

## **Cubs Pack's Report 2012-13**

I would like to start by thanking Helen for all her help and support. When I first came into Cubs, Helen was the Cub Section Leader and following in her footsteps has been no easy task. Helen gave us plenty of notice to prepare when she announced she was stepping down and I want to thank Helen for her guidance and advice in the months building up to her leaving.

Cubs has seen a few changes over the past 12 months, one of these has seen us using On Line Scout Manager which is a web based admin programme. Admin is a terrible word and unfortunately a necessary one as well. Managing the cub section does mean admin comes with the role, however, we have embraced modern technology and now run everything on line including taking the register on our phones! The advantages are that we can spend more time doing other things and less time tied up with admin. The other change is making more use of our web site. As a parent I know how useful web sites can be as an information source for clubs and parents. During the year with some help from Anthony and Philip the First Swindon web site has been updated with new sections for the parents and leaders. Today it is a great source of information for those within the sections and group and also serves as an advert to the outside world demonstrating what the group does.

The Cub section continues to be a busy one, run by Simon and myself as leaders and Peter as our young leader. Helen still pops in from time to time and has been a great help when Simon and I are away. We typically have around 21 Cubs and a few on the waiting list.

The highlight of the year is always camp. This year we camped with the District at Roves Farm for 2 nights. The weather was windy to say the least and after some lessons on wind bracing the tent ropes we successfully pitched the tents for the weekend and took part in the activities with the other groups. As catering was provided we also enjoyed queuing for meals. The annual group fun day and camp took us to Bowmoor for another night away. The Cubs and leaders got to do kayaking, sailing and raft building during the day and enjoyed a campfire and cooking at night.

Away from camping the Cubs have taken part in various activities including a visit to the Royal Mail sorting office in Dorcan, Christmas Ten Pin bowling, St Andrews Church in Blunsdon St Andrew, the new B&Q depot in Stratton and to the Ambulance station in Queens Drive.

During the year we work towards our challenge badges. This term we are completing our outdoor challenge badge having worked on the global and promise badges in previous terms. A Cub achieving all 6 challenge badges during their time in the section will earn their Silver Award and I am pleased to let you know that earlier this year Adam, Josh and Harry all earned their Silver Awards before leaving for Scouts. I am also pleased to let you know that this evening Massie, Jack and Aidan will also be receiving their Silver Awards.

Each week Cubs needs planning and organizing I would like to thank Simon, Peter and Helen along with the parents who have all helped over the past year.

We are looking forward to the next 12 months which will include a group of 33 Cubs, Beavers, leaders and parents all heading to Longleat for a county camp next week!

Finally I would like to thank Simon for all of his help and support in Cubs. Speaking on behalf of many Simon is a fantastic inspiration to us all, his knowledge of scouting and enthusiasm and energy is second to none and I am sure you join with me in wishing him success in his new role.

Here is to another fantastic year in Scouting.

**Carl, Simon and Peter - Cub Leaders 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Sea Scouts**