the respective leaders. The sooner their names go down, the more likelihood they have of getting into the section as soon as they become of age.

Preparations are well under way for the bi-annual Family Camp being held in September at Thriftwood and over 140 people will be attending plus the leadership team. This is a great opportunity for non members to see exactly what we do and get involved in a 'hands on' way.

We, at 1st North Springfield have an extremely active Group which is run completely by volunteers and without who's commitment to Scouting, we would not exist. As with every other group nationwide, we are always looking for support and help so, if you are in a position to spare a little of your time, please speak to a leader.

Whilst on the subject of help, I need to mention the Group Executive Committee that I am trying to get up and running. I did send out a letter a few weeks ago asking if anyone was interested but, as yet, have had no offers. The Executive Committee is an important part of Scouting and whilst being trustees for the Group, they also organise fund raising events, manage Group assets, promote the Group in the local community and generally offer background support enabling leaders to get on with their jobs which is basically to deliver a varied programme to the children. I have appointed a Chairman who has agreed to take on the role and, without any objections, I have endorsed Richard Parker (the father of a current Beaver Scout) as such. Moira Bailey (the mother of one of our young leaders) has been nominated and seconded as Group secretary and again, without objection, this has been ratified. The Committee should ideally consist of these two people, the GSL, Treasurer, Section leaders and a parent representative from each section. Meetings will probably be held every other month and I urge volunteers to come forward or nominate people you feel would be in a position to help. If there are no volunteers I shall ask section leaders to identify and nominate suitable candidates. This is your opportunity to have a say in the running of this hugely successful Scout Group.

I would like to close by really thanking, once again, all of the people involved in running the Group for all their help, support and enthusiasm and here's to the next 12 months which will see lots of opportunities for celebration not only at Group level but at District and County as Scouting celebrates it's 100th anniversary and the World Jamboree comes to Chelmsford.

Nick Milbank – GSL
1st North Springfield



Beaver Section – Annual report.

The annual visit to the Gang Show with the Group, St. George's Day Parade and an Easter Egg Hunt with invited Colonies, were all part of our programme to get Beavers 'out and about' before the end of April.

The Summer months gave the boys fun times within the community and around at a District Circus event, games at Beaulieu Park on the adventure playground, litter picks, treasure hunts and a barbecue in the woods.

At the beginning of our new term we ventured to Africa for our 'K2C' Camp at Thriftwood and we helped to celebrate 25 years of the 1st North Springfield Scout Group at a joint event at Riffhams.

Halloween in the woods with the Cubs and indoor fireworks thrilled all during October and November. Our friends at Cotman Lodge delighted in sharing an evening of Bingo – Beaver style, with the boys. There was a visit from Father Christmas, courtesy of our Scout Leader, Neil. Bowling and a day visit to Riffhams with the rest of the group for a Christmas Special event saw a close to 2005.

The Spring term gave the Colony a full programme of badge work, District events and a parents evening. Our annual sleepover had to be postponed and is now scheduled for July. Our fund raising has been for Asthema and the Stroke Society, Harvest for the Hungry, Breast Cancer Research and we continue to collect stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind

All leaders continue to participate in various training events connected with Scouting and still keep to their annual cooking commitment at Cub camp for Royal Pack.

We missed Amik for a term whilst she recovered from suffering a stroke but were delighted when she was able to receive her wood beads and Gilwell scarf at Cotman Lodge. These mark recognition of training completed. Thanks to many prayers, she is once again able to spend Thursday evenings with the Beavers, although at a slower pace.

Our young leaders (Deano and Moose) are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and we are grateful to them for the commitment they have shown to Scouting. Gnash continues to assist the boys with their programme.

My grateful thanks also go to Castor, Amik and Fergus for their continued support and also to the Beaver Scouts who make the 'job' so enjoyable and worthwhile. At this point I should also thank the taxi drivers sorry, parents, who convey their children backwards and forwards to our meetings and events.

We look forward to another great year as we continue to succeed and celebrate our 10th anniversary of Beavers in the Group in various ways.

Jane Milbank 'Boomer'
Beaver Scout Leader



SCARLET PACK ANNUAL REPORT



This year I have decided not to write a formal annual report but just to use the notes that I give out each term to let parents/Cubs know what is happening and where we are as I think these demonstrate very well what we have done this year.

Well done to our mini-gang members: William Leach and Jake Leeks, I especially enjoyed Jake's monkey impersonations. Also, well done to those who came to the St George's Day Parade .

On the theme of health, the Scout Group is making a late entry into the Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme so any tokens that come your way please hand them to me – or any other leader.

Next week we are joining with 2nd Chelmsford at Boswells and we hope to have an evening outdoors doing wide games and eating hot dogs.

20th May – 6pm sixers and seconders meeting. 7.40pm Meeting for parents of those attending Mega-Camp. Cubs who are not coming, to Mega-Camp don't worry it is still Cubs as usual.

