



Loose Swiss

Newsletter June 2014



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS from David Priestley

As all of you must now know, this year we are celebrating 105 years of scouting at Loose Swiss, one of the oldest Groups in the country. The half-yearly newsletter has not been going for so long, and although I can't trace the original, I do have all the editions since the one published in the Spring of 1976 under the title "Embers" to reflect our Group badge, and numbered issue 15. It was, in those days printed from an old Gestetner machine (if you don't know, ask your Grandparents!), and this was a very laborious process compared to today's computer systems.

In that copy, there is mention of "our new building" which was about to be put into use following an opening ceremony. We now take our Pickering Street headquarters very much for granted and forget how much needed to be done in order to construct and own a building that many Groups envy. Another item was the reference to record takings of £140 at the jumble sale, and, also, the wastepaper collections were well underway. Both of these fundraising activities continue and, I suspect, some of the current helpers were also involved in those days! There are certainly a number of old friends (in the nicest possible way) at each event nowadays.



Sometimes, my articles for this magazine seem repetitious, and after 11 years, it is perhaps not surprising, but I make no apology for, once again, taking the opportunity to thank each and every adult member of the Group, whether warranted or helper, for the time and enthusiasm given to running the sections. This, of course, also applies to those who no longer have any direct responsibility for a section, but continue in other ways to maintain the solid workings of Loose Swiss, and I include our "civilian" treasurer, John Penrose, who has for longer than he might care to remember, looked after our finances magnificently.

Equally, it is always a source of amazement that so many ex-parents are still willing to attend and assist at the jumble sales twice a year. It is certainly one of our strengths that scouters and helpers are so dedicated for so long in supporting the Group, and I am sure that I speak for all parents, past and present in recording my thanks for all their efforts.

Going back a few months, our Christmas carol service was, once again, standing room only and it is pleasing to see it supported so fully each year. This year's is arranged for Thursday 12th December, so please note your diaries. The St George's Day parade was also well attended, which is another sign that scouting is still alive and well. Finally, there are many references to our 105th birthday Group camp in this addition, and all involved are to be congratulated on the planning and administration.

Finally, many thanks to those parents who assist with the wastepaper collection each month. This fundraiser enables us to keep subscriptions at a much lower figure than might otherwise be the case, so, if you haven't yet joined in, please report to the side entrance of the fire station after 8am on the second Saturday each month. We'd love to see you!!

David Priestley – Group Chairman

GROUP SCOUT LEADER, PAUL WORDEN

I wasn't part of Loose Swiss Scout Group in 2008 when it celebrated its Centenary Camp, so I didn't know what to fully expect from this camp.

I wasn't disappointed. Planning started in January 2013 with ideas what we could do and how to run the camp.

Roles and responsibilities issued Leaders broke off into groups to organise their respective jobs.

Six months later this culminated in a week of work for leaders over the weekend of the 21st – 23rd June. Starting on the Wednesday before camp organising the equipment that would be needed for over 150 children, leaders, helpers and guests who would be attending over the weekend. This included 20 tents for sleeping and eating in, 4 gas burners for cooking the 6 meals provided, Pots and Pans for cooking the food in, a coconut shy, hoopla, stills and a range of other equipment needed for the activities on the Saturday.

Thursday and Friday saw a small band of leaders putting up all of the tents and the equipment ready for the arrival of the Children on Friday evening.

You can book everything thing for a camp except for one thing, the weather. Now the last camp in 2008 was a slightly wet affair and the week before camp saw all leaders eyes watching the weather report



for the weekend. The forecast given on the Monday before gave rain for the latter part of the week and potentially into the weekend, but over time this improved to occasional showers (heavy at times). Ok weather but not a disaster given the activities that we were planning.

Friday evening arrived and over 50 Cubs and Scouts arrived on site who settled in for what was going to be a weekend of fun for all. Flag break was held, games played and supper made and eaten so off to bed.

Saturday I awoke to rain, heavy rain, but it was still very early and it was clearing.

Now food is always important on a camp. Anna Bowman (Akela from Monday Night Cubs) had volunteered (I think that's the right phrase) to cook over the weekend and had designed a menu that we were sure that everyone would enjoy. Whilst the group has 32 Leaders who attended the camp at some stage over the weekend we occasionally need some additional help so can I take the opportunity to thank the thirteen individuals who helped Anna prepare, cook and serve food to the hungry individuals over the weekend. Tasha Tanton one of the cooks has prepared her report later in this newsletter.

The Beavers arrived taking the number of children on site to nearly 80. Flag break was held and the Children were given a though for the day. Then they were off to activities based around the Fun Fair theme, with Archery, a Coconut Shy, Circus Skills, Fun fair Games, Crazy Golf, Cobra Weaving, a Swing Boat and the largest Bouncy Castle I have ever seen.

