



3rd Alton Tiger Cub Pack 2020/2021

It's been a horrible, tough year. Personal losses, and upheavals everywhere.

Tiger Cub Pack, like everyone else, had to amend, or defer the planned programmes.

Once we did start back again in September, we accomplished more than we had ever dared hope for. Here are some of the highlights of the year.



Supermoon from top of mound, during a Camp Fire

Autumn & Winter Terms 2020



September started off well. Splitting the Pack into two separate groups was challenging, but achievable.

For example, learning how to use a compass proficiently (held in the front of The Den), and learning knots (in the back, on the grass). Another example was a camp fire on the top mound, and construction (using Lego) on the grass.



Holy Rood with the Reverend

Sadly, our many visits to, and visitors from, were dramatically altered from the 'master' programmes. However, we were able to visit Holy Rood Churchyard (**Faith Badge**) for two consecutive evenings using a Q&A style quiz, which prompted conversations.



Rev Gordon

Fortunately, Rev Randall, was able to join us for one of those evenings with half the Pack, whilst the other completed mini-orienteering at The Den. The Reverend also visited The Den for two evenings to talk about Christianity, suitably at the beginning of Advent.

In November we were able to have another Camp fire, before lockdown.

Via Zoom, we, like others, tailored the badge requirements to suit online as much as possible, in the hope we could finish off the 'physical' parts once back f2f.



Missing the Remembrance Sunday parade was particularly hard for us, so we personally commissioned a poppy wreath, and laid it at the Cairn. Online we talked the Cubs through what **Remembrance Day** means, and who The Royal British Legion are. The Cubs made a poppy poster to

put up in their windows, and we asked for any donations to be sent to the RBL.

Online we also completed both the **Personal & Home Safety badges**.

Once back in The Den, we thankfully were able to have a Christmas party, albeit scaled profoundly down, in comparison to previous years. We spent the evening finishing making



Socially distanced chip time!

Christmas crafts for families, and eating chips accompanied by fizzy drinks. It was, given the pandemic situation, bliss!

Spring Term 2021

Spring Term started with us doing **'Keep apart with heart'**. The pick-me-up poster was a big success – thank you Rikki for your artistic skills, & teaching. The 'domino effect' activity, to symbolise the need for CV19 social distancing, was particularly engaging to the Cubs.

Teaching the 'new ones' for their **Investiture**, meant tweaking the process into a part teaching/part revision for the Cubs. Making the 'fortune teller' (part of the teaching to show how The Law, and The Promise are the foundations to Scouting) was definitely a challenge online!

We in Tiger, chose to supplement the badge requirements and activities, by using our home-made PowerPoints as a teaching tool. They really helped to engage with the Cubs through the Zoom Pack evenings. **'All about countries' & flags PP** was particularly helpful. They really enjoyed answering and connecting to the pictures.



Once again, we dedicated an evening to the **Chinese New Year** (this year it is the Ox). We were fortunate to have Ming (who is British Hong Kong, and a journalist) as an online visitor. She spoke to the Cubs, showed us her photographs, and answered questions. Next year (it will be the year of the Tiger) we hope she will visit as planned.



The **Nominet Digital Citizen Internet badge**, was a relevant, but difficult subject to do online. Happily, all the Cubs gave the correct answers to 'share, don't share', 'yes, no, maybe', and produced excellent 'hands up, hands down' drawings. Additionally, talking through the Scouting Yellow Card was, we were told afterwards, very constructive to the parents listening in.

We also covered the subject of the importance of **sleep**. All through the pandemic we have strived to support, and teach the Cubs. Many of the Pack, couldn't always cope with online Cubs, as well as schooling. So, each week we sent out an email comprising what was covered that night, and what they needed to do in order to obtain the badge at home. It was very successful.

We in Tiger cub pack, believe in doing all the scouting requirements, *and* new activities. Especially topical events. A good example of this was the **International Woman's Day (IWD)** evening. It was an eye-opener to



Girl Scouts attending the Crystal Palace Scout Rally, September 1909.

