



After months of paperwork and organising, Avon Cubs met at Woodhouse Park at 9pm on 29th October. Packs from Cleeve, Claverham and Yatton, 1st Burrington and Wrington, 2nd Clutton, 62nd Bristol, 107th Whitchurch, 126th Sea Mills and 194th Kingswood arrived complete with teddies and Oodies to embark on a wonderful Halloween adventure. As you'd expect, Cubs were full of vim and vigour whilst leaders were yawning and downing coffee in an attempt to keep going till the coach picked us up at 2.30am. How some people were able to sleep was quite a revelation. Cubs must be made of rubber, with arms, legs and heads at all angles and they didn't feel anything!

A quick pit-stop at Folkestone to change drivers and off to Dover. We nervously stood in line awaiting passport control, only to find one person had packed their passport in their main bag. Visions of having to arrange transport home loomed; imagine the baggage compartment of a huge double decker coach with 76 bags on board. We found it.

Cubs were delighted to find a Burger King at the terminal. Leaders were already stocking up on more caffeine. The only disagreement we had was with a seagull, who decided to pinch and fly off with a Cub's woggle. Never underestimate the determination of Akela, who retrieved the woggle and sent seagull packing.

We were sat on the coach f-o-r-e-v-e-r..... Matt had the remote control and made sure every time people woke up, something was playing on the TV.

Arrival at Chateau de Grande Romaine meant we could drop bags in dorms and have a meal. We had an orientation and some Cubs played football, others went to a campfire and others went to bed.

Day 2 Eiffel Tower and La Seine



Packed lunches made, breakfast eaten then on the coach to Paris. We had a group photo with the Eiffel Tower in the background and invested some Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders. Fabulous memories for our young people.



Everyone was able to go to the second floor and some went around the viewing platform to enjoy the views. Others enjoyed the gift shops and showed just how thoughtful they were, showing me gifts for family members.

We were able to see many of the attractions during a boat ride on La Seine. On the coach for a trip down the Champs Elysee and around the Arc de Triumph, before making our way back to the Chateau.



Cubs and leaders donned Halloween fancy dress for dinner and evening games. Leaders never cease to impress me with their resourcefulness and 2nd Clutton had their dorm doors decorated for Halloween. Best of all, knock on the leaders' door and they were prepared for Trick or Treat with bags of sweets and a glow stick for everyone!

I woke up in the middle of what was left of the night rather confused, wondering what that purple glow beneath the duvet was, especially as it moved when I did. Tracey had a badge pinned on her to tell people to call her if she was lost. That's how tired we were.



Day 3 Disneyland Paris

Very early morning, two packed lunches per person made and off to Disneyland. Packs were able to go their own ways with their Cubs.



Who's been to Disneyland with their kids? Bit of a nightmare shepherding two/three kids in the crowds, queuing for the rides was it? Try it with 14 Cubs. Tracey and I stepped in to support one group whose leaders were struck by the dreaded sickness bug. Cubs stoically walked miles, queued for hours and had an absolute blast on the rides in between. That's the best bit. Disney have made crowd management an art form. The only thing they've not perfected is air flow. There's nothing worse than stepping into the space of someone who's just farted.

We were in the park nearly 14 hours, staying to the very end of the final show and fireworks. There's something about the magic of Disney and between us, we did the lot. Big Thunder Mountain, Star Wars Hyperspace Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean, Phantom Manor, Indiana Jones.... Off to Walt Disney Studios Park, Spiderman, Avengers Assemble, Toy Soldiers Parachute Drop, Tower of Terror....everyone did as much as they could and loved it.



Cubs fell fast asleep on the coach going back to the Chateau. Think they were going to get up, get straight into their beds and fall asleep did you? Cubs don't work like that. With beds beckoning, we had to strip and remake beds that had been vomited on, wash out loads of lunchboxes with ants, vacuum an ant infested bedroom, console a Cub convinced a spider was in his suitcase, take said suitcase outside, empty and shake every item before returning to distraught Cub to reassure we'd caught the blighter.



Ah, but our work wasn't finished. Several Cubs needed dosing with Calpol, leaders would have dunked straws in the bottle and slurped it all had the bottle not leapt out of a leaders' hand and smashed on the floor. One sticky mess just calling to those pesky ants. By the time we crawled into bed we had 5 hours before the alarm was set to shatter our slumbers.

Day 4 travel home

Cubs always have exploding bags but leaders experience showed. Our PGL contact, Hassain, took one look at our rooms at 7am and started to panic. He couldn't believe his eyes when we were aboard the bus, all rooms cleared, neat piles of pillowcases, duvet covers and bottom sheets sorted, Cubs fed and lunches made.....with 20 minutes to spare.

Cubs thanked Hassain by giving him a loud BRAVO and he happily told me we were the best group and we had all been perfect. Ahhhh.



Lots of very tired people, Cubs and leaders on the return journey. One leader had a smart watch which recorded his sleeping hours, a grand total of 13 hours over four nights five days. Started off really well, with zero hours on the first night, when we were picked up at 2.30 am.

But leaders are a special breed! Exhausted from lack of sleep we were already planning our next County adventure. Did someone mention Vikings?

Cubs were an absolute delight. They listened, they tried hard to be organised. They kept up through challenging situations. Best of all, they showed consideration for others, they were thoughtful, they acted responsibly and were respectful. They were grown up enough to ask for help rather than worry about something or let it spoil their day. We all had bright orange neckies and started the event as seven different Packs, we became one group of people all sharing Scouting values, all enjoying the fun and excitement leaders are experts at providing and all with happy memories to last a lifetime.

And tired leaders, on the return journey? Exhausted from lack of sleep we were already planning our next County adventure of course. Did someone mention Vikings.....?

Huge thanks to Andy Scully for the use of Woodhouse Park on our outward and return journeys. It was great being able to use the training centre to while away the hours before our coach arrived to pick us up, and great too to have parents ready in the car park to gather up their tired but happy Cubs.