

1st Hextable Squirrels - Section Report (September 2024 - July 2025)

Summary:

Our squirrel drey section (after a brief hiatus) had a fresh start in May 2024.

We celebrated our 1st year anniversary making Flag bunting for VE day and finished our full seasonal year (Sep-July) by July 2025 with a flourish - going pedalo boating in Swanley park lake.

Glad to share that we managed a good mix of indoor & outdoor activities where everyone of us (leaders, parent helpers) along with our squirrels had loads of fun & frolic with new things learnt along the way.

As always, huge thanks goes to all the parent helpers. Some of them have joined our team as leaders & contributed immensely with their creative ideas.

Currently as some of our leaders & parent helpers have moved on, we are looking for parent helpers and new leaders to be able to take in more squirrels into the section.

Highlights:

- **Drey Status:**
 - Sep2024 - Started with 17 squirrels attending;
 - Jan to July 2025 - 11 new squirrels joined. 12 squirrels moved up to Beavers.
 - Sep2025 - 9 squirrels + 2 new squirrels joining.
- **Investitures:** 8 new squirrels got invested in March 2025. 3 new squirrels to be invested.
- **Badges Earned:** All about adventure, All around us, Time on water, Brilliant Builder, Exciting Experiments, Go Wild, Story time, Super chef, Space Explorer, Remembrance & VE day badges.
- **Leaders:** Some of the new leaders have moved on to Beavers with their kids. Looking for parent helpers & new leaders.
- **Fun & Learn:**
 - Pedalos in Swanley park lake. Joydens woodland hike / walk. Pond dipping in foots cray meadow. Water pistol fight.
 - Making Indian pan cakes for pan cake day.

- Xmas party - Play inside snow globe, Santa Visit, surprise gifts & party snacks.
- Emergency services - Visit to Swanley Police station & Dartford Fire station.
- Paying respects - VE day Flag bunting, Making Poppies & attending Remembrance day in Five Wents hall.
- Science activities including Space helmet, Rocket building & planets learning.
- Arts & Crafts - Mother's day cards, Easter crafts, Animal masks & Rainbow fruit skewers.

1st Swanley (Hextable) Beaver Colony

2024/2025 AGM Summary

Over the past year, our Beaver Colony has thrived, with up to 23 young people on the register, and a strong regular attendance every Monday evening.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic leadership team made up of five full-time leaders: Hugh, Sadie, Josh, Caz, and Craig, supported by Joseph, a Young Leader from Scouts, who brings energy and creativity to our programme planning.

We are always open to welcoming new leaders or occasional helpers. The more leaders and occasional helpers we have the more resilient the section will be and will help to provide an interesting and varied programme for our young people.

Programme Highlights:

Autumn 2024

A mixture of indoor and outside activities during the autumn period including a walk in Joydens Wood, kite making, bird box making, cycling badge, teamwork activities and creative activities evening.

Winter/Spring 2023/24

Mostly indoor activities including a board games night, builder badge, Lego bridge building evening, 1st aid evening, team games, exercise and healthy eating night, health and fitness badge, Beaver Winter Olympics, pancake making, communicator badge. We did venture out a couple of times for a torch walk whilst doing parts of the space badge and a Christmas lights bingo walk!

We also did a mini careers evening which was fun and many thanks to some of the parents who helped out.

Away from the hut we did venture out a couple of times for a torch walk whilst doing parts of the space badge, we did a Christmas lights bingo walk, we attended the District campfire at Horton Kirby Scout HQ and a team took part in the District Beavers Mole Trophy event at West Kingsdown Scout HQ!

Summer 2024

We had a busy summer trying to make use of the fine weather and late evenings by doing as much as possible away from the Scout Hut. Activities this summer included litter pick in Hextable Gardens, tracking at Farningham Woods, scavenger hunt, a water fun evening, sports day and a hike around Shoreham.

We went on a few of visits away from the hut, including doing an animal friends workshop at Pets At Home in Crayford, to Dartford Fire Station and we completed the disability awareness badge when we were warmly welcomed with a visit to We Are Beams.

