

**365 DAYS
OF ADVENTURE.
HERE'S WHAT
HAPPENED...**

1st Combs Scout Group Annual General Meeting

Chairman's Report 2013

A warm welcome to our District Commissioner, all members of 1st Combs scout group, parents and friends.

The role of the executive committee is to assist in such areas as fundraising and maintenance of the headquarters and to ensure the smooth running of the group, thereby helping the leaders to concentrate on providing an extensive range of activities for the young members to enjoy. Our team of leaders should be congratulated for their continued hard work and commitment.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the cleaning, gardening and maintenance tasks over the last 12 months. We have recently had 3 new volunteers come forward to help with the cleaning of the hall which is very pleasing. A small group of parent volunteers helped paint the outside of the hall last summer, which not only helps keep the building in good order but also means that we were able to keep the costs down to a minimum, therefore more of the groups funds can be used to directly benefit the children.

It is important that we continue to organise fundraising events such as race nights and quizzes (which unfortunately are not always well attended), a lot of effort goes into running these events and they can only be successful if given the full support of parents and other members of the group.

Our main fundraiser 'The Duck Race' which will be the 25th this year is being held on June 8th. We are desperate for volunteers to give just a few hours of their time to assist with setting up, packing away or even running a stall, we all work hard but it always turns out to be a rewarding and successful day. It is an ideal opportunity to integrate with the local community and show them what 1st Combs Scout Group is all about.

It would be nice to welcome some new and enthusiastic members to our committee as naturally parents leave as their children grow up and move on and we have also sadly lost Brian Scoggins this year who was a valued and long serving member of the committee. So if anyone feels that they would like to get involved either by joining the committee or by helping out occasionally please come and speak to myself or one of the leaders after the meeting tonight or ring us any time for more information.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to leaders and executive members for all their help and support and for all their hard work that helps to make this group the success that it is.

Jon Pettit

Group Chairman

1st Combs Tuesday and Wednesday Beaver Scouts
Annual Report 14th May 2013

The Tuesday and Wednesday Beaver sections are both doing well. At present there are 22 members on a Tuesday and 18 on a Wednesday but that number will increase as new ones join when older Beavers begin to link up with the Cub sections.

It has been a fun packed year for the Beavers:-

- May 2012: The Beavers who were 7 and a half plus joined the Cub Scouts for a fun night at Haughley Park.
Sandra & Graham Waspe came to talk about Guide Dogs. The Beavers loved making a fuss of their two dogs.
- July 2012: A district outing to "Bewilderwood" in Norfolk where the Beavers enjoyed lots of climbing activities amongst other things.
End of term meeting at "Playworld".
- Sept 2012 Holly Trueman gave the Beavers a talk on "Makaton" and done some sign language with them.
- Oct 2012: District Badge Day at Elmswell. Beavers who attended gained their Science Badge.
- Dec 2012: The District Scout Show and Carol Service
Christmas Fancy Dress party.
- Mar 2013 999 District Badge Day at Elmswell. Beavers who attended gained Their First Aid & Safety Badges

Other badges the beavers have worked on are the Promise and Creative challenge. At the moment they are working towards the Fitness badge. There are badges that Beavers can earn from home, some being the Hobby, Swimming, Animal Care, I.T. and Explorer badges..

We also celebrate special occasions throughout the year. This year we had Jubilee celebrations. Other events include the Chinese New Year, Mothers Day, Easter and Halloween.

I would like to thank Claire who has been giving valid help to us on a Tuesday night. Unfortunately, due to work commitments she has had to step down. That just leaves Helen and myself so we are looking for some extra help.

Also thank you to Abby, Mel, Emily and Miles for their help on a Wednesday night and to Angela for helping me out sometimes on a Tuesday.

We are now looking forward to our 25th Annual Duck Race which I hope will be a huge success.

Alison Otero B.S.L.

Mowgli Pack Report 2013

Another varied year, the Cubs have been busy with badges and camps and other activities

The Cubs have been working towards the various challenge badges.

We have 4 Cubs that have achieved their Silver Chief Scout Award the highest award for Cubs. We have completed other badges:

- Air activities gained when they visited Duxford Air Museum;
- Road safety which included a walk where they used various crossings and discussed Road Safety;
- Astronomy we had a talk from a local Astronomy expert but when it came to looking at the stars and moon we had to pop out on other nights as the weather was not helpful;
- Hikes and nights away;

Last year if the Cubs attended every camp and sleepover they had the opportunity of earning 9 nights away.