21st May - Jubilee party

22nd May – Big Kickabout

27th May – Walking to Riffhams from the bottom of Great Grace's Walk and hot dogs when we get there. This is part 1 of the Naturalist's badge. No need to wear uniform apart from our scarf but wear clothing appropriate to the weather as we do plan to go rain or shine. We will meet at 6.30pm at the bottom of Great Grace's Walk – see map and finish in the bottom car park at Riffhams at 8pm.

10th June – No cubs as it is Mega- Camp

17th June – Canoeing for the eldest 15 Cubs (those whose birthday is before 31st March 1995). We will all meet at Chelmsford canoe club (behind the gas- works) at 6.30pm. The younger Cubs will be doing their own activity and we will all finish at 8pm. The Cubs who are canoeing need a change of clothes and a towel and a pair of shoes which can get wet and they also need to be able to swim 50metres in clothes. All arrive in uniform. (James; Louis; Matthew Smith and Nicholas could you also bring spare clothes in case some of the older Cubs drop out)

24th June – Back to Boswells

1st July – American Night. Please come dressed to an American theme (but not Indians)

8th July – Pond dipping. Please dress appropriately including wellies. We will meet just off the A131 near Little Leighs

15th July – Back to Boswells

22nd July – Riffhams night. Uniform not necessary but wear neckerchief

23rd Sept – Evening at Skreens. Usual times. No uniform except scarf

30th Sept – International Scouting

1st Oct – Riffhams Challenge

7th Oct - Evening at Riffhams. Normal times. No uniform except scarf

14th Oct – Woodworking evening. Please bring a hammer (with a name). Invest new Cubs 7.45pm.

21st Oct – Some early thoughts on fireworks

4th Nov – Firework display at Police HQ

11th Nov – Night in London staying at BP House

18th Nov – Creative skills to the fore – designing a pantomime programme

25th Nov – Christmas and pantomime theme

2nd Dec – Christmas and pantomime theme revisited
9th Dec – Pantomime. All parents and friends invited to come and join us from 7.20pm.
10th Dec – Group Christmas party at Riffhams 2-4pm. Come and join the Beavers, Scouts and Royal Cubs
16th Dec – Party time

13th Jan – Cubs restarts
27th Jan – Thinking about Mothering Sunday!
3rd Feb – Chef badge. **Offers of help from parents gratefully received.** Not in the hall, meet by/in **Dance Studio.**
4th Feb – Artist Badge, 10am – noon at Trinity Methodist Church
8th Feb – 4-5pm Trials for swimming gala at Riverside. Normal charges apply. Meet at poolside at 4pm
24th Feb – Cubs restarts. Visit by Fireman Paul
25th Feb – Swimming Gala at Riverside. 6pm.
3rd March – DIY badge
4th March – Chess Competition – see separate letter
10th March – Chef badge. Not in the hall, meet by/in **Dance Studio.**
17th March – St Patrick’s Evening. Please wear green (I know Cub uniform is green!)
24th March – Visit to Chelmsford Fire-station
6th April – Visit to Gang Show.
22nd April – Day out to Thriftwood.

The other thing that remains to be said is thank you to all the leaders and parents who have helped this programme happen.

Akela Scarlet Pack



Annual Report – Royal Pack

It has been a busy year for Royal Pack! We have had a great number of successes and some new changes.

The first big change would have to be the introduction of girls into the Pack for the first time. We currently have five girls invested into the Pack, with several more to come!

From a slow start at the beginning of the year, our numbers have increased so that we now have about 30 Cub Scouts.

We have also been fortunate enough to gain two more leaders. David Kinloch (aka Bagheera) joined us in September, and is currently awaiting his warrant. David Bracken (aka Kaa) has decided to become a young leader with us for the duration of his Explorer Scout Service. (What he doesn't know is that I'll be twisting his arm to stay once that period is over!)

The highlight of the year is always Summer Camp in July. This year, at 'Camp Claudius' 25 Royal Pack Cubs, and nearly as many leaders, spent the weekend at Thorington Camp site in Colchester. We took part in activities such as abseiling and climbing, backwoods cooking, training to be part of the Roman Army and making many Roman artefacts to go with our costumes. See the photos online! In 2006, Royal Pack are going to Gilwell Park, the national Scout Centre, for 'Chrono Camp'. We are travelling through time to experience Scouting in 1906 and also years in the future! Watch this space!

Royal Pack has had an exciting and varied programme this year. A Policeman came to talk to the Cubs about his job, and even let them play with the sirens on his car! We had a Halloween themed night at Riffhams with the Beavers. The Cubs got very messy making pumpkin lanterns. Our now legendary Chip Shop Hike took place in November. Funnily enough, we are never short of parent volunteers for this particular evening! We celebrated Chinese New Year in February. We completed the Emergency Aid badge two weeks ago. Along with the Scout Troop, we were visited by the 'Reptile Man' who brought several weird and wonderful creatures along, and provided us with a very informative Pack meeting. It is a sign of the times when the Cub Scouts (when asked to guess the partner of a snake called 'Victoria') all replied 'DAVID'!! Many of our Cubs took part in the excellent District-run Art Badge day, and all of whom gained their Art badge.

