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# CHALGROVE SCOUTING NEWS

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April 2013

## Akela Hood and her Merry Men!

The Cubs went on an adventure weekend in November; our theme was Robin Hood. Many challenges were undertaken during a very wet weekend at Chalfont Scout Camp. We did Archery, made catapults and tried (and tried and tried) to do fire lighting!! We also designed our own shields and played Pin the Tail on the Mighty Steed (thanks Steve S for the poster)!



A good time was had and we even saw a little bit of sunshine on Sunday when we undertook some team challenges.

Thanks to Friar Tuck, Maid Marion & the Sheriff of Nottingham for all their help.

Akela

## **SCOUTS DAY HIKE**

After much map reading and compass skills training in the village hall, the scouts were ready to put it in practice.

We met at 9.30am on Sunday 3rd February and set off on a route we had planned. It was a cold morning with a biting wind.

Each of the scouts had a map that Gary had printed for them from the OS website, so they could all watch the route and see where they were going.

We set off from Chalgrove with our kit for the day following the Shakespeare Way to Brightwell Baldwin and then onto the Turner Green Lane path to Britwell Salome, picking up the Chiltern way onto Ewelme where we stopped for Lunch. Everyone had brought a packed lunch with them. Gary set up the Trangia stove and boiled enough water for

each of the scouts to have a cup of Hot Chocolate.



After lunch we set off again for the home stretch. The paths seemed to get muddier and wetter but the scouts kept plodding on; everyone took the map reading seriously and I think learnt a lot from this practical experience. We continued onto the Rumbolds Lane Track leading up to Whitehouse farm and then across to the Berrick road and back into Chalgrove.

Despite the deep slippery mud, we all managed to stay upright - all apart from one that is. Kazi, whose boot got stuck, causing his body weight to lunge forward, found himself on all fours deep in mud. What a mess! Fortunately this was very near the end of the route and not at the beginning. I am sure his mum was very pleased with what she had to put in her washing machine. I have heard rumours that he was hosed down outside first to get the worst off.



We walked in total 10.5 miles, all that went did very well with the mapping and the hike as some had only just come up from Cubs. A good day was had by all.  
Steve Marriage  
Scout Leader

## INDOOR CAMPING FOR BEAVERS

It is amazing what an imagination can produce, with a few lengths of dowel (reclaimed flag poles) some old curtains, pegs and chairs. We decided that we would give them all free reign in their lodges to produce a structure that they could all sit under. These wouldn't keep the rain or wind out but then we were indoors and with a little help from some parents we were successful.



## GANG SHOW 2013

Back in September 2012 one cub and four scouts, Michael Marriage, Jo Jo Lavery, Thomas Marriage, Shaun Sexton and Sam Marriage went to Marston to audition for the County Gang Show, some for the third year running.

After successfully being selected to take part in the cast for the 2013 Gang Show, they began the task of rehearsals every Saturday afternoon from September until show week in February 2013, learning lines, acting parts, dance routines and songs.



It takes real commitment and hard work to be in the Gang Show, but it all pays off when it comes to the buzz of show week.

This year the show moved its venue to the Radley College Theatre. The show week begins on Saturday, arriving at the theatre at 4.45pm for a full dress rehearsal and not finishing until 10.30pm, a long night you say, that was just the start. Monday was the first public showing, after a normal day at school it was home for a quick meal, change and out to be at the theatre for 5.45pm. After some last minute practising, it was curtain up at 7.15pm with a full show and curtain down at 10.15pm. There were shows every night all week and two shows on Saturday with an afternoon show too, so a long week considering that by the time the guys got home each night it was gone 11pm and they all went to school the next day all week .

The rest of the group - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all went to the show on the Thursday to cheer the guys on and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

They all had a fabulous time being in the Gang Show and I know they all want to do it again next year. A very well done to all of you - real commitment and determination. You're all stars in the making.

Steve Marriage  
Scout Leader

### Cubs visit Ice Rink

The Cubs visited Oxford Ice Rink In February to take part in the Stick & Puck session they hold on most Sundays.

Once kitted up with helmets, gloves and sticks they went out onto the Ice and learnt some basics of Ice Hockey.



Whilst some of the cubs had never skated before it wasn't long before most were getting the hang of skating whilst holding a stick and then trying to hit the puck!

They did really well and only a few got soggy bottoms!

After the session we watched the Oxford City Stars, our local team take on Swindon Wildcats - a fast and furious game which was won by Oxford 5-2.

The cubs really enjoyed the afternoon - Stick & Puck is free to attend for 5-16 year olds, for more details go to:

<http://www.oxfordstars.com/>

Akela



## SPACE THE FINAL FRONTIER

Beavers had been learning about space and the stars and collecting boxes for weeks. The plan was to make something that was space related. It is amazing what was produced from a star through to space ships and intergalactic battle cruisers, there was even a robot exterminating everything in sight.



## Bon Voyage to Matt Marriage

On 2nd April we will be saying "Bon Voyage and good luck" to Matt Marriage, one of our oldest scouts who, with a team of school friends, will be embarking on an adventure of a life time with World Challenge.



He will fly to Marrakech in Morocco where they will travel by road high into the Atlas Mountains where they start a six day trek through the mountains fending mainly for themselves, along with local guides and donkeys to carry heavy kit and tents etc. They will be sleeping each night in tents on plateaus in the mountains. They will pass through small mountain villages where the local people live off the land, with a lifestyle very different to ours. Part of the deal for going on this trip was for the students to raise their own funds to pay for the trip. Matt has raised over one thousand pounds to fund his trip, doing carwashes, bag packing at supermarkets and a helping with a Fun day at The Red Lion,

part of this was to pay for the trip but he has also had to buy some special equipment needed for the trip. Matt said "It will be a bit of a culture shock, as it is a very different way of life to what we are used too, the heat will also be a shock to the system with daytime temperatures of 40 degrees and above, which is ok if you're lying by a swimming pool in the shade and not trekking in dry terrain. The other concern to us all is the non existence of toilet facilities - digging yourself a hole in the ground is the best it gets. Although a little apprehensive, I am really looking forward to the trip".

Well, good luck Matt, have a great time, take lots of pictures and we look forward to hearing all about it when you return.

Good luck from the leader team and committee at 1st Chalgrove

**NOTE: This has now taken place – photos will be in the next issue of Scout News. Watch this space!**

## Chief Scouts Gold Award

Recently two Scouts, Nick Marsh and Matt Marriage have received their Chief Scouts Gold Award, which is the highest award in the scout sections and requires a lot of scouting to complete all the requirements. Applicants must complete all the challenge awards to be in with a chance.

Both Matt and Nick have been with 1st Chalgrove since joining as beavers at six years old and have taken part in every camp, activity and fundraising event possible. They both attended a County presentation to be officially given their award by the county commissioner on the 17th March 2013.

A very well done to both of you for achieving such a high award and being great scouts. It has been a pleasure to have you in the troop. Steve Marriage  
Scout Leader