We have had joint camps and sleepovers with Shere Khan Pack and hope to have many more.

Cubs had great fun with "I'm A Cubs Scout Get Me Out of Here". Most of the Cubs tried the various challenges and a number got through to the final vote.

They were very inventive recycling waste to build a robot, which they then enjoyed burning at a campfire. This probably followed on from them making Guys and burning them on a campfire on bonfire night. They thought this was great fun especially when they named the Guys after some of the Young Leaders and Leaders

Cubs attended District Camp, Fun Night and Challenge Camp. They also attend District Scout Show.

Of course Cubs would not be Cubs without the usual cooking, tasting, and wide games throughout the year

Shere Khan Cub Pack Report 2012/3

Another year of activity for the cubs..!

Lots of camping this year, District Cub camp at Athlington Hall was followed by. The older cubs attending challenge camp. During the holidays we had 2 nights at Haughley Park with another 2 in October and a sleepover at the hall for bonfire night, making a total of 8 nights away during the year. In March this year we started again with a sleepover and hike and are looking forward to county, district, challenge and summer camp over the next few months

Over the year we completed work on communicator, camper, navigator and astronomy badges and Fitness challenge, as well as work towards Global, Community and Promise Challenge badges

We finished the summer term with 6 cubs being presented with the Silver Chief Scouts Award the highest badge a cub can earn, so quite an achievement

In July with Mowgli pack we visited Duxford air museum where we were lucky to see the Olympic torch on its journey (as well as a few planes!!)

We finished 2012 with the annual joint Xmas party with Mowgli pack

District badge day in February provided great variety of activities and the cubs completed emergency aid 2 whilst there

.We only have 19 cubs at the moment but they make enough noise for 30! Several of the older cubs are nearing completion of the chief scout award, so hopefully will be presented before they move onto scouts

Finally I'd like to thank John and Carol, sadly Claire and James had to leave due to work commitments, but we were joined by Rob in the autumn... the explorers Hayley and Abbey and a special thankyou to Mowgli leadership without them the pack would not run

Sarah Thompson CSL
Shere Khan Pack

1ST Combs Scout Troop. Report 2013

Once again we have had a very busy but fun and rewarding year. Throughout the last 12 months we have seen a lot of changes within in the Troop with a lot of the older Scouts moving on and an influx of younger children joining the section whether it was from Cubs or from outside the movement. Numbers have remained high and we are currently running at 37 Scouts, 25 male and 12 female.

Our Year. The main Activities.

May. – We did some circuit training for the Fitness Challenge Badge, held a messy games night and attended the District Camp. 22 Scouts plus leaders attended for what was a very enjoyable camp with some great activities and some superb weather. 2 of our teams came joint 1st in the Camp Cook off Competition. One team making fish and chips with mushy peas and homemade tomato ketchup, and the other one making a steamed chocolate pudding with honeycomb.

June – With the Olympic Games coming up we got the Scouts to make their own unique Olympic Torches out of matchsticks and glue. Some are still stuck to the tables!! We took some of our PL's and APL's on the District Sailing Day at Woolverstone. All had a terrific day sailing up and down the Orwell. Several squeals from the girls boat when they thought they were going to capsize. It was good to see the Scouts trying a new activity. Thanks to the 2 Keith's for organising this. We also had a cycle ride and Camp. We started off from the HQ and cycled up to Haughley Park where we camped for night, returning on the Saturday. Great experience.

August – Our main event of the year. Our Summer Camp. 44 of us, Scouts, Explorers and Adults descended into Essex for the Essex International Jamboree. We joined 9500 other participants in a week of activities and entertainment. From the Saturday evening until late the following Friday night the Scouts were kept busy on activities and evening entertainment, only coming back into our site to be watered and fed and to have a bit of sleep. Even Father Christmas made an appearance during the camp after we decided to have a themed day. The mess tent was decorated with fairy lights and a Christmas tree, Christmas dinner was served with all the trimmings, sprouts included. Crackers presents and Christmas music all added to the festive day. We did receive some very strange looks from other campers though!! Again it was good to give all the youngsters a new camping experience.

September – we concentrated on map and compass work and at the end of the month entered teams into the District Hike Competition. Our Teams came in a very credible 2nd 3rd, and 5th .

