

# 1<sup>st</sup> Chalkwell Bay Beaver Colony

## 2023 Report



---

It has been a very busy year for us. We have had between 15 & 18 beavers most weeks. During the Winter 2022, we hosted a number of visitors to the colony including PC Lindsey Hayward from the Southend Community Police division, who spoke about being safe out and about, stranger danger, and also allowed the beavers to try on police uniform and equipment and of course explore the police car.

We have a visitor from the Save the Children Foundation who spoke with us about the work they are doing with children refugees from Syria and the Ukraine, and how the beavers could help by writing to them or creating welfare packs for distribution to the children who are displaced as a result of conflict.

For Christmas we made paracord bracelets and did some soap carving to issue as gifts to family and friends.

During the spring we focussed on designing and building areas, including creating bird feeding stations from waste, creating birds from lego, and also building and decorating Warhammer models.

In the Summer we were out and about most weeks with climbing activities, walking trails through Belfairs woods, and health and fitness at Chalkwell park. There was even a session of firelighting at Belchamps.

We have completed 2 nights away, first nights for many beavers during the District Renewal of Promise camp, and more are planned for the forthcoming year.

We have issued a number of badges throughout the year including communications, builders, hikes, nights away and also the Chief Scouts Bronze awards to 4 beavers before they head into Cubs, and a summer book reading challenge issued to all beavers.

In the forthcoming year we are planning on more badge work, sleepovers and visits.

We are sadly struggling with a lack of leaders within the colony, and the search remains for supporting adults to train as section leaders, and be able to support the running of the sessions and events we do within our programme.

I would like however to thank every parent and child for the support that they have given over the past year, and look forward to the next year.

Kit.

(Karen – Beaver Scout Leader)