

Woodside is in its 3rd year and now sending graduates up to Cubs! We currently have 24 Beavers on our roll.



We have had loads of fun over the last year and have had our adaptability and resilience tested over the last couple of terms. We are proud to say that we have continued Scouting despite the restrictions we have all faced.

Back in the autumn we had a number of interesting and enjoyable trips – visiting the Opticians, the Pet shop, Alton Abbey, and Alton Community Hospital.

We also hosted visitors at the Den. Woodside enjoyed meeting a range of local people, including a Police Officer, a Vet (one of our parents), an

Explorer who had been to the USA Jamboree, and, as part of the Disability awareness badge, a lady with her Guide Dog, and the mother of a deaf child who taught the Beavers some sign language.

Other highlights included a Pumpkin Party – packed with games, edible treats and a great array of costumes; Remembrance – involving a carousel of activities from painting poppy rocks, to making aeroplanes with pegs and lolly sticks; an international celebration of Christmas with food and traditions to sample from around the world; and a high energy games evening where the Beavers voted for their favourites at the end.

We kept a sense of adventure with a very successful sleepover held at Alton library in conjunction with Kestrel colony and 1st Bordon Garrison Beavers; an autumn dusk hike around Holybourne Down with hot soup at the end; and participation in 2 District events – Its' a Knockout in September and Curling in January. Woodside brought home the winners' trophies at both! Now we need somewhere to display them! Unfortunately since then, our planned hikes, spring sleepover and summer trip to Gilwell have all been curtailed.



Throughout our year we have interspersed discussion on various important topics for our young people – friendship, personal boundaries, stranger danger, people we appreciate, disabilities and differences, as well as looking after each other and our environment. We are impressed at the thoughtfulness and insight our young people show, and their willingness to participate in these



log chews. Our activities have also required Beavers to develop team working and problem solving skills as well as step out of their comfort zone at times to try new things.

During the pandemic we have adapted our programme to take it online and have around 14-20 Beavers joining us on Zoom every week. We are also running Badges At Home and have lots of members keen to continue their Scouting activities in this way.

Through this variety of activities, Woodside have been able to fulfil many criteria towards their badges, including Challenge awards and County Challenge badges. In the last year we have awarded over 330 badges including 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards.



My thanks to our other Woodside Leaders, Ratty and Hawk who continue to find exciting and imaginative things to spark interest among our members; our Young Leaders, Fox and Jay, who provide loyal support to the colony while gaining confidence in leadership; our parent helpers who have an essential part to play; and of course the Beavers themselves for being great and coming back for more fun every week!

Tawny
Beaver Scout Leader

