

Knocklyon Scout Group 112th Dublin

Beaver News

In the run up to Christmas, the three beaver colonies went to Larch Hill to visit Santa Claus at his winter wonderland. The Beavers met with Santa and were able to tell him their Christmas wishes and how good they had been all year. The leaders also made sure that Santa had all the Beavers on his good list for Christmas Eve. The Beavers then reviewed their day out in their Lodge Chew and the consensus among all the Beavers was that it was a 'brilliant' day.

The Monday Beavers kicked off the New Year with a torch walk through a very dark and quiet Bushy Park. The Beavers showed how brave they were in the dark and got to see how light pollution can affect the night sky. The Thursday and Friday beavers have been equally busy with Friday beavers working on their Air Activity skills learning to make paper aeroplanes.

Cub News

All three cub packs got into the spirit of Christmas with various activities before Christmas. The Monday Cubs spent the day in Mellows Farm in County Meath where they visited Santa in his grotto, said hello to Mrs Claus in her busy kitchen and also saw Santa's bedroom where they left their names under his pillow to make sure he wouldn't forget them on Christmas Eve. Monday Cubs then returned to the Scout Den for a sleepover where they prepared for their now annual Christmas concert for their parents. The concert was held at their last meeting before Christmas and was followed by tea and mince pies which was a nice start to the festive season for their parents.

Tuesday Cubs headed into the centre of Dublin and visited the National Museum in Collins Barracks following the Christmas themed trails around the exhibits. After lunch it was across the river to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham where the Cubs visited Santa and tried out two of the fairground rides. The highlight of the day however was the ice skating and seeing the Fossett Christmas Circus. A stop in McDonalds on the way back was well received and once back at Ballyroan Scout Den the Cubs enjoyed sleepover which included a night of games and Christmas DVD's. Tuesday cubs also did a small job for family or friends in order to earn €2, the cubs then went shopping in Superquinn to buy food for hampers which they donated to the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday Cubs visited Castlecomer Discovery Park in Co. Kilkenny where they first saw the reindeers who would pull Santa's sleigh before visiting Santa and Mrs Claus. Mrs Claus was busy baking cookies and they were entertained by Santa's Elves and were then shown Santa's bed and his all in one pyjamas. Santa gave each of the cubs a wishing stone for them to throw into the wishing well which they visited on the santa train. They also visited the museum where they learnt about mining and rock formation. The day was rounded off with a visit to McDonalds on the way home. The cubs then got into the festive spirit with a party in the Scout Den at their last meeting before Christmas.

Scout News

December saw the Tuesday Scouts head to Beckettsfield Hostel for the weekend. The Scouts spent the weekend engaging in numerous indoor and outdoor activities and games. The weekend culminated in the investiture of the new Scouts who joined in September, they made their Scout promise and were welcomed into the worldwide scouting movement. Tuesday Scouts also collected food over a number of weeks which they used to make hampers which

they donated to the local conference of the St. Vincent De Paul. Tuesday Scouts are now beginning their preparations for the upcoming Mountain Pursuit Challenges and the Montpellier Scout County Shield camp craft competition.

Thursday Scouts spent a number of weeks developing, directing and making their own movies. There are a number of budding young Alfred Hitchcocks among the Scouts with most films created being horror films. The Scouts stayed over in the Scout Den and watched all the movies and the following morning set up a campsite in front of St.Colmcille's Junior School as part of the Knocklyon Christmas fair. Thursday Scouts also visited the Gravity Climbing Centre in Inchicore where the Scouts learnt to climb without ropes on the boulder wall.

Friday Scouts also went hostelling in December staying in Slane Farm Hostel. The Scouts explored the Boyne Valley Walk, the Hill of Slane and also had an expedition around Navan. The Scouts also held a Ready Steady Cook competition among their Troop. The food produce was a culinary delight and Jamie Oliver would have been impressed. The Scouts decided to finish 2011 with a Christmas Party which was organized and run by the patrol leaders. The senior scouts also spent a day exploring historic Dublin City and returned to give the younger scouts a presentation on the historic facts and stories they had learnt about their home town.