

## Cub's Drake Pack Report 2014/15

It has been another fantastic year, which has seen the section being involved in Scouting events locally, with the district and also with the county.

The Cub section Drake pack continues to be a busy one, run by David, Donna, Lorna and Vicky and myself as leaders and joined by Peter as our young leader. We typically have around 21 Cubs in the pack. I'd like to make a special mention to Donna who is a leader with both Drake and Nelson packs and has helped Nelson settle into the 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Scout Group.

As well as our web site and e-mails the group has embraced social media this year and now has a dedicated closed Facebook page. David researched and set this up and it has now established another way of keeping in touch as well as sharing that the group has been up to.

The highlight of the year is always camp. This year we camped with the other District Cub groups at the District Camp in Cranham in September for 2 nights. We took 18 children as well as 7 adults. 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon formed a sub camp with 2<sup>nd</sup> Swindon and shared the catering and cooking. The weekend consisted of a spy theme. As well as various spy themed activities the Cubs took part in air rifle shooting, archery and a hike around the countryside and hills including the famous cheese-rolling hill in Cranham. I am pleased to say no Cubs or leaders ventured down that particular hill.

Earlier in the year in July we also camped with the Beavers at the annual Fun Day at Bowmoor Lake. A total of 42 youngsters and 22 adults enjoyed the weekend which included the spectacular views of The Fairford Air Show overhead whilst the Cubs enjoyed raft building supported by Steve, David and Rob demonstrating their knot skills and sailing in the afternoon with the Scout section. We were well supported by parents and your help is much appreciated.

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 Cub groups where some 182 Cubs filled all of the lanes at Ten Pin! Emily and Logan took part in the scrap heap challenge in February. Meanwhile in March Logan, Owen, Elliot, Louis and Jamie took part in the annual chess competition organised by Swindon Ridgway District. The 1<sup>st</sup> Swindon Cubs team consisting of Logan, Owen, Elliot and Louis came 1<sup>st</sup> and Jamie who played in a combined team that came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Finally in May the Cubs took part in the JOTT at Badbury Clump, an orienteering hike where the Cubs have to navigate around the woods and find hidden markers.

During our weekly meetings the Cubs have taken part in various activities including a visit to St Andrews Church and the Recycling Centre in Cheney Manor.

Throughout the year we work towards our challenge badges. Scouting has updated the challenge badges so this term we have allowed those older Cubs to complete their Silver Awards slightly earlier which means that the whole pack can work on the new programme all together.

A Cub achieving all 6 challenge badges will earn their Silver Award. Over the past year Luke, Louis, Thomas R, Thomas H and Owen all achieved their Silver Awards and I am very pleased to let you know that this evening William, Jacob, Trystan, Logan and Joel will shortly be presented with their Silver Awards.

Before we do that I have one more award to present and a few thank you's to make.

Each year we nominate a Cub 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. The Cub of the year award goes to Finlay. Congratulations to you and well done.

Each week Cubs needs planning and organising I would like to thank David, Donna, Lorna, Vicky and Peter 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 joint Cub and Beaver camp in July and our Fun Day in September.

Here's to another fantastic year in Scouting.

Carl Steckerl, David Fewings, Donna Wylde, Lorna Smith, Vicky Owen and Peter Dabbs (Cub Leadership Team)