

## Woodcutts AGM – June 2019

### Cub Scout Report

#### Leadership Team –

Akela

Assistant Cub Scout Leaders – 5

Section Assistants – 3

Adult Helpers - 1

Cubs – 22 Timber Wolf Cubs

17 Arctic Wolf Cubs

2018 has been another year of great Cub Scouting at Woodcutts. The section has been running at capacity (36 members) for virtually the whole year and attendance has averaged 96%.

The start of the year saw a continuation of the excellent work completed in 2107 with Xanthe taking the lead on Programme design. The emphasis remaining firmly on the completion of Challenge badges and enough Activity badges to enable as many Cubs as possible to have the opportunity to achieve Silver Scout Awards before moving to Scouts. I am very pleased to say that we have just awarded 3 more in the last month with an overall total of 18 awarded over the last 2 years. Much of the Challenge Badge work has been completed at home with support from the parents for which we are very grateful. We have been treated to some amazing presentations on pack nights of completed project work and talks on various subjects. The work on Disability Awareness was particularly good with each Cub completing a brief talk to the whole group about a disabled person who is either a family member, sporting celebrity, public or historical figure and who has inspired them. As always we have also had some great activities provided by friends and parents. These have included live silk worms, model bugs from plastic cutlery, woggle making from bamboo using traditional Asian tools, apple juicing, swanee whistles from sycamore sticks, a visit from a Guide Dog owner a First Aid evening provided by an external training company and many more. We also managed to include a day hike which raised £250 for the ShelterBox appeal and a separate overnight camp at the HQ. Another highlight of this year was the recent Family Camp which saw a record 28 Cubs attending this being the largest percentage of a current pack that we have ever achieved.

Change is inevitable and the last few months have presented a number of different challenges. In the next month Xanthe will be leaving us as she is moving to Devon to pursue new opportunities for herself and her family. As stated earlier, she has put in a lot of work over the last two and a half years into reorganising, reshaping and helping to deliver the programme. She has also been very active in encouraging many more parents and friends to come and get involved with supporting the pack nights which has been a major contribution to our ability to provide such a varied and successful programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her efforts on behalf of the group. But, as one chapter ends, a new one begins. I am delighted to say that as part of the 'Grow Your Group' initiative and a very successful response to a request for volunteers at the Family Camp, we now have eight new members to add to the Cub Pack leadership in a combination of both Assistant Cub

Scout Leader and Sectional Assistant roles. So we are extremely pleased to welcome Naomi Booth, Paul Styles, Amber Hemmings, Juliet Hitchings, Karen Grainger, Rachel Acton, Donna Holgate and Paul Ewens. Additionally, this means that we are now able to support the other sections by offering a second pack night for Cubs which we successfully implemented on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June running from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. This will finally resolve the long-standing issue of having to turn people away from joining due to lack of spaces on a Wednesday night. Exciting news indeed which does come with its own set of new challenges to overcome but with the strength that we now have in the team I'm sure we will be equal to them. The new team came together to name the new Sections and decided on the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutts Arctic Wolf Cubs (Monday night)

1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutts Timber Wolf Cubs (Wednesday night)

With some members swapping from Wednesday to Monday nights and with new entrants coming in from the Waiting List numbers have nearly evened out across the 2 nights with 17 on Monday and 22 on Wednesday – 39 in total. We have already had one enquiry for a new starter for September and I'm sure we will have more to come.

So far this term we have continued with our full and varied programme with Circus Skills, Obstacle Courses, Sensory Trails, Tracking, Pioneering, God's Eyes, Fire Lighting and more. We will also managed to fit in the annual evening at the Chalk Valley History Festival plus a very successful day hike through the Rushmore Woods with 24 Cubs attending. The planning for the Winter term is scheduled for this week and with all the new people now involved with the team I know there are going to be some great ideas. We will also be joining in with the District Cubs day out at the Yeovilton Air Museum in October.

It just remains for me to thank the Exec, Committee members and other Section teams for all the help and support you continue to give us.

Akela and the Cub Pack team.