

SCOUTS



As always, the Scouts have had a busy year; they've done hundreds of badges between them, been on our first family camp, visited the Science Museum and Natural History Museum in London, and learnt lots of Scouting skills.

The Troop remains full with 40 Scouts, and up to 8 leaders! We have welcomed plenty of new Scouts, both up from Cubs and new to the Group, and we have also welcomed a new leader Ben.



We've done some brilliant activities this year ranging from a night learning about Greek culture to building a pioneering project in the rafters that we could climb through! In June we learnt a new skill – orienteering. The West Anglia Orienteering Club came and laid out a course on Coe Fen for us. We were taught how to read an orienteering map, and how to use the punches to show we'd visited the points. It was great fun, and a lot of running! In November we visited the Leys' swimming pool, and all of the Scouts who attended earned a swimming badge. Some of our best swimmers were too good for the highest award, so we challenged them further and awarded a level 5+ award for swimming 1600m without stopping and showing a vast number of advanced skills!

We have also tried a new type of camp this year – family camp. This was an adventure for all of us as the lead-

ers had never done a family camp before. The Scouts embraced the camp, and participated in activities including family challenges, rifle shooting archery and making our own neckers! A special congratulations must be made to Milly Dutton, who ran family camp for her camp permit, and successfully passed! Well done and thank you Milly.



As always, the highlight of the year was our annual summer camp, this year in the Downe, Kent. The weather was rather variable – from glorious sunshine to monsoon rain, and all of the Scouts got a taste of what the mud at Glastonbury would be like! The Scouts enjoyed a huge number of activities, as well as exploring the area. Activities on camp included canoeing, hiking, swimming, a trip to Dover Castle, and a trip to Chislehurst Caves. The Scouts' favourite activity seemed to be the caves, which were cold and spooky, and the guide had some brilliant stories to tell. The Scouts had to be very brave when we got to the deepest part of the caves, and the guide asked us all to turn our lights out – it was terrifying! A wonderful, yet exhausting, time was had by all, and I hope that this will be a camp that the Scouts always remember. I know the leaders are already looking forward to Summer Camp 2015!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the assistant Scout leaders, the parents and Frank for helping me so much since I've taken on the Troop, and the Scouts for being such a great Troop to run.

Debbie Mullinger

Scout Leader

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