

## 3rd Alton Scouts – Lion Pack Cubs Report 2019 – 2020

Lion Pack cubs started in Autumn Term 2019 with nine Cubs, mostly from Woodside Beavers but also including some new joiners to Scouting and one from Kestrel. We have two full-time leaders and one brilliant young leader.

The main badges we have worked towards before lockdown include Artist, Astronomer Athletics, Local Knowledge, Navigator, Naturalist, Hikes, and Personal Safety.

Our meetings have been great fun and have included athletics at Jubilee Fields, walks around Alton (including visits to Flood Meadows and the fish and chip shop!), camp fires, and a night hike around Holybourne Downs. We also did some messy foot-painting for the religious festival of Holi.



We had a talk about local history from Malcolm Vincent for the “Local Knowledge” badge, this badge also included searching for Alton coats of arms around town, and a visit to Jane Austin’s house in Chawton. The pack has supported many District events including Football, Aqua Scramble, the Chess tournament, and of course Remembrance Sunday. We have learnt new games such as handball.



We have also had a lot of fun with the Scientist badge; we have made hot air balloons, salt crystals, compasses (from needles and magnets), wormeries, bouncy eggs (using vinegar) and we have grown

our own runner beans. We have also made solar system models out of wood and clay for the Astronomer badge.

In September we visited Pierrepont Farm, just outside Farnham, which is run by the Countryside Trust. We had a really great day, looking at the Jersey cows, doing pond-dipping, bug hunting, and tree identification. We will definitely aim to go back this Autumn if we can.



At Christmas we held a joint party with the two Beavers colonies (as the children were still of similar ages, so it worked out quite well).

In the spring we visited Runways End for their indoor caving experience which was a fantastic experience, all of the Cubs (and one Dad!) pushing their boundaries and comfort zones!



## Post-lockdown

Unfortunately, our spring and summer hikes, visit to the Winchester Science Centre, and joint Cub camp have all been cancelled or postponed due to the virus. However we haven't let it stop us meeting up online and working towards our badges; since lockdown most Cubs have completed (or nearly completed) their Astronomer, Artist, Chef, Home Help, and Scientist (for those who hadn't already)... with the help of the "Badges At Home" feature on OSM.

We have met every week using Zoom. Highlights include two science experiments and the cooking evening we have recently, where everyone cooked the same (or similar) recipe together with adults help. They also like the scavenger hunts around the house, which adds some fun and gets them active. Leaders have uploaded videos to our [YouTube channel](#) to allow kids who aren't using Zoom the chance to catch up.



The pictures show a pizza made by one of the cubs during the cooking meeting, and the densities experiment we did on a different week. On the right is a picture of one of the Cubs preparing banoffee pie over Zoom.

The Cubs have worked really hard at home and in the meetings, we are really proud of their efforts. They have all been sending us great pictures of all their fantastic work, with some excellent videos and presentations. Many thanks to the parents support in all the activities we have asked them to do at home during this time.

As a Pack we are also working towards the Scouts Camping at Home challenge, and the Great Indoors staged badges, and have made a great start already.

## Finally

We are now running with sixteen children, due to rise to approximately twenty after the summer. Many thanks to the families for their support, particularly those who have helped at meetings and events. Thanks are also due for the other support we have had from within the Group and District behind the scenes, for example Malcolm, Chris, Mon (to name a few).

Paul and Steve