

Woodside Beavers - Annual Report 2025-2026

What a lot of fun we've had in the colony over the last year! As always, the programme has included a wide range of activities and experiences. We currently have 21 Beavers in Woodside split into 4 lodges - Ackender, Amery, Chawton and Hawkins.

We saw out the summer term of 2025 with some great adventures - swimming at Waverley Abbey School; hiking at Hogmoor Inclosure; building our own cardboard Stonehenge to celebrate the Summer Solstice; completing a trail in the town with navigation and code breaking challenges; and the ever popular Teddy Bears Picnic.

Each new term generally starts with team games and challenges to welcome new members, introduce buddies, get to know each other and how Beavers works. Beavers also had the chance to search for dinosaurs by torchlight in tarpaulin tunnels, and get creative by decorating Springtime biscuits (popping a few extra smarties and fruit pastilles down the hatch for good measure!)

Autumn Adventures

Beavers learned how to build and light small fires safely and then enjoyed keeping warm round the camp fire and making s'mores - they can never get enough of those!



We had something of a watery theme learning about different types of boats, making their own sailing boats and testing their craft in a paddling pool. These meetings were complemented by a wonderful autumnal afternoon cruise aboard the narrowboat John Pinkerton II on the Basingstoke Canal.

Then we moved onto other modes of transport - aeroplanes and helicopters. Beavers found out about the incredible achievements of Amy Johnson, flew their own paper aeroplanes in a flying contest, and we had a brilliant visit to RAF Odiham. The Beavers got up close to all sorts of equipment, tried on some kit, and sat inside a Chinook.

Instead of marking Halloween, we celebrated the Mexican festival Dia de los Muertos which helped Beavers towards their International activity badge. They made tissue paper marigolds, tried some Mexican food and learnt some key phrases in Spanish.

Our main activity badges in the latter part of term were Digital Maker and Money Skills. For Digital Maker, Beavers went on the look out for technology in the town - they spotted ATMs, digital billboards, automatic doors and car par ticket machines. They tried giving computer-style instructions to direct their peers on a grid and, in another session, turned their hand to stop-motion animation using Lego.





To gain the Money Skills badge, we explored wants/needs/donations which created some interesting discussions about the differences between these concepts! Over a number of weeks, they saved bottle tops in lodges. Savings were noted in Account Books and finally they got to splash their cash in a Lego Shop with special deals like BOGOF and flash sales! These were all popular activities with some good learning behind the fun.



Christmas is a time to think about others: Beavers made Christmas cards and pine cone bird feeders which were delivered to delighted residents at Borovere Care Home.

Spring Stories

In January we focussed on several activity badges, namely Space, Disability Awareness, Health & Fitness and International. We completed a scale walk in the town to understand the size of the solar system, while back at The Den we made a solar system using fruit, again to scale. The planets were re-purposed into a fruit salad which disappeared at a rate of knots! Beavers tried using their hands like astronauts on the International Space Station. In a series of glove challenges, they captured objects in space, repaired parts, conducted laboratory work and analysed samples.



In the final part of the Space badge, Beavers completed astronaut training exercises like our Scout Ambassador Tim Peake - physical training, Russian language training, and robotics. They also used recycled materials to build a fabulous model of the ISS.

We welcomed 2 local guide dog owners who told the Beavers about their experiences of being blind. They met one guide dog, but sadly the other had been retired due to a shoulder problem. One of our visitors gave a great demonstration of Meta glasses. This was fascinating, though the Beavers got somewhat distracted by thinking of questions to ask the web rather than what the glasses could help the wearer see! In discovering more about other disabilities, the Beavers watched a couple of videos by a local artist and then had a go at using their mouths and feet to paint. A couple of our Beavers spoke about family members with hearing aids or special equipment to help them, and they all learnt the Beaver Promise in British Sign Language, as well as some other words and phrases in Makaton.



Some of our activities for the Space badge linked neatly with Health & Fitness, so we finished the latter badge by finding out the effect of different types of exercise on the body by taking heart rate. Beavers also tried some yoga poses and teddy bear breathing for relaxation. They made some great posters about healthy living which have been on display at The Den.

Beavers made more inroads on their International badge in our Down Under meetings - each lodge constructed 1/4 of a large jigsaw map of Australia, finding out about animals and landmarks through this activity. They also got to see some treasured artefacts from Australia - didgeridoo and boomerang, and we played that well known Aussie beach game - the flip flop toss!





In Part 2, we focused on animals, following a #DrawWithRob (children's book illustrator Rob Biddulph) step-by-step online tutorial to draw a koala with some super outcomes; learning the Kookaburra camp fire song; playing a kangaroo game; and finding out about the Australian equivalent of Beavers - 'Joeys'.



We started a spot of gardening for Mothers Day by planting a dwarf sunflower seed, decorating it with a hand print and individual message. I wonder if any of those sunflowers grew....?

