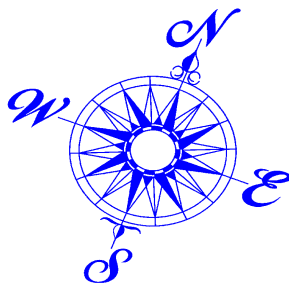


New Website!!

www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk



Pay subs and camps
online with Paypal!!

12th Didcot Sea Scouts Group News

Welcome Back

September/October 2009

Over the coming months there are lots of plans for all the sections. Here you will find a brief overview of what is planned and how each group is progressing.

Beavers

Over the autumn term the Beavers will be completing their Safety and Imagination badges. As part of this they will be looking at how darker evenings in the autumn affects their safety and the effects of autumn on nature during a walk around Didcot. There is also a trip to the local fire station planned, an evening making model fire-works which will hopefully take off and games to explore the powers of the imagination.

Cubs

For the Cubs the main focus will be completing their global challenge badge. We hope that some of the older Cubs will also achieve their Silver Award, as they are close to collecting all their challenge badges. To achieve this the program includes an international night looking at the food & cultures of different countries, a look into how water and sanitation is managed around the world and Ox-fam are coming in to speak about the work they carry out in Vietnam. The cubs will also get a chance to cook their own meal one night and look into why we celebrate Remembrance Day, Halloween and Guy

Fawkes Night.

Scouts

Scouts will be focusing on their survival skills over the coming months. This will include them learning how to orienteer; dissect, cook & try rabbit and how to use camping tools including axes and saws safely. They will also be covering their mechanics, cycling and craft badges.

Their mechanics badge looks at how to carry out the common checks on a car including checking oil and water levels and changing wheels. Again the cycling badge includes the basic safety checks; checking lights, tyres and how to mount and dismount safely.

Group Times

Beavers:

Tuesday 6:00-7:15

Cubs:

Tuesday 6:15-7:45

Scouts:

Monday 7:30-9:30

Please ensure children are supervised until the above sessions starts—leaders are not responsible until this time.

Coming Events:

Skills Camp (Scouts)	4-6 Sep
Tail-Slappers (Beavers)	10 Oct
District Balloon Race	17 Oct
Remembrance Parade	8 Nov
Street Fair	20 Nov
Dorchester Abbey Remembrance Service (Scouts)	22 Nov
Christmas Camp (Cubs)	11-13 Dec
District Beaver Sleepover	Feb 2010

What's New?

- Website - www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk Here you can find programs, camp details (including kit lists), photos and facilities to pay subscription and camp fees online. If you require a username and/or password please contact Sarah.
- In the foyer you will find an information table; copies of letters, event details and other important information can be found here.
- Feedback book; also located on the information table. Please use this to let us know of the items you would like to see on the website, information table or any other ideas, comments or suggestions you may have.

Your 12th Didcot Sea Scout Leadership Team

Many of our roles have changed over the Summer break; the following is to help you know who we all are and our roles within the group plus a little background information about us all!!

Rob Vaines – District Commissioner (07981 808783)

Rob's role is to make sure scouting happens in Didcot and that it is safe for young people. To achieve this he manages the GSL's (Group Scout Leader - at the moment we are waiting for a new GSL to be appointed) and this is his main point of contact for any group. The GSL's then manage their leaders who run and organise the evenings and events for their section. As part of Rob's role he deals with several groups in Didcot and the surrounding area.

Occupation: Local IT business consultancy manager

Hobbies: No time for hobbies (all my spare time is taken up with Scouting!)

Favourite colour: Purple **Favourite food:** Chocolate (closely followed by sweet and sour chicken)

Home life: 2 cats, brother and sister, called Jack and Dannii and 18 year old daughter

Hero: My old Akela (cub leader) thanks Liz xxx

My view on scouting: I used to be a cub leader, and really enjoyed the direct contact with the young people, but now I get to work more with adults. I especially enjoy working with the new adults, giving them a good start in training. As District Commissioner I spend lots of time reading 'rules & regulations' and then working them into the real world and ensuring our adult volunteers understand what needs to be done. Developing Scouting in Didcot and the surrounding villages is great fun, opening new groups and sections, supporting volunteers in delivering the best quality Scouting is all part of that.

