



Hemel Hempstead District Scouts Beaver Section Meeting

Date: 6th January 2026

Venue: Hobbs Hill Wood School, Hemel Hempstead

Attendees

• Rob Rivers	1 st Hemel Hempstead
• Eleanor Cranmer	3 rd Boxmoor
• Claire Mould	2 nd Hemel Hempstead
• Andrea Murphy	2 nd Hemel Hempstead
• Michelle Woodall	1 st Apsley
• Nikki Farrell	1 st Gadebridge

Apologies

• Cheryl Guppy	1 st Bennetts End
• Nicole Lockwood	4 th Hemel Hempstead

Minutes

District/local events calendar

- 9th May – Beaver Hike, Apsley. Invitations have not yet been sent.
- 16th May – Squirrel Day Camp, Apsley
Action Rob to pass on Michelle's details to Rhett.
- May Half Term – Lego event, Gadebridge HQ
Action Nikki to confirm with Chris Tucker that there is interest and confirm whether leader attendance is required.
- **May 23 – 29 May (half term) – Cub Jam, Phasels Wood**
Action all leaders to share details of the event with all Beavers in the district who will be eight at the time of the event. Leaders do not have to attend as there are sufficient Leaders from across the district.
- 27th – 28th June – BITs2, Well End – currently 1st Bennets End, 2nd Hemel Hempstead and 3rd Boxmoor due to attend.
Action Eleanor to coordinate with Cheryl, Claire and Andrea.
- 12th July – TBC Water Activity Day, Apsley. Michelle to share details.

- 27th September – District Beaver and Squirrel event, Phasels Wood
 - This was initially planned as a nature day; however, it will now be the Beavers' 40th Birthday Party and the Squirrels' 5th Birthday Party. Activities planned for the day should have a 'party feel'
 - The venue will remain as Phasels Wood (booked).
 - Beavers and Squirrels to be given the official occasional badge (will groups have already done this?)
 - The possibility of extending the event to run Squirrel and Beaver separately; however, there needs to be sufficient adult support, especially for setup and breakdown.
 - Details to be planned in District Beaver Leaders chat; however, some ideas discussed:
 - Decorate a birthday cake
 - Make party hats
 - Circus skills
 - Camp Fire, including singing Happy Birthday**Action** Michelle to ask Simon if he is available to run the campfire again
 - **Action** Rob to inform Caroline about the change to the event description for the district website
- 13th December 2026 - Colonel Custard
 - Discussed the potential of opening to Squirrel leaders; however, Squirrel leaders suggest this event is not suitable and will proceed with their own arrangements for a separate Christmas Party.
 - **Action** Rob to confirm with Andy that Squirells will not attend
- Beavers' 40th / Squirells' 5th birthdays – discussed the possibility of a separate event; however, it was not possible to find a date in the year that did not conflict with group/local events.

Creative badge day – 18th January

- Event Details
 - Date: Sunday, 18th Jan 2026
 - Time: 13:45 – 16:00
 - Venue: Belswains Primary School
 - Key Organiser: Nikki Farrell
 - Event Format: groups to move across five bases, 25 minutes per base (including handover).
- Bases:
 - Music base – Eleanor to cover. Nikki to supply instruments.
 - Other bases that are currently not covered may have to be led on the day. Nikki has resources.
 - **Action all leaders** to check whether their Young Leaders can support the event, and share names of YLs attending with Nickie Davies.
 - Concern raised over the number of badges ordered (120). Attendance is not yet known, but is not expected to be that high. The venue's capacity is 150. Attendance at the last event was c. 85; however, some groups will not be attending this time.
 - Action** Rob to confirm numbers with Caroline after booking has closed.
 - There is no food-related activity, so cleanup post-event and exposure to allergens should be minimal.
 - The invitation letter requested that Beavers bring a water bottle.

AOB

- 1st Hemel Hempstead has successfully opened a Squirell Drey, led by Rhett. Currently, five squirrels are in attendance, mostly siblings.
- Congratulations to Michelle Woodall on achieving The Award for Merit.
- Briefly discussed off-site venues/activities available for events. Cost was noted as a barrier to attending some of these venues.
 - Penhouse estate
 - Gaddeston Row Guiding Centre
 - Guillivers Land
 - Whipsnade Zoo
 - HMS Belfast (not suitable for Beavers)
 - Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker
 - Luton Hoo – water activity days