

1st Woosehill Scout Group

Group Scout Leader report to AGM – 2013/2014

This has been another amazing year of scouting. Our six section teams have run varied and adventurous programmes, all detailed in their reports. During the year they offered over 300 hours of weekly meetings for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and many extra events too. Nearly everyone had the chance to spend at least one night away, whether in tents or hammocks, in sunshine or sub-zero temperatures – and the Beavers camped under canvas for the first time.

The main event of the year was the Group's first ever Gang Show. This was an opportunity to perform, and also to work together as a whole Group. Other key Group events were the Remembrance Service and the very last minute St. George's Day Service – many thanks to Fiona for leading these and to all the leaders for rising to the challenges!

At last year's AGM I noted that our two main aims for 2014 were to increase the numbers in two of the leadership teams and to maintain our community involvement.

We have been successful in recruiting two largely new teams to run Kingfishers Beavers and Kestrels Cubs. Thanks are due to the outgoing leaders in those sections, particularly Vanessa, Kaye and Susan. However, a huge thanks to Nicky and Elizabeth for becoming the new section leaders and to the other new volunteers in those teams for trusting that we would not drop you in at the deep end and that you would have fun! Nicky has moved from Swifts to Kingfishers, and we thank Sarah for taking over from her. However, Swifts Beavers now need new helpers, as do Buzzards Scouts, and this is a key aim for the autumn term.

Our main community project was planting daffodils for Wokingham's participation in Thames & Chilterns in Bloom, following on from planting hydrangeas in the same plot the previous year. Individual sections have carried out their own projects to help others, including performing to a group at the Acorn Centre and collecting for the Crossroads charity.

1st Woosehill is still the largest Group in the Wokingham Scout District. The January 2014 census shows a fall in our numbers compared to recent years: 131 young people (2013 in 136, 2012 in 133), 25 leaders and sectional assistants (26 in 2013, 31 in 2012). However, we currently have 138 young people registered and seven new adults joined during the year.

Many thanks to the leadership teams and parent helpers, our 12 Young Leaders, the Executive Committee, and of course to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who inspire us all.

Alison Sutton
Group Scout Leader