In 1909 there were over 6,000 girls registered with Scouting and that a separate scheme was being developed for Girl Scouts. In the September a Scout Rally was held at Crystal Palace with both girls and boys attending. Then it was announced the girls would then form Girl Guiding. Scouting in the UK remained a boys only for 66 years. In 1976 girls were allowed to join a youth section of the Movement for the first time since 1910 as the Venture Scout section for 15 – 20 year olds became co-educational. In 1991 UK Scouting became fully mixed, and on 1 January 2007 it **finally** became compulsory for all Groups to accept girls into **all** Sections.



Women in Scouting

Women have been involved in Scouting from the very beginning.

The first women to become Scout leaders were in March 1909.

The most famous of these early female leaders is **Vera Barclay** who went on to be the co-founder of the **Cubs section**.

These women were Scouting pioneers just as much as their male counterparts, but had the additional challenge of overcoming social prejudice of the time regarding appropriate activities for women and whether they could lead a group of boys.

The first world war led to change due to the lack of male leaders, but also in recognition of their work, by 1918, 65% of Cub leaders were women.

Throughout the years women have continued to play an important role in the Movement, two of these women Dorothy Hughes and Betty 'Rikki' Melville Smith are remembered at Gilwell Park (headquarters of Scouting). The Dorothy Hughes Pack Holiday Centre at Rikki's Store are named in their honour. The first ever UK Youth Commissioner, appointed in 2014, was Hannah Kentish and 43% of the adult volunteers were female.

Two Lady Cubmasters supervise a Wolf Cub Grand Howl, 1916



the Cubs. Using PowerPoint again, it encouraged discussion, especially over the inequality of the sexes. The Cubs were surprised regarding the history of women & girls in the Scouting Movement. For example, Lady Baden-Powell was an equal founder with her husband, and their daughters learnt scouting with their brothers. Making the Mother's Day card straight after, whilst

talking about what their mothers, have, and do for them, made them stop and think. (It is part of our Winter programme to mark IMD on 19th November 2021).

Another Zoom evening was spent with **Makaton** teacher Michelle. She kindly explained, and showed us, how Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable communication. The Cubs each signed their names, and learnt how to sign hello, goodbye, and other basic words.

St Patricks Day was another example of mixing PowerPoint with craft making.

The flower/plant that is symbolic to this Saint and Ireland is a **Shamrock**.

A clover (part of the 'Pea family' of plants) **must** have **three** leaves to be considered a **shamrock**.

If the **clover** has more or less, then it is **not** a **shamrock**. Hence, all shamrocks are **clovers**, but not all **clovers** are shamrocks.



A page from our PowerPoint



St Patricks Day paper rainbow

Easter was a discussion with Q&As whilst making a bunny & Easter eggs book mark, and an Easter card. All very Blue Peter, with Shere Khan having four "here's one I made earlier" examples!



The first evening back at The Den this year was a **Camp fire**. Sausages, fruit kebabs & s'mores, followed by an overdue f2f investiture. It was wonderful to actually 'meet' our new cubs, and resume face to face again.

Summer Term 2021

This term has started with a 'May the Fourth' evening. A Star Wars game night, complete with Grogu gingerbread, a special treat made by Rikki.

Also, a damp evening learning how to make a camp fire – a great achievement given the weather.

Badges

During this year the badges we have achieved are: five Silver Chief Scout Awards/World Challenge/Night's Away/Joining in/Digital Citizen/Faith/ Backwoods Cooking/ Camp @ Home/Navigator/Community Impact/Personal Safety/Hike. Additionally, using 'Part of the badges @ home' Scouting, some of our Cubs have achieved Chef/Animal Carer/Personal/and On the Water 1.

Lastly: - I continue to be very proud of our Cubs. Especially coping with online Zoom meetings, after spending all day with schooling online. They were always enthusiastic, given the circumstances. Those that couldn't attend online, still completed the badge requirements. Some of the photos sent as proof, were extremely impressive. The 'Messy Monsters'(Environmental Conservation), immediately springs to my mind! We have, once again, a very imaginative bunch of Cubs.

*Cubs, THANK YOU for persevering with us online, or at home, to gain your badges. To the parents, a HUGE thank you for supporting us. To help make sure your child/ren could get their badges is quite an achievement. I also wish to thank our leaders Baloo, Rikki, and Shere Khan – I continue to be grateful for your help.



Akela