Due to weather we rounded the summer term off with a party at the hall rather than are usual pond dipping at Foots Cray Meadows.

Four of our Beavers attended the group camp in May at Downe activity centre overnight and another 6 attended for the day events. All really enjoyed it and it was beneficial for them to be included on the same camp as the older Cubs and Scouts, and they did lots of adventurous activities alongside the older children. 7 members also attended the District Beaver sleepover at Hope Hill Scout Campsite in Meopham in July.

District/County Activities

We had a great attendance to the Remembrance Service and parade at Five Wents Hall and our Beavers attended the district St Georges Day event at Parkwood Hall School.

Badges Awarded:

The following badges have been awarded over the past year:

- Adventure (Challenge Badge)
- Outdoors (Challenge Badge)
- Teamwork (Challenge Badge)
- World (Challenge Badge)
- Skills (Challenge Badge)
- Builder
- Communicator
- Creative
- Cyclist
- Experiment
- Explore
- Gardener
- Health and Fitness
- Space
- Emergency Aid - Level 1
- Hikes - Levels 1 & 2
- Nights Away - Levels 1 & 2

This is a great achievement and shows the varying activities that we do, the hard work of our Beavers and it would not be achieved without the planning, supervision and encouragement from the leaders and support from parents.

We are especially proud that three Beavers achieved the Chief Scout's Bronze Award, the highest award in the Beaver Section. Many others are very close and are expected to complete it in the coming months.

Summary

1st Swanley Hextable Beavers remains a healthy colony, with consistent attendance and a mix of new and progressing members. Some of our Beavers have moved up to Cubs recently or will be shortly. All have achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Award which they should be very proud of. We wish them well as they continue their Scouting journey and hope they enjoy their time at Cubs.

We've also welcomed new members from Squirrels and hope they are settling in and enjoying all that Beavers has to offer.

As leaders we will focus on planning varied activities throughout the next year to help enable our Beavers to gain confidence in activities they may not otherwise have access to and also to try and gain as many badges as possible with the sense of achievement that inherently brings. We plan our activities to allow all our Beavers the opportunity to gain all the necessary Challenge Badges and the Chief Scouts Bronze Award without the need to do additional homework. However, there are additional activities our young people can do at home too and it is great to see.

Finally, a huge thank you to the many parents who assist on Monday evenings and at special events. Your help is greatly appreciated. While we have a fantastic leadership team, we always welcome more help. If any parents are interested in joining us, either as uniformed leaders or occasional helpers, you'd be making a valuable contribution to the continued success of the colony.

Hugh Tyler

1st Swanley (Hextable) Beavers Lead Volunteer

2024 – 2025 1st Swanley (Hextable) Cubs section report.

The past 12 months at 1st Swanley has been very productive with 8 Silver Awards handed out and around 300 badges awarded overall. We have attended a number of community events with good results.

Unfortunately, we are back down to 2 uniformed leaders, myself and Josh. This hasn't been anyone's fault, just life, work and illness. We should get Christina back soon with any luck.

Thankfully, we have dedicated team of occasional helpers with one particular helper, Madeleine, becoming a regular member of the team with a possibility of wearing the uniform in the future. These occasional helpers have become crucial to the success of the section and without them, we could be stuck at the hall every week.

Joshua has excelled and took on the responsibility of being leader in Charge of the cubs on the May camp and also at other evening throughout the year. His games and stories are always very popular along with the walks and hikes.

The YP in our section have also achieved a great deal this year including: -

- Group Nights Away event at Downe activity centre.
- A visit to Leeds castle
- Representing the section on Remembrance Day at Five Wents Memorial Hall
- A District Time on the Water event at Leybourne lakes.
- Kayaks and giant paddleboards at Danson Park
- A very successful Porchlight charity event raising around £2000.
- Poppy sales and Bag packing at asda.
- A visit from a Birds of prey team.
- A visit to Chatham ski centre .
- Various local Village fairs.
- Running the drinks stall at st Georges Day.

We have also had lots of fun at our meetings including:

- A Movie Night
- A hike to Shoreham Cross
- Water fight
- Backwoods cooking and den building at Farningham woods
- Fire Station Visit
- Regular team and wide games

Badges awarded.