Tim Lockett - Mallard Beaver Leader

Occupation: Chartered Chemical Engineer working in the oil and gas industry.

Hobbies: Camping, Cycling, taking things apart and putting them back together, being a Dad. I'm currently building a machine (out of junk) to toss a tennis ball up to 20 m for a Build-It Challenge competition.

Experiences: I have completed the Dartmoor Ten Tors and North-South expeditions. Also jumped out of an aeroplane (with a parachute) and went back a few weeks later to do it again. Walked away from both landings! I have driven a campervan around half of Australia.

My view on Scouting: I enjoy helping build things out of rubbish that actually look like or do something. Not everything in life has to be electronic!

Sarah Harris - Baloo Cub Leader (07717 032498)

Occupation: Full time Senior Systems Administrator for a company called CAB International based in Wallingford, where I have worked for 18 years.

Hobbies: Cross stitch, reading and walking my dog, Keira.

Experiences: I am a full time Mum to twin boys, Rhys and Owain. I completed my wood badge last year. My biggest achievement is being married to the Scout leader for so long (19 long years)!!

My view on Scouting: The best bit for me is working with the young people and giving them the opportunity to do things that they would not normally do. When I first became a leader I said I would not go camping but I can now say I do enjoy this side of Scouting (as long as the toilets and showers are close by).

Craig Harris - Skip Scout Leader (07786 646999)

Occupation: Coach driver with Tap-pins.

Hobbies: Cross stitch, origami, logic problems and general telling of bad jokes.

Experiences: I am a fully qualified engineer, specialising in quality control and procedures. In the past I was a bouncer in Oxford, played for the Oxford Saints American Football team, was a Lau Gar instructor and a ballroom dancer!

My View on Scouting: Mostly I enjoy seeing the faces of the Scouts when they finally manage to achieve or make something on their own. Together with giving them the opportunity to do things that they wouldn't normally do. If it wasn't for Scouting many of the kids wouldn't have the chance to camp; it's always made worthwhile when they are enjoying it despite the wind, rain and mud!

Scott Leader
Beaver Leader (07545 158809)

Occupation: Full time lifeguard and swimming coach.

Hobbies: Swimming, camping, singing and my favourite pastime playing the Wii.

Experiences: I'm a qualified national pool lifeguard and swimming coach. Within Scouting I gained the Chief Scouts Platinum award.

My view on Scouting: As a leader the thing that really inspires me is being able to pass on everything that I was taught to the young people today and trying to make sure that they have as much fun and enjoyment learning all these skills as I did. Who knows maybe one day they can take over from me and pass the skills onto the next group. Personally Scouting is all about discovering yourself and only being restrained by your own limitations; finding those limits and pushing them mentally, physically and emotionally.

Wendy Tatham - Bagheera
Cub Leader (07766 685774)

Occupation: I'm a qualified accountant for a small firm in Cassington (near Witney).

Hobbies: Cross stitch, Swimming, karate and tap dancing. I also own a rat called Jazz (who ate my first Scout uniform!!)

Experiences: Sky-diving, skid-pan control, abseiling down JR hospital & completing the moonwalk (marathon overnight wearing a bra) for charity.

My view on Scouting: A few years ago I would never have thought that I would ever sleep in a tent in the middle of a field, then a year ago I went to my first camp and loved every minute (well apart from the rain, mud & early morning wake up calls from the Cubs!!). Despite the work that it takes to make the evenings and camps work seeing the kids faces enjoying the activities and the sense of achievement they have when completing a new task or learning a new skill makes it all worthwhile.

Barry Baillie
Scout Leader

Occupation: Product manager for leasing and insurance business at an Educational IT company.

Hobbies: Powerboating, sailing, Volkswagen Golf's, surfing (well attempting to surf!) or any other water based activity.

Experiences: Completed the Queen Scout Award, but never received the badge! I'm now a RYA powerboat instructor, safety boat officer for Goring Thames Sailing club and VHF licence holder. I'm currently working towards an advanced driving qualification with the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

My view on Scouting: I joined Scouting to give kids the chance to do something they otherwise wouldn't get to do. It also gives me a chance to use my powerboating and sailing skills to benefit them.

