



# WARMINSTER



## **Beavers (Wed) AGM Report Scouting Year May 2019 to May 2020**

---

As we are all aware it is June 2020 and it is time for the Groups' AGM and as summer has arrived and brought yet another year to an end a Beaver report is required, so here we go!

The children appear to be enjoying themselves and by the time of the AGM we will be running at full capacity. (24 beaver scouts)

As reported last year extensive work continues on the waiting list which, regrettably by October 2019, the numbers had increased to the list holding 54 names of which 17 are not of joining age (i.e. over 5 years and 9 months), 3 are over 8 years of age and 6 have already reached the age of 7 years and quite possibly miss getting an invitation before they are 8 years old.

As reported last year, a decision was taken to see if the waiting list would reduce through natural causes. It can be seen from the figures above that reduction of the waiting list, as at October, has not occurred.

We, the 2 Beaver Scout Leaders, are grateful to the helpers/parents who have given up their time to help at each meeting. Our thanks, once again, go out to them for their time, support and input.

We reported last year that a young man, Fred, would be joining us as he was looking to get back into scouts. Unfortunately, his further education plans changed and he can no longer help out on a Wednesday. The couple and a young lady, Karen, Rob and Justina duly helped as Occasional Helpers up until Christmas but left when their respective granted full adoption rights for a child. Their help and support was greatly appreciated. We are now supported and assisted by several parents on an Occasional Helper basis. It may look as if we are now well covered with adult helpers this is not necessary the case as help is always appreciated.

So if you can give a little of your time come speak to us, we will always welcome you.

Our thanks also go out to those parents who helped on occasions when the need arose. The help and support showed even more last month when other leaders and helpers attended and helped out whilst one Beaver Leader was away for three weeks. A note for this year is that we desperately need adult/parent helpers now.

**September** The new term saw us start with 22 Beavers due to the fact that for some unknown reason two brothers decided that beavers was not for them any longer. However, their places were immediately filled from our waiting list moving us back to 24 children and these numbers have been constant. We concentrated on Outdoor activities, whilst we still had the light, with the four lodges being split into two teams of beavers completing mini beast hunting and pond dipping on alternate weeks.

**October** The District Beaver sleepover took place at the Boomerang Club in Melksham once again and saw us enjoy a memorable and enjoyable night. We had a good turn out with 16 of our registered Beavers sleeping over. The District are going to repeat the sleepover again this October. (Covid 19 permitting)

**November** We had an excellent turn out by the Beavers at the Remembrance Day Parade with 18 members of the Colony attended. Once again we were extremely proud on how well those who attended behaved. During this month both Beaver Leaders were involved in a program, supported by our GSL and the Regional Support Team, of trying to "tweak" adult interest from the parents of the children on our waiting list. Initially, this entailed holding a couple of evening sessions in the hut with the parents who acknowledged our e-mail shot and decided to come along with their children to see what Beaver Scouts was about. This generated enough interest to move forward to running taster sessions over a 4 to 6 week period starting at the beginning of January. The end result was that enough parents were found who gave a commitment to scouting and the Thursday night Beaver Colony was formed.

**December** At the beginning of the month we attended the Christmas Tree Festival at the Minster Church which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our final meeting took place on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a weekend, when 24 Beavers visited the West Somerset Railway to travel on the "Santa Express" at Cranmore. They all appeared to have a good time and loved their presents.

**January/February** The District once again held a belated Christmas/New Year party, this year, at Paragon Hall, Westbury. Once again it was very

successful and was well attended and has now become an annual event. The Beavers were entertained by a children's entertainer who did magical tricks and party games. There was also the compulsory jelly and ice cream.

**March** Regrettably the District Flag Challenge set for the 21<sup>st</sup> was cancelled as were all events and programs after that date.

**May.** We await the time when we can return to normal scouting, whatever that might be !!

We are pleased to report that with the start of the Thursday Colony, at present running with 17 Beavers, the numbers on the waiting list have now reduced to 25. Of these 7 are under starting age. Another 7 would have been invited to join the Thursday Colony immediately after Easter had it not been for "lockdown" and the remaining 11 we would expect to have been invited to join either Colony by half term in October next.

The future of the Warminster Beavers looks very promising with such high numbers which indicates that there is a strong interest in scouting in the town.

Elizabeth Williams and Nigel Hodges  
Kala and Badger  
Beaver Scout Leaders.  
Wednesday Beavers