



1st Hampton-in-Arden Scout
Group

1st Hampton-in-Arden Scout Group AGM- 7th June 2018

Cub Pack AGM Report



**1st Hampton-in-Arden
Scout Group**

Last weekend myself, Jacala and King Louie with the amazing team of 5 leaders and fellow Scouters took 21 Cubs away on camp, the weekend totally summed up Scouting for us. We saw Cubs that have grown into such amazing young people that originally wouldn't say boo to a goose but this weekend we have watched them try new things, rise to amazing challenges, gain independence, have fun and make memories and friends for life! Myself, Andy and Simon, the Cub leadership team, have come away absolutely bursting with pride. This weekend has made me remember why I Scout, why I make the 20-mile round trip every Thursday, why I give my time up and why it is so worth it. Recently Scouting UK has gone through a re-brand with our new mission being **'Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.'** It is fair to say our Cubs totally smashed that this weekend!!

It is hard to believe or work out where the last year has gone- it has certainly gone fast! I remember over 15 months ago receiving a phone call from Shirley, our County Commissioner, who asked if I would be happy come and help 1st HinA in getting their new Beaver colony and Cub Pack back up and running- Shirley said, 'it would just be for a few months'...15 months later I appear to be very much still here... I was brought up in the Village, so being involved with Scouting here is amazing. Having Scouted (with a brief stint as a Rainbow) for over 22 years, I cannot recommend being a member of the Scouting Movement more highly- it certainly has provided me the skills that I have needed to survive the last 27+ years of my life with so, so much more to offer.

Andy (Jacala) supported by his partner Mel re-opened the pack with 8 Cubs and did an absolute sterling job. Andy was supported by myself, Simon Worship, Millie Simkin and other leaders and the Cubs started to gain their first badges through doing backwoods cooking, fire-lighting, visits from the fire brigade and pond dipping just to name a few. They built a perfect foundation for the pack and in June last year I took over as Cub Scout Leader and a year later we have a mighty strong pack of 28 Cubs, all of whom bring their own bits of amazing along each week on a Thursday for an hour and a half. We also have a considerable waiting list and steady flow of Beavers moving up to Cubs when they come of age. To watch these amazing children, grow in so many different and fantastic ways is the best thing ever- far better than receiving any large pay package or promotions because each week these children make us prouder and prouder. Personally, I have been a leader for over 9 years and I have seen many young people through their journey as Beavers and Cubs and to see them now going off to university or gain jobs in the areas they always dreamt makes me know I have done my job as a leader in Scouting.

Over the last 15 months our Cubs have visited a mosque, gone to the Big Bang at the NEC and the National Space centre. We have taken part in church, remembrance and St Georges day Parades. The Cubs have earned so many badges! We have done backwoods cooking, pioneering, map reading, knot tying, fire lighting, knife craft, pond dipping, cooking and so much more. We have been on 2 camps, a muddy wellie walk, taken part in district Cub quiz in which we came third, we have had parents join us for an extremely explosive night of science experiments, taken part in the Hampton festival, the village tidy up and so much more...we could go on for hours! The Cubs have had been exposed to many new experiences and gained many skills for life, independence, confidence and so much more along with lots of first and bucket loads of fun!!

All of our Cubs are working towards their Chief Scout Silver award which involves learning skills for life working towards their teamwork, team leader, outdoor, adventure, personal challenge and world challenge badges which takes around 3 years to achieve. However, we would love to give a massive shout out to Alex Johnson, Ben Coulthurst, Jake Woodall, Joshua Read and Oliver Haywood who have totally smashed it and gained their Chief Scout Awards in February, our first Cubs and gee wizz we are so, so proud of them. We are hoping that we will have another 2 gain theirs in July and many more are well on their way to working towards theirs.

Watching our Cubs gain skills for life, grow in so many positive ways, gaining confidence, finding their feet and voices, seeing their own self pride and so much more has been amazing and so very rewarding for all the Cub leadership team- Scouting really does have an amazing impact on our Cubs and they are growing into such amazing young people. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to 7 of our Cubs as they move up to Scouts in September, but we know that Cubs is just the very start of their Scouting career and that they will make the scout leaders as proud as they have made us and grow into fine young men!

The year ahead already looks super exciting with camps, a sleepover at the Sealife centre and other trips and adventures. On top of this we will be busy working towards many exciting badges and achievements. We will be constantly working in a youth shaped approach, where our Cubs have the main say in what we do and focusing on giving all our Cubs the skills for life they need. We will be seeing some big changes as we swap our pack nights to a Wednesday evening which currently brings some uncertainty regarding leadership as we will be losing Andy Seal to Scouts. However, we are very much up for a challenge and look forward to all the things that the next year holds for us with a full, enriching, fun and diverse programme.

Come September, Cubs are in a bit of a pickle currently as we will only have 2 leaders, myself and Simon W and section assistant Simon S. We are desperate for help, whether you want to go into uniform or just commit to a couple of weeks a month as a section assistant, we don't mind, but to enable delivering such an amazing provision for these amazing young children we desperately need your help. It really is the best thing ever- I couldn't recommend being part of the Scouting movement highly enough. Any help, in any way would be so very gratefully received, and we hope that we can persuade you to join us for the 4-week challenge and come and see what we are all about- we can promise fun, the chance to learn new skills and a lot more. If your Cub has been on camp this weekend and has come home buzzing, has it given you itchy fingers to see what happens on Thursday nights and on camps? You just don't know what you are missing out on.

We would just like to finish with a massive thank you to all our Cub leadership team, including, Simon Spain, Vicky Woodall and James Howitt, our young leader for all their amazing hard work and support over the last 15 months- we couldn't have done it without you. Also, a huge thank you goes to Millie Simkin our previous GSL whom was a massive support in the beginning months. We are going to be super sad to say goodbye to Andy as he moves up to Scouts in the new academic year but know he won't be able to stay away for too long! Also, a huge thank you is needed to be given to all our fantastic Cub parents, carers and guardians that bring their Cubs each week to meetings, camps, trips and much more...without you we wouldn't have a Cub pack but the biggest thank you goes to our Cubs that have done us so, so proud over the last 15 months and we just hope that this is the start of a long scouting career for them. Your children have done you massively proud and we hope that you continue to support us in whatever capacity you can to ensure we are able to provide a full, fun, diverse, balanced programme.

If we have managed to persuade you in any way to help, please, feel free to come the Cub Leadership team and we will be able to give you more information. It is amazing fun, you make friends for life and learn skills for life too...what more could you want?