

## 1<sup>st</sup> Dipton Beaver report for 2015

The year 2015 began with sixteen (16) invested Beaver members after the Christmas break plus a Young Leader from the Explorer section. Leaders continued to plan activities around one Challenge badge plus two linked activity badges per term.

Activities were both inside headquarters rooms but also using the yard and the outside grassed area, as well as local footpaths and the football field, depending on weather and proposed activity.

Numbers of members have dropped to ten (10) and then risen again throughout the year as four members either passed their membership into the cub section or found other interests outside of scouting. The Beaver members come from many schools and villages. As an example at the year end December 2015, the twelve(12) members came from seven (8) primary schools to work and play together under the badge of scouting. 2015 also saw the introduction for the first time of two( 2) female members within the beaver section.

Activities with other sections throughout the year range from Fairs and Coffee mornings, to St Georges Day parade at Consett, pantomime visits, group trips and sponsored walks often using National Trust membership to ensure affordability for families.

During 2015, headquarters announced changes to the Beaver programme. This included the content of badge work and the loss of some badges, as well as the shape of the Challenge badges, so that at the end of the year, the leaders had to look at how these changes could be introduced without major changes to the programme or cross over for the young members who wished to gain badges.

Where no badge is available for an activity e.g. participating in St Georges Day parade, a certificate has been awarded at a closing ceremony as a reward and incentive.

2015 saw many changes in members as well as the programme, but we continue in the spirit of scouting.