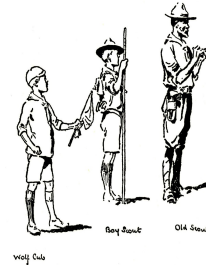


Drake Cub Pack Report 2016-17

2016 was a special year for Scouting, and specifically Cubs as we celebrated our 100th birthday! Cubs across the world took part in events to mark the occasion. Here in Swindon, we had a special celebration party on the 16th December with Cubs from across our district. We marked the time and day that the first Cubs met by renewing our promises at exactly 19:16. It is interesting that many of the skills the early Wolf cubs were taught are still on the programme today, including 1st Aid and helping around the home.



The Drake Cub pack continues to be a busy one, run by David, Donna, Vicky and myself as leaders and joined by Josh as our young leader. We have also been joined by Nicole who has been volunteering as part of her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We typically have around twenty Cubs in the pack. During the year, we have continued to make use of our Facebook page to share information and to keep everyone updated. We would especially like to mention Peter, who left us in September to start his studies at Swansea University. Peter has been a familiar face in the group for many years; moving from Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Young Leaders to become an adult leader with us during the year. Good luck to Peter in his studies.

The highlight of the year is always camp. This year, we camped with the Beavers from Ontario and Michigan. The camp ran for two nights in June at the Scout Camp site in Woodhouse Park, Gloucestershire. We took thirty-five children as well as seventeen adults. The weather was amazing and a fabulous time was had by all. As well as a very long hike (on the hottest day of the year), the kids got to experience wall climbing, crate stacking and rifle shooting to name a few. Our thanks to the leaders and parents who supported this event.

In July, we held our annual Fun Day at Bowmoor. Over seventy members of the Group camped over the weekend and enjoyed sailing and a range of land-based activities. Our thanks to the Scouts and Explorers and their leaders and everyone else who helped run the weekend.

Finally, in September, we joined with other Cub packs for a district camp in Youlbury, Oxfordshire. Around two hundred Cubs were present and everyone got up to the usual outdoor camp activities as well as appreciating that we are members of a larger organisation.

During the year, the section took part in several district events. In January, we organised another successful Swindon North Ten Pin Bowling evening for the local Cubs. In April, Elliot, Arnav, Connor, Ethan, Siddharth and Jamie took part in the annual chess competition organised by Swindon Ridgway District. 1st Swindon Drake pack achieved a brilliant joint 2nd place – well done team 1st Swindon. Finally, in June, we joined with Cubs from across Wiltshire for a 100 years party in Marlborough.

Our weekly meetings continue to be very active as we work towards completing challenge badges. With the introduction of the new badge scheme two years ago, we have worked hard to rebuild our programme to ensure our young people have opportunities to meet the requirements. The Cubs have taken part in various activities and highlights include shelter building, tree planting, watching the Gang Show and visits to the Sikh Temple, Fire Station and ATB Skate Park.

Each week Cubs needs planning and organising I would like to thank David, Donna, Vicky and Josh along with the parents who have all helped over the past year. We are looking forward to the next twelve months, which following a joint Drake and Beaver camp in May will include our Fun Day in July and a back to basics Drake camp at Cranham in September.

Each year we nominate a Cub or Cubs to receive the Cub of the year award. This year we looked for a Cub who has good attendance, has helped others and has shown a keen interest in taking part. When the leadership team discussed this, it became very clear that we would have to honour two cubs that fitted this description. Both boys have an excellent attitude, are always enthusiastic and are great role models for others. Elliot approaches everything with a great sense of humour and is something of a Chess Wizz which has helped us succeed in the District Competitions each year. Morgan takes being prepared very literally; whether it is bringing a walking pole and harmonica on our night hike or a tiny fish slice to use when cooking pancakes in top of a baked bean tin! We would also like to present both Cubs with the Silver Scout Award which they have earned through completing all seven of the Challenge badges.

Here's to another fantastic year in Scouting!

Carl Steckerl, David Fewings, Donna Wylde, Vicky Owen and Josh Relph (Drake Cub Leadership Team).