October - We did some pioneering projects. We had a Speaker come in to talk to the Scouts about the Samaritan Shoe Box Appeal, resulting in several Scouts filling boxes with gifts to be sent out to Eastern European Orphanages. At the end of October we held a Halloween Camp. Awful weather resulted in a change of proposed programme. One very kind mother even arrived on site with about 60 cakes that she had baked at home and brought up with all the ingredients for the Scouts to decorate. It got them out of the wind and rain for a while. In the end the Scouts had a good time and all went home glowing.

November – We held a senses night, did some arty stuff and as in other years attended the local Remembrance Day Parade and Service. We finished the month off with a day Hike and Sleepover. As the Troop was now a very young and inexperienced Troop we decided that we would walk with the groups this year. It was a very worthwhile exercise, being able to point things out on a map as you were going along. A lot more enjoyable than sitting on checkpoints wondering where they had got too!

December – The Scout Show. The Troop went to see what was a refreshingly new style of Show and all had a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. 1 Scout took part in the show and several Leaders were helping backstage. Hopefully after watching this one, many more will want to take part next time. We finished off the year with some glass painting. Quite eventful. And went along to the District Carol Service at the Parish Church.

2013 January - A new year and we were starting to look more like a Cub Pack than a Scout Troop. Looking round the hall on a Friday night, they all looked so small and young. Apart from the few who are as tall as us! During the month we held a Fairtrade Night, did more arty stuff and ran a skills night.

February – We once again attended the District Frostbite Camp at Haughley Park. Not quite reaching the below 0 temperatures of last year, but still cold enough. Also we held a pancake making night and we discovered some really good “tossers”.

March – We started the month with a night hike and sleepover, always a popular activity. The Scouts were sent out to follow a route around the local area across fields etc keeping away from the roads. They all made it round the route, most coming back with mud up to their backsides but all still in good spirits and humour. Supper was served, films were watched and then the sleepover bit. Why do they call it a sleepover?? It should be called a Night Hike and Stay Awake Over. We also had a Comic Relief Night, Fancy Dress and silly games. Easter Camp at the end of the month was interesting. 29 Scouts on Camp, only 9 with much camping experience. We pulled together as a team and made this a teaching camp with some terrific results. The Scouts pooled together and made a big pioneering project, they also did some axe and saw work, learnt how to put their tents up and keep them tidy. We had a wonderful campfire on the Saturday, which all the girls missed except 1 because they had been chatting in their tent the night before until the early hours and were all tired!! Lesson Learnt. Many thanks to the Explorer Young Leaders who came on this camp and worked really hard.

April – We had a PL run night followed by a very wet muddy wide game up at Combs Wood, some Scouts returning looking like they had returned from Glastonbury rather than a Scout night. Thank Goodness it was a non uniform night due to the St George's Day Parade the following Sunday. The Parade day went very well. Again as in other years we were very well represented by the Scouts who all looked very smart.

Summary - We have completed 22 Nights Away, Awarded 4 Chief Scout Gold Awards, 45 Challenge Awards and 52 Activity Badges. A Good Year.

Future - In August we are taking the Scouts to Lochgoilhead Activity Centre in Scotland for our Summer Camp.

Thanks to the Leaders for their continued support and enthusiasm. To the Explorer Young Leaders who help out each week and the extra ones who help out at the Camps we hold. Your help is invaluable, even if the food bill nearly doubles!



COMBS COUGARS ANNUAL REPORT 2013



It's been another great year at Explorers and it has been a pleasure to work with a terrific bunch of Kids.

The Unit is currently very strong and standing at 25 members, 8 girls 17 lads. We have 3 Warranted Leaders within Combs Cougars.

11 of the Explorers also work within other sections as Young Leaders, last month we had 4 more attend the Young Leader Course at Hallowtree run by Rick and 2 more are doing the modules during the summer in the evenings. So all in all they are a pretty dedicated bunch.

Our main aim is to keep the Explorers interested during our weekly meetings so that they can go on to achieve their, Platinum, Diamond and Queen Scout Awards and also their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. In the last year we have handed out 7 Platinum Awards and 2 Diamond Awards. The Diamond Award people, Liam and Emily are now working on their Queen Scout and Gold D of E Award. 7 more are now well into their Diamond and Silver awards and 6 more have enrolled for the Bronze D of E and have started the Platinum Award.

Other badges we have handed out this year are the Scouting Skills Badge, Quartermaster Badge, Nights Away, ranging from 25 -175, Hikes Away 5-20. Participation some reaching 11 Years.

