

Third Alton Scouts

Endeavour Troop Report 2022-23

Introduction

Where to begin? At lunchtime today I was in town and literally bumped into the mum of two of our former Scouts. We'd not seen each other for a number of years and it was really good to catch up and hear how her now grown-up youngsters are getting on in life. They are both still living at home but enjoying their chosen careers and, importantly, they fondly remember their time in Third Alton. Moments and comments like that really make being a Scout Leader truly worthwhile. I must get to the point, I am being badgered for these words right now.

The Queen's Death

This year has been momentous for everyone. One Thursday evening, ten minutes before I was setting out for Scouts I heard the sombre news that Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, had died so soon after celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. That evening's meeting was certainly a sad one. Max, one of our ex-Scouts and now in Explorers, paid tribute by attending her lying in state at Westminster Hall. Her Majesty's passing and the recent loss of HRH Prince Philip closed a chapter in all our lives. The coronation of King Charles, himself a former Scout, in May certainly lifted the spirits and we wish him well for the future.

Highlights for Endeavour Troop

Over the year the troop has undertaken a considerable number of different activities, camps, weekends away, community service, personal development and of course had much fun on the way. Over the year Scouts had at least seven opportunities to spend weekends away from home. These included taking part in our Group Activities Camp at Tilford and a weekend camp at Pinsents Scout site just outside Winchester. At the latter camp Scouts visited King Arthur's Round Table and were given a very knowledgeable tour of the City Mill by Gordon, one of Enterprise's regular leaders. Back at camp, amongst other activities, Scouts cooked patrol meals and baked bread using flour from the mill.



Scouts had a couple of opportunities to stay in London on the lovely old Scout-owned ship the Lord Amory – once for a weekend of cultural visits, Tower Bridge, The Museum of London and the National Maritime Museum. The second time, in March, as a base for Scouts taking part in the hugely enjoyable and challenging Monopoly Run – think of playing Monopoly but instead of moving counters around a board you move whole patrols of Scouts around their real-life locations against the clock and against other teams from around the country.

Troop evenings covered a variety of interests, badge work and skills – a wood-turning demonstration evening by Martin Saban-Smith from Four Marks and a visit by Polar (and Himalayan, Andean, African, etc) explorer and environmentalist Tess Burrows were both very interesting and stimulating evenings. The Scouts exercised their own woodworking skills by building and racing Pinewood Derby cars – which is very popular with Scouts in America – and bird feeders. The latter supporting the RSPB Citizen Scientist Bird Watch programme.

Socially aware Scouts learned about malaria and raised money to fund the purchase of malaria nets which are distributed by Scouts in malarial zones across the world. For this they earn a special Scouts Against Malaria badge. Closer to home Scouts joined Scouts from 8th Alton and 2nd Bentley to help raise money for local good causes by taking part in the Alton Round Table Santa fund-raising tours in the weeks before Christmas. Autumn term finished with a night hike/sleepover and a visit to a climbing wall at Surrey University.



Highlights for the Spring term included a cycle camp heading down the DownsLink cycle way from Guildford southwards towards the coast. Unfortunately the weather turned against us on the second day so that ice cream on the beach remains elusive. Another time perhaps. This camp proved very beneficial for a number of other Scouts who joined the Rotherfield District cycle weekend in France at the beginning of May. This is a really good weekend for keener Scouts who don't need to be top-notch, speedy cyclists, just competent and safe on the road. The distances involved are all well within most Scouts' capabilities and the places visited are extremely interesting and very historic – Caen, Bayeux, Pegasus Bridge, various coastal towns and villages.

Thank You

Let me finish with a big word of thanks to our leaders: Mike and Paul. Without their support we would not have been able to hold our regular meetings and the quality of our Scouting would have been considerably lower. I must also say thanks to all the other leaders in the group, especially Matt who, behind the scenes, was organising some of the activities we took part in, and all the Mums and Dads for their support in all sorts of ways.

Adam Brook,

Scout Leader, 3rd Alton Endeavour Scouts

