



Third Alton Kestrel Colony Report 2021/2022

We learned to live with Covid, and through the year it has been evident how beneficial returning to Face-to-Face meetings has been. A full year of meeting in person, enjoying activities as a group, and fostering the motto of Fun and Friends was a real pleasure to be part of. We achieved a huge amount with badge awards going into the hundreds over the year. The colony grew over the year also, with a regular 12 Beavers attending a year ago, growing to around 20 by the time of the AGM this year.

The later half of the Summer term last year saw a wide variety of activities, and utilising the ability to get outdoors to a maximum. We mixed observing important events such as the Queens Birthday and the Summer Solstice, with practical and fun activities such as Tent construction and campfires. We also included creative activities such as celebrating World Emoji Day where the Beavers made their very own Emojis!



The Autumn term focused on a lot of practical skills for life. From The Green Cross Code towards the Safety Activity Badge, to Money Skills, Global Issues, and learning how to tie Knots.



The highlight of the Autumn term had to be the combined Kestrel and Woodside sleepover at The Den. For many of our Beavers this was a first experience of a night away from home without parents,

due to the events around Covid. Timed with Remembrance Sunday, both colonies enjoyed the Blitz theme and sleeping under canvas.



The Spring Term was another varied term in activities, and we started to venture away from The Den. Not only did the colony learn about the natural world around them with a Pond Dipping visit to The Flood Meadows, but they had a positive impact on the local community and environment by conducting a litter pick of Jubilee Fields. Festivals that were learnt about included Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Shrove Tuesday.



The Kestrel Leadership team saw changes over the year. Badger as BSL, Otter and Mole both as Section Assistants, took steps back which coincided with the change in evenings from Monday to Wednesdays. Ratty took the reigns of BSL for Kestrel at the start of the Summer term.

We are grateful for the time and efforts of many parent helpers, who have stepped forward through the year to support the running of the sessions. Our Young Leaders Fyn and Isaac supported Kestrel through most of the year, until understandably exams took priority. Again we are thankful for their time and working with our Beavers.

Paul Fletcher (Badger) & Emma Richardson (Ratty)

Kestrel Colony at 3rd Alton