Chief Scout's Silver	8
Adventure	6
Outdoors	7

Personal	9
Scout Mate	1
Skills	7
Team Leader	5
Teamwork	10
World	6
Athletics	4

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Artist	5
Cyclist	6
Entertainer	10
Equestrian	1
Global Issues	20
Photographer	9
Home Safety	10
World Faiths	11
Naturalist	17
Hikes	4
Nights Away	28
Paddle Sports	13
Environmental conservation	15
Snowsports	13
Time on the Water	4
Moving On 2023	4
Joining In	25

Thank You

Yours In Scouting

Christopher Brown

1st Swanley (Hextable) Cubs section leader.



1st Swanley (Hextable) Scouts AGM report September 2025

It's been another eventful year for the Scout Group. Our numbers have been averaging 20 Scouts a session. The Scouts have been well behaved with only a few exceptions! Since my last report our scouts have enjoyed a productive program.

All Scouts are working towards their Gold Scouts award and I'm very proud to say that Caira, Ola, achieved theirs in June this year and have joined our local Explorer unit (Vikings, who use the 2nd Swanley Scouts hall as their main meeting point) They will be joined this September by Joseph, Kristian and Grace. Our Older Scouts have been great at showing the younger Scouts the importance of sticking to the Scouts laws and promise. I wish them lots of luck in Explorers, Onerable mentioned for Dylan and Mathew who in a short time achieved some challenge badge awards and will also be joining them at Explorers.

As many move on, I am looking forward to new members coming up from Cubs. I hope they enjoy their next adventure and I know that our current scouts will make them feel welcome. We also continue to attract new kids from outside of the scouting community.

2025 has been a big year Scouts worked towards their badges. World challenge, Creative, Outdoors and Expedition badges taking part in various activities such as hikes, knots, first aid, problem solving, Pancake making, woggle making and paracording, survival skills, sewing, Water sports including paddle boarding and kayaking at Mote park, a firm favourite of fire lighting skills, Knife craft skills. We continued to use the Swanley Scouts District campsite at Farningham woods, for evening activities during the summer.

Our Next cohort of Expedition Scouts not only completed the expedition badge but also helped with the cooking and with activities with the Beavers and Squirrels on the May Group camp. It was great to see Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts together.

Our Scouts and the whole group had another great turn out at the St Georges day parade which was held at Parkwood School, Our Scouts won the Union Jack Flag for smartest Group and enjoyed many fun activities.

For our Scout camp we went back to Down Camp site, now an independent camp site. This camp was fantastically organised and run by our leader in charge Chris Brown who is an amazing leader. Our Expedition Scouts not only completed the expedition badge but also helped with the cooking and with activities with the Beavers and Squirrels. It was nice to meet the Beavers and Squirrels leaders and I believe everyone had a great time. Also a big thank you to Richard for helping the Expedition team navigate through their challenge. A lot of planning goes on behind the scenes and in the weeks leading up to the camp to ensure the Scouts are ready for their challenge.

Our other big adventure for the year was to attend the Kent International Jamboree at Kent Show ground, Detling. 8 days of amazing vibes and activities were had. 19 scouts and 4 leaders had a great time. 16 Scouts from Swanley and 3 Scouts from 2nd Swanley. Also a big thankyou to Sharona Doyle from 2nd Swanley, who was our lady leader and was an amazing addition to our leadership team. Richard Kinderman and Chris Brown made up the rest of the Leadership team. I could not have run the camp without them. The Scouts had a fantastic time with many memories formed and friendship bonds made that will last a lifetime. Some of our Scouts will give an insight into the fantastic time they had.

We also took part in the Hextable Fun day and also the Wilmington fair where our Scouts Paraded with the Armed forces cadets and were asked to raise the flag.

Our Charity work continues with our sponsored sleep out for the Homeless charity Shelter box on 14th 15th November and we hope to be back at ASDA at Christmas time for our bag packing, collecting for scouts. We will be soon planning for our camps in 2026 so I'm looking forward to having another fun packed year.

Kind regards

Alex Pattullo (Scout Leader)