You may also see some other faces around at group meetings; we are hoping to have some new leaders join us in both Scouts and Cubs . Plus you will see some young leaders who are back for their second term with us; Bradley will be helping Tim and Scott in Beavers and in Cubs Laura will be helping Baloo and Bagheera.

A small plea for help!

Whilst we have leaders in the group we can always make use of more hands. The more leaders and helpers that we have the more opportunities that the Scouts, Cubs & Beavers get to experience. A couple of hours a week could make a real difference in Scouting; or if you are unable to help on a regular basis an odd evening passing across your experiences or skills to one of the groups is also beneficial.

The group also needs more help on the executive team; they help run the group behind the scenes and meet a few times a year to help make decisions on how the groups finances will be best used and what events we would like to attend and the best way to promote the group at these events.

Another way to help would be to write a small section on your views on Scouting, or an experience you have had with the group for the newsletter, or even help your child to write an article about what they enjoy about Scouting.

The more help and support we have from families, the more experiences your children will gain.

Please contact either Rob Vaines or Sarah Harris if you feel you can help in any way.

Cubs Summer Camp July 2009

Over the first weekend in the school holidays the Cubs attended Summer Camp 2009 at Dry Sandford Scout Site—the theme being Bugs! The weekend started for the leaders on the Thursday night when the tents and marquees went up- in the pouring rain. The next night the Cubs arrived (again in the rain!) and the fun began. Friday night was party night as we celebrated George Omar's 10th birthday, with party games and cake.

After a breakfast of cereals, egg and bacon the Cubs went on a hike to the local nature reserve where they collected leaves, fruit & nuts and feathers. Back at camp they used what they had collected to make bugs and bug pictures. The leaves were also used to identify which trees and flowers were in the area.

Next was a fishing trip to the stream on site. After a few falls and much fun the Cubs had collected several different bugs in the water and a couple of Crayfish, one of which was found dead. This presented a new experience for the Cubs as they gathered around Scott for a dissection of the Crayfish; learning where to find the heart and lungs, how to de-scale the Crayfish and which areas they could find meat to cook.

That evening we held a BBQ and campfire which the local Scout Group leaders joined. As a birthday treat George was given the panda makeover from the fire ashes and the evening finished with the obligatory toasted marshmallows.

Sunday morning was time to collect & identify some more bugs and then between showers camp was packed up. Finally it was time to bring out the go-carts and have a few races around camp, at which point the showers turned slightly heavier and the races were abandoned for lunch.

Lunch finished and between the down pours a few more races were fitted in before it was time to go home.

Pictures of the weekend can be found on the website—www.12thdidcotscouts.org.uk in the Cubs section.

Scouts Skills Camp - 4th-6th September

Over the first week-end in September, the Scouts attended a skills camp held at Goring Heath scout hut. The first night was spent pitching the tents and with the wind blowing, hoping that they would stay up all night!

Over the rest of the weekend the Scouts learnt how to survive on their own; including use of axes, cooking on alter fires and how to wash up! The leaders also learnt that according to one Scout there are only two types of soup; chicken and plain—also known as water!?!?!?

Saturday afternoon they all went on a hike into Goring , then back to cook their dinner. After dinner activities included football, dodge ball, camp fire songs and toasted marshmallows.

After lighting their own fires and cooking breakfast the Scouts had to pack away their sleeping bags and tents and tidy up the camp site. Then all went home for a well earned rest!!

Forthcoming Events

Balloon Race

The district balloon race is being held on 17 October. All funds raised are going towards the district camp planned for May 2010.

All balloons are being released from the Orchard Shopping Centre in batches of 5. The balloon that travels the furthest (as the crow flies) will win a cash prize.

All balloons are environmentally friendly with bio-degradable tags.

SPONSOR YOUR BALLOON FOR £1 - see Sarah for more details.

Tail Slappers

On the 10th October the District is holding its annual Beaver Tail Slappers event. The event is being held at Didcot wave where the Beavers get the opportunity to take part in fun and games in the water including races. It is also an opportunity for the Beavers to work towards their swimming stage badges.