

### Endeavour Troop Report 2023-24

#### Introduction

In my Troop reports I try to recall some of the highlights from the year in question and sometimes even include something of personal note. For the latter I was very pleased to catch up with someone I was in Scouts with in Yorkshire very many years ago. At nineteen years old we spent nearly three weeks trekking up the Pennine Way with a copy of Wainwright to hand and had quite a few adventures before and since. Scouts often leads to really good, long-lasting friendships and that is one its great benefits.

#### Highlights for the Troop

Troop activities are generally split into what we do on our normal Thursday evening meetings and what we do at other times, sometimes the former will be in support of the latter, for example before we go away to camp we might need to select and check the necessary tents and equipment. Badgework forms an important part of the whole Scouting system and together Scouts have achieved or getting very close to achieving Mechanics, Model-maker (Warhammer-themed), Emergency Aid, Craft badges, numerous challenge badges – Outdoors, Personal, Teamwork and Team Leader to name but a few. Some badges reflect an individual's other interests and accomplishments such the Cyclist, Lifesaver and Martial Arts badges.



We are very fortunate to have our own wooded area atop the old railway embankment but this has unfortunately been out-of-bounds over the winter because of ash dieback. However, it is now available for use and we have started to use it again for some of our Thursday evening meetings. Last year we spent a couple of evenings introducing Scouts to plane-table surveying which provided an introduction to some fundamental map-making and map-reading techniques.

Our autumn camp was held locally at Bramdean Scout camp site near Alresford and Scout patrols had to navigate their own way to the camp after starting in Four Marks. While this is a relatively short distance (~10Km) it can be quite a challenge if it's your first time. I seem to recall that there was a short but very heavy downpour at one stage on the route.

Another key weekend away was to visit London where we stayed on the Scout's own ship, the Lord Amory. This has become a fixture in the Troop programme for many years and we always use it as an opportunity to visit some of the special places in London. For this year's trip we went to the Royal Mail museum at Mount Pleasant to ride on a section of the underground railway which used to move mail across London to stations and sorting offices. We also spent time on HMS Belfast which never ceases to amaze and to the fascinating Brunel Museum located in the original Thames Tunnel's entrance way.



New Year's Scouting included a jump rope experience, which had been organised for all the group's sections, and it proved very popular all round. The major event for the spring term was the London Monopoly Run, like our Lord Amory visits this has been in our calendar for many years and is always well supported, not only by our own Scouts and Explorers but by a large number (8000) of Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Rangers from across the country and beyond. Our group contributed 55 "Monopoly Runners" and all the teams had an absolutely fantastic time. Some tired Scouts stayed again for the weekend on the Lord Amory and had a rather less hectic Sunday at the Natural History

Museum before catching the train home.

Earlier this term fifteen Scouts and Explorers joined a much larger group from Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset to visit the historic World War II sites in Normandy. On that camp a Scout typically cycled 160Km over three days and could have visited thirty sites relating to the D-Day invasion of 1944 including the British D-Day memorial at Vers-sur-Mer and Gold Beach at Arromanches. Our camp site was in Bayeux and most of the Scouts found time to pay a visit to see the magnificent Bayeux Tapestry which was a very short distance away. The Scouts on that camp truly deserved their cyclist badges after the effort they put in. Back home, and following the interest shown in the eightieth anniversary of D-Day the troop visited Monty's grave at Binsted on the actual anniversary, 6<sup>th</sup> June, before hiking out through the Hampshire countryside to Kingsley. Very recently we were visited by Anita from Hampshire Hawk Walks who brought along a fine selection of birds to explain about falconry. She said an hour would be more than enough time yet was still answering questions and explaining things right to the very end.





Coming soon will be our Group camp at Tilford and another camp for the Scout section is to be held at Wisley in Surrey soon after. Scouting is looking good and continues to benefit the youngsters who are lucky enough to take part. Scouts have also helped local community-based groups who have in return contributed to our funds. The extra income is needless to say always welcome.

### 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, particularly Rob and Nicola who have provided much appreciated support on Thursday evenings.

Adam Brook,

Scout Leader, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alton Endeavour Scouts