The 2 main events last year were our Summer Camp and the Explorer Belt Expedition. 15 Explorers and 2 Leaders went to the Essex Jamboree along with the Scout Troop. A week was spent mixing with 9500 other Scouts on a variety of activities and building up friendships. Ours built up a particular bond with a group from Gibraltar, whose flag now hangs on our notice board. We all had a great time and were even blessed with a week's good weather and considering the summer we had that was a real bonus.

Four of our Explorers, Emily, William, Miles and Mollie joined the County Explorer Belt Expedition to Poland making up a third of the contingent, while we were all enjoying our Summer Camp. They spent 10 days travelling around Poland taking on a selection of tasks and learning about the people and their cultures and way of life. Their most moving day was the day they visited Auschwitz. They all acquitted themselves very well and came home with many stories to tell. Hopefully they should finally be presented with their Belts tomorrow night!!

We have held a variety of other camps throughout the year at Haughley Park, Hallowtree and more recently at Bradfield Park. Activities included, shooting, archery, orienteering, climbing, life size table football, river walks, scouting skills, tobogganing at district camp in the snow! Assault course, traverse wall. We attended the Gilwell 24 Event which turned into a mud fest. Activities run from 9am on Saturday, till 9am on Sunday. Rain in biblical proportions resulted in mud, mud and more mud. Many other people had tents underwater. We revisited Gilwell 3

months later and many areas were still roped off and still recovering from that weekend.

We had 10 members of the Unit take part in the Scout Show. A much more modern and up to date look for the show allowed the Explorers to express themselves more on stage and as it turned out, one of the most successful and enjoyable shows for many years.

We held our traditional Christmas Meal at the end of the year, again another huge success. Everyone looked very smart and enjoyed a full Christmas Meal and Secret Santa.

This year we have already completed 2 camps. A very snowy District Camp at Haughley Park. A new experience for some. A very pleasant Camp at Bradfield 2 weeks later. T-shirts and shorts! 21 of our Explorers attended the St George's Day Parade, again looking very smart and doing us very proud.

Coming up, we have another camp at the end of May, we are doing a 3 week conservation project at the Museum in June, followed by another camp at the end of that month. In July we will once again go to the Gilwell 24 Event. (fingers crossed for better weather). We also have the Peddars Way Hike challenge. 75km in 24hrs. Should be fun!!

At the end of July we are off on our Summer Camp. Spending a week on Canal Boats chugging around the Warwickshire Ring! We did this 5 years ago and it proved to be a very enjoyable week. Something different to the usual Camps we hold. After this we will be having a break for the Summer Holidays. Relax!!

David, Gwyn, Paul (& hopefully Stuart)

Group Scout Leaders AGM Report 2013

The 1st Combs Scout Group membership this year has maintained its numbers and in fact it has increased to 144 at the census taken at the end of 2012.

The section leaders have kept the members of all the on their toes, with the usual high quality of program that helps the young people to grow mentally and physically in their scouting journey. Our Leaders have been working hard with their own training a number of them have been awarded their Wood Badge, which has taken them a lot of hours and time away from their families to achieve this award. We thank them and wish them well in their scouting lives.

The Group Executive committee has continued to raise funds for new equipment, adult training and the maintenance of our headquarters. My thanks to all of our committee members who work tirelessly in helping the running of our scout group and for their continuous support of scouting in general. I must just mention the small but dedicated team of cleaners that keep the building looking great and for Jonathan our chairman for recruiting them and for organising the rota.

The Duck Race 8th June is our 25th and when we started this event 25 years ago we had no idea that it would stay the distance. It has become part of the Stowmarket calendar and has raised thousands of pounds to, support scouting in this part of the world. We want to make this our best yet and to keep us in the forefront of giving high quality scouting to young people in Stowmarket.

My thanks to all of our leaders, assistants and helpers for their continuous hard work during this past year and I must thank our Chairman Jonathan Pettit, Secretary Mel Frost, Treasurer Edwin Lambert and all the members of our executive, for the help and support they give to the group and also to me personally.

Finally my thanks to Angela for her continuous support in my role as Group Scout Leader without her patience; I could not do the job.

Thank you for coming along to tonight's AGM and I look forward seeing you at the Duck Race on 8th June and at our Garden Party in July. (TBC).

David Hart

Group Scout leader.