

SCOUTS



As always, the Scouts have had a busy year; they've done hundreds of badges between them, camped for 139 nights (that's nearly 20 weeks!), visited the Hindu Temple in Cambridge, 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, whilst also saying goodbye to a few as they progressed up to Explorers.

As always, the highlight of the year was our annual summer camp, this year in the Eaton Vale near Norwich. The weather was rather variable - from glorious sunshine to monsoon rain! Despite a lack of minibus, the Scouts enjoyed a huge number of activities, as well as exploring the area. Activities on camp included canoeing, hiking, air rifle shooting, cycling, a trip to Banham Zoo (and thankfully the sun shone that day!), and we even all learnt to sew. One afternoon Andrei taught all of the Scouts to hollow out an orange or banana and fill the skin with chocolate cake mix. They then baked the cakes on an open fire and came out with delicious results, even if some did look rather unfortunate! 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 2016!



We've done some brilliant activities this year ranging from punting on the Cam, to a visit from the Police Community Support Officers to teach us about the use of knives. In March we learnt a new skill - campanology! We were lucky enough to be invited to three Cambridge churches to have a go at ringing their bells. Every Scout got to have a turn to ring the bells, as well as learning a variety of other skills including ringing hand bells, and learning to tie the knots that bell-ringers use. Thank you to Nicola Pearson for organising this fabulous activity for us! 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+ (which we named Level Lydia!) for swimming 1600m without stopping and showing a vast number of advanced skills including life saving! The year came to a close with our infamous Christmas Party. We had toilet roll mummies, doughnuts hanging from string and many other