Summer Sunshine

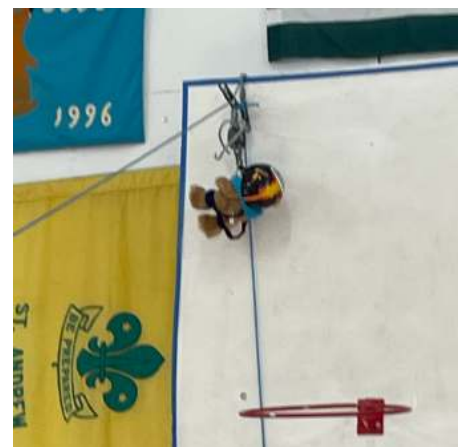
This summer we've done more for the Gardener badge - finding out the right tools for gardening tasks and planting 3 different seeds. Beavers should be growing cress egg heads at home, together with lettuce and chives. We hope to see their best plant towards the end of term as Beavers have to look after their plants for 8 weeks and keep a gardening diary.



Many of our colony members completed their International badge (there's a lot of elements to this one!) with a fantastic session supported by one of our Beaver parents. We focussed on Asia - naming countries in a circle game, learning some of the flags, trying a variety of traditional Chinese foods, then the trickiest but best bit - speaking Chinese Mandarin! Everyone learnt some key phrases and practised a short conversation with a partner. Top listening and concentration required for this!

Beavers have worked together on problem solving challenges - untangling themselves from a giant rope knot, reorganising themselves in height order, putting teddies in size order, and drawing on each others backs and attempting to interpret the picture - this one was challenging but good fun.

Those who weren't at the school disco had fun sending their teddies on a zip wire. This was a true multi-Section effort, as Bubbles, one of our Scout Leaders, crocheted two teddy-size climbing harnesses, and Skip, another Scout Leader, rigged up the zip wire with several Scouts from Endeavour Troop supporting. The Beavers made tickets for their teddies, got them kitted up with harness and helmet and enjoyed seeing them ride on the line. That week we had very inclement weather and our zip wire had to move inside, but it was still a real hit!



In the summer term, we obviously go outside as much as possible and the programme included hiking and navigation skills, sports and cycling, more gardening, and creativity with natural materials.

Our Events

We run Nights Away events every term. In December we were at the Library to sleep between the bookshelves. Unsurprisingly, all activities were book-related - including Paddington Kim's Game, several Roald Dahl activities as well as crafting book hedgehogs and monster bookmarks.



We held an event especially for novices in February - a Glow in the Dark sleepover which went down very well. Beavers created their own galaxy pictures inspired by the Milky Way, The addition of stickers and glow in the dark paint made some really super designs. We played glow in the dark bowling, star search and there was more creativity with glow sticks. They slept in pop up tents indoors.



The 2nd Great Beavers Sleepover was held at Alton Assembly Rooms in March. Around 50 children attended from colonies in Alton, Bentley and Four Marks. On the Saturday afternoon, everyone hiked to Holybourne where they played wide games and enjoyed the adventure playground. After hiking back, they tucked into a yummy Spud Bros style jacket potato bar and watched Monsters Inc. on the big screen. On Sunday morning they played indoor games on a circuit and enjoyed musical statues with disco music. It was a great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and find out about an historic local building.

Our Summer adventure camp was at The Den in early June with all activities geared towards completing the Scottish Thistle Award - Scottish dancing, Highland Games, Scotland on the map, weaving paper tartan designs, making a mythical snack and finding out about Scottish inventors and scientists.

We are looking forward to the Group Camp in July which promises some new adventurous activities.



Aside from our trips and camps, we've also had several other events - a sell out Lego Workshop run by Brilliant Bricks; super smart turn out at Remembrance Parade; and learning how to spin plates at a Circus Skills workshop.

Little legs have walked far on several hikes - the popular Welly Hike which takes in Water Lane; a long one from Alton <> Holybourne which helped Beavers sleep well at the 2nd Great Beavers Sleepover; and a new location - climbing the ZigZag path at Selborne and walking through the common and hangers.

Thank you

It's been all go with Beavers! They've earned heaps of badges, including 12 Chief Scouts Bronzes awarded in the last 12 months. My thanks go to our brilliant Leaders - Merlin, Badger, Eagle, and Buzzard who joined the fold this year; our Young Leaders - Sparrow and Starling - who were both recognised with a special District commendation for their sterling work supporting young members with additional needs; and other Leaders who come to award our Chief Scouts and support at our

larger events, such as catering for the 2nd Great Beavers Sleepover. Thank you also to all those parents who step up to help at our meetings and outings, and of course Matt, our Group Lead Volunteer, who works incredibly hard behind the scenes for everyone's benefit at 3rd Alton.

We'd welcome new adults to join our Leadership team to ensure sustainability of our Sections. Leading is great fun, and provides all sorts of new opportunities. Please do contact us if you'd like to get into uniform or help in another capacity. We all started from scratch too and have developed our knowledge and skills over time - there is lots of support available.

Anna (Tawny) - Beavers Team Leader - Woodside Colony



BEAVERS