



Third Alton Kestrel Colony Report 2020/2021

Writing this report as Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease really puts into perspective two aspects. Firstly how good it is to see Beavers face-to-face, and secondly how well the Kestrel Colony Beavers adapted to having to meet on Zoom. Our Beavers, Leaders and Young Leaders have shown their resilience and adaptability in spades, and should all be congratulated.

At the time of the AGM in Summer 2020, Kestrel Colony were still joining forces with Woodside Colony for weekly online Scouting on Zoom.

By September we were able to meet face-to-face again. Our colony was relatively small so we could all meet together and focussed on catching up with some outdoor activities – traditional fun around the camp-fire and toasting marshmallows; making bird feeders and finding out about local wildlife for the Outdoor challenge badge; and learning Navigation skills. We also made catapults out of lolly sticks and marked Remembrance Day.

Lockdown came again for us all later in the autumn and we reverted to Zoom, ably assisted by Fyn and Isaac, our Young Leaders, who provided great help in learning knots online. We also found out about Space and its vast scale. To try and bring things to life we went on a virtual walk on Google Maps. Starting at M&S with the sun being the size of an exercise ball, the virtual walk took us down the high street where we stopped along the way to understand that the Earth would be the size of the of a pea outside The British Heart Foundation! In another session we baked as we worked towards the Cook badge by making our own microwave mug cakes at home.

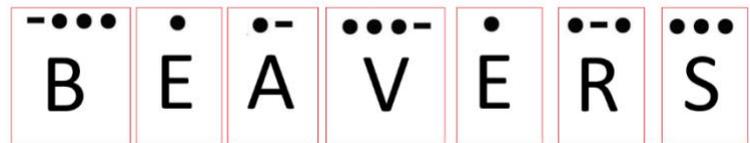


Zoom meetings continued in the New Year and we covered a wide variety of different badges and activities. Experiments (like seeing how coke and milk react) was great fun and the Beavers seemed to really embrace the fun that we could have remotely.

Other badges we covered included Cook, Communicator (where we learnt about Morse Code), International, Air Activities and Builder Badges.



A ● -	J ● - - -	S ● ● ●
B - ● ● ●	K - ● -	T -
C - ● - ●	L ● - ● ●	U ● ● -
D - ● ●	M - -	V ● ● ● -
E ●	N - ●	W ● - -
F ● ● - ●	O - - -	X - ● ● -
G - - ●	P - - ● ●	Y - ● - -
H ● ● ● ●	Q - - ● -	Z - - ● ●
I ● ●	R ● - -	



Everyone was delighted that we could resume some level of normality with face-to-face meetings again after Easter. We started off learning about the story of St George, and his importance in Scouting as the patron saint, before making dragon sock puppets. The Beavers particularly enjoyed learning some magic tricks, along with finding out about birds as part of World Bird Day. We finished off this half term by investing 4 new Beavers after a Lego themed scavenger hunt.

Our older Beavers swam up to Cubs at the end of the three terms, and we have welcomed several new members into the colony. Over the year we have awarded 191 badges, which is fantastic to see. We currently have 13 members and are hoping to increase numbers up to about 20 in September.

Our Leadership team has changed over the year, with Woodpecker stepping back and new Leaders coming forward – Badger as BSL, Rook as ABSL and we have also recently welcomed Otter as Section Assistant. We are grateful for Hedgehog’s assistance since we started back with face-to-face meetings after Easter, but acknowledge that he too is hanging up his scarf at this stage. Our Young Leaders Fyn and Isaac have been a constant throughout the year and we thank them for their unwavering commitment.

We look forward to building up the colony again with our new team and continued support from our Young Leaders, parents, and of course our Beavers.

Paul Fletcher (Badger)

Kestrel Colony at 3rd Alton