The children were split up into small groups containing a mix of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and would rotate around the activities throughout the day meeting up for lunch and an evening meal.

Activities finished it ended with a free for all on the Bouncy Castle until the company came to take it away at the end of the day.

Guests had been invited from those who had been involved with the Group for a number of years and these involved in Scouting in the District and County. This included Oz and Steph Osbourne, for those who don't know Oz used to be Group Scout Leader at Loose Swiss many years ago but is currently District President and has recently received his 50 year service award. Another guest was the County Commissioner Harvey Kennet, as the title suggests the County Commissioner covers the entire area of Kent Scouting, no mean feat and his attendance was very welcome.

Dinner was followed by a game of Commando Cricket, quick cricket kicking a football rather than using a bat. Flag down was held prizes awarded and then to the Camp Fire.

Jo, Vikki, Jess and Anna (Rikki, Baloo, Toomai and Akela) led the campfire with songs, jokes and sketches, the favourite Shark attack to a tune from a song in the Muppet Show. Over this time the Beavers left us very tired but after having a great day of fun.

Another supper saw the tired children off to bed and to sleep.

Sunday Morning was bright, breezy and sunny, ideal weather for striking camp.

Breakfast served to all and cleaned away, children were asked to go and pack their kit away.

Flag Break was followed by Scouts Own, a short religious service which gives both children and leaders the opportunity to think about others less fortunate than themselves.

Children's kit finally packed away games were held whilst others took down the tents and packed away the equipment used. This process takes several hours and shuttle runs to headquarters to put tents up to dry.

Three pm arrived and very tired children began to leave site, with the final leaders leaving the site at 4.20pm for a well earned rest.

Monday and Wednesday evening saw leaders clearing and packing away the remaining tents to stores and Headquarters returning to normal.

As I said the camp took six months of planning for two evenings and three days of camp, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the leaders who attended and helped at camp, those of you who planned, shopped for, cooked, put up, took down and cleared up without whom none of this would have been possible.

Beavers at Camp

16 Maple Beavers attended the day at camp and had a fantastic day, one cried all the way home as he didn't want it to end!

They enjoyed going around with their cub and scout team mates despite never having met them before and were well looked after.

All activities were enjoyed and the assault course was an overwhelming success as the photos prove, for most adults too!

This was their first experience of a camp fire and it was great to see so many parents stay to see what fun it is.

We will have photos printed for when we return after the holidays to give parents the opportunity to see what they were up to and to buy prints.

Great day had by us all

Maple Beaver Leaders



Lion Pack's thoughts about Loose Swiss 105th Birthday Camp

I enjoyed this year's camp because the cubs slept well, which means the leaders slept well - Hathi

I liked getting away from my sister – **Cameron Murphy**

I enjoyed the rope swing and the assault course – **Heidi Devonshire Jenner**

I loved the inflatable assault course – **Owen Ashworth**

My favourite bit was the inflatable –

Joseph Doherty

My favourite was the archery – **David Sunnocks**

I really enjoyed the assault course – **Harrison Knight**

I enjoyed the golf – **Joe Reeves**

I enjoyed the inflatable assault course – **Samuel Allmett**

I enjoyed the bouncy castle and the swing boat. Dinner was really tasty. I loved camp – **Lewis King**

Sleeping – **Oliver Wright**

I enjoyed sleeping in the tents – **Robert Strachan**

TIGERS-THOUGHTS OF BIRTHDAY CAMP

Martin Egan – Catering team

My first time helping in the catering team and it was an enjoyable Saturday, the weather didn't affect the days events planned and all seemed to have a great day. Thanks to all those who planned the weekend as it went very well.

Branden – Tigers

My favourite part of camp was singing the shark song around the open fire. Attacking the scouts on the inflatable's, and sleeping in our tents.

Cody – Tigers

I liked the tents because they were big and cozy. My favourite activity was picking up leaves and identifying what the different ones are

Rikki – Tigers

It was so good to see all the planning and preparation pay off and witness the faces of all those having fun and enjoying many different aspects of Scouting! My highlight was the campfire – I had so much fun putting that on with the other leaders!

Charlotte – Maclean

A spectacular experience with lots of crazy times such as meeting Harvey Kennett, the Scouts story time and the amazing yet wacky campfire which was run by the extremely brave Vicky, Anna and Jo. Thank you to all who organised this camp and dedicated their time - I enjoyed it immensely.

Grey Wolf – Tigers

Well another action packed joyous session passes. We have more Cubs leave to go onto bigger and

better things (always an emotional time for us all but then that's what a family is all about as they grow up), another new influx of members joining us and so the circle of life continues. What a circle it has been seeing some of the older Cubs develop into responsible young adults is always such a great feeling and very rewarding. Knowing that the new Cubs will also develop - into what is one of the many surprises and joys of being a Leader.