We have had many successes this year, as a Pack and individually. Five Royal Pack Cubs gained their Chief Scout Silver Award. This is the highest award a Cub Scout can gain. Congratulations to Bradley Allen, Oliver Goldsmith, Peter Bowdidge, Adam Hickmott and Alex Kett. Several of the Cubs are in a joint football team with the 14th Chelmsford Cub Pack. This team won the Football Cup this year. Not just for the first time, but the second year running! Many congratulations to those who took part.

As a Pack we raised over £50 for Children in Need. We organised a Penny Fair evening where the Cubs paid £2 to enter, then could take part in as many activities in the hall as they liked. These included Splat-a-Rat, Treasure Hunt, Mini golf and Skittles.

Two Royal Pack Cubs were in Chelmsford Gang Show's 'Mini Gang'. This entails several months of hard work, culminating in the week-long show at the beginning of April. Well done to Jack Beardshall and Callum Bates.

The Leaders have also been getting in on the act. Both Chil and Akela gained their Wood Beads this year. This shows that they have completed their Adult training. They also both got five year service awards. The Leaders have participated in a Section Review. This is a process where we look at what we're doing as a Pack, and how we're doing it; also how we can do better. As a result of this review we decided to take part in more District events.

I would like to thank all the parents of the Cub Scouts in Royal Pack for your support; for transporting your children to here, there and everywhere in the name of Scouting, and for your continuing enthusiasm. I would especially like to thank Ann Goldsmith for all her hard work with the Parent rota, and to Pam Milne for agreeing to take over this year. Many thanks to all parents who come to help at the weekly Pack meetings.

Finally I would like to thank my brilliant Leader team: Adam, Dave, Russell, Jamie and David, I appreciate all the support and help you give me and each other. Here's to another great year for Royal pack!!

Sarah – Akela



Scout section report

The last 12 months have seen the troop going from strength to strength with over 30 Scouts attending the weekly meetings. We started taking girls into the troop in September but as yet have just the one! Attendance at events has been high too with some of the young people spending over 2 weeks away from home!

The end of June saw the troop heading off to Mersea Island to take part in the district Mayhem camp. With a host of activities to try out and lots of sunshine a good weekend was had by all. A trip to the Malverns was enjoyed by those who entered the 7-mile challenge hike along with the 2000 other Scouts & Guides.

All budding carpenters got involved in the construction of two Go-karts in July for the district Soap Box derby. With super fast wheelchair wheels kindly donated by a parent's workplace there was no stopping us from crossing the finishing line in 1st place!

A relatively small group headed off for a week in Bournemouth in August. Staying on a nice Scout site we visited the beach, Portsmouth docks and the New Forest. Highlights of the week were the visit to the Water world slide and swim complex and the friendly Guides camping nearby!!

In September we got our hammers and saws out again and constructed a new raft for the district raft race. Setting sail on the Chelmer resulted in 4 Scouts staying too dry and getting 3rd place!

October, and the Great Escape saw hoards of Scouts trying to escape from a secret location before hot-footing it by truck, coach and foot to Maldon quayside. A small contingent also headed off to the national shooting contest. The county canoe race also got a good turnout and we walked away with 1st, 2nd and last man on the water awards.

The Scouts returned to Asda at Christmas, where we assisted a few shoppers pack their shopping, raised a few quid and recruited a new member. Our Christmas party was more of a new year's party with a visit to McDonalds and the indoor cricket centre.

Our winter camp was well attended and lots of fun as was our Winter Escape weekend in February when we spent a day at Diggerland driving dumper trucks, JCBs and buggies.

Chilly Chimp was the name given to the district event where teams had to survive the night with all their possessions packed in a pair of trousers! Rain, hail, sun and sub zero temperatures made this an interesting event but enjoyed by all who attended.

Two teams of Scouts have just taken part in the Plainsmans hike, an 18-mile overnight walk carrying all equipment and supplies. The weather got the better of some but it was a tough challenge. With many Scouts heading down for Spring Camp near Southend and over 20 attending summer camp in Staffordshire with the 'must do' trip to Alton Towers there is never a dull moment!

Our regular troop meetings have covered a diverse range of topics from the teaching of traditional scoutcraft skills to the more fun activities such as a visit from the reptile man, an Indian cuisine evening (or curry night!), map reading, a cycle ride and woggle branding to name but a few!

It is only right to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the varied and successful meetings and events throughout the year. In particular, thanks to Robin, Gary and Geoff for their enthusiasm and hard work. However, without the support, enthusiasm and commitment of the parents and young people themselves the Troop would not be the success it is today.

With a great programme of activities already developing, the year ahead looks set to be a good one, and we look forward to your continued support.

Neil Burrows & Jonathan Wentworth