I sure that we have all, Cubs, Leaders, Helpers and now Young Leaders, enjoyed the events and activities that my Team has laid on, my heartfelt thanks go to them all as without them none of our meeting would take place. If any parent would like to help out we are always on the lookout for helpers, it doesn't mean commitment every week just when you can. I can't finish without saying a big 'Thank You' to all those parents that helped at camp- your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Take care – enjoy the summer.

Rowallan Thoughts of Camp

On my scout camp I enjoyed the obstacle course, jumping over the wall was the highlight of it

The things I also enjoyed throughout the camp included the funfair because you could use stilts. I liked the food the best, the best part was the bacon sandwiches!

Joshua Winfield

I think the camp was really fun, there was really good activities to do, I had a great laugh with my friends and wished we were there for longer! I liked the food there – it was yummy!

Sam Hayes

The 105 camp was a nice thing to do for celebrating the 105th year of Scouting in Loose. We had a great campfire with enjoyable songs and with entertaining and lively activities to do

On the first day we arrived at the campsite by minibus, and got ourselves prepared for the night by setting out our equipment and did a scavenger hunt

On the second day of camp we had breakfast! And then the beavers came to join us. We did activities such as woggle making, 9 pin bowling and much more including a bouncing inflatable assault course

Our group had a great time at camp and really enjoyed ourselves.

On the last day, we did some activities such as backwoods cooking and football as well as playing manhunt

I thoroughly enjoyed myself at camp and I'm sure most others did too

The staff was excellent at cooking the meals and preparing camp, they really put a lot of hard work in and ran an amazing camp. I would like to say thank you to everyone who had a part in making such a brilliant camp for all the work they have done

Robert Sunnocks

Audrey Beeching (Kaa)

It is not my intention to go into great detail about the Anniversary Camp itself - more important are contributions from the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders - except to say what a great time it was, demonstrating all that is best about Loose Swiss team work.

What I would like to say is a huge thanks to everyone who did anything to make it such a tremendous success.

I'm not sure just how much the "lay-person" understands about how much time and effort goes into a weekend like this - the planning meetings, the preparation and sourcing of resources for the activities, the menu planning and food shopping, checking and booking out equipment, organising additional equipment, planning the logistics of get bods and their kit to site, making rotas of volunteers, taking days off from work to set-up the site, running the camp, [making sure everyone is as safe as they can be], then at the end taking it all down, getting the equipment back to H.Q., making sure it is in good order and putting it all away and finally having a debriefing meeting of things to remember if and when we do it again!!! This is all in addition to keeping the weekly meetings going and living life outside of Scouting!! Now you can see why my contribution to this newsletter is one of grateful, grateful, thanks to a great team of people without whom none of this would or could happen. Well done, well done to you all!!

Children in Need 2013

Yet again the Beavers, Cubs Scouts and Leaders of the Group came together to support this worthwhile cause by collecting 5p's to be laid out on a giant picture of Pudsey Bear.

This year we collected just over £600, with one family collecting £97. This brings the total donated by the group to over £2,700 since 2009. A big thank you to all of you.

Here are some photos from the week to show the progress made during the week.



Rowallan Troop on Friday



Willow Beavers on Monday



Tigers from Thursday Night with the completed picture

Willow Beavers Report

Willow Beavers have been enjoying the summer with plenty of outside activities in Swiss Valley, including a bug hunt, scavenger hunt, tracking, wide game, rounders with Lion Cub pack and the ever popular end of term waterslide! More outside activities were a hike round Mote Park, sports on George V playing field and duck racing and stream dipping in the Brooks, Loose village.

Willow had 9 Beavers attending the 105th Camp in June, and a good time was had by all, favourite activity was the "giant bouncy castle assault course thingy" (as described by one excited Beaver!), closely followed by the pioneering swing boat.

We asked our Beavers what they most enjoyed about being Beaver Scouts, here is what they said:- "it's fun" (4) "great games" (4) "exciting - we get lots of badges" (1) "awesome" (1) "brilliant" (1) "the best" (1) "being outside" (1) "learn lots" (1) "nice" (1)

Finally Willow Beavers would like to say a great big "thank you" to Tiger Lily (otherwise known as Hannah Spong), who has been a Young Leader with us for the last 4 years, and left to go to Uni in September, we will miss you Hannah!

And Finally...

The newsletter produced over the last few years, have been prepared, edited, formatted and published by James Derry. James has decided to step down as editor in chief, can I thank him on behalf of both past and current group members for his hard work in preparing these publications and wish him well for the future.

Paul Worden, Group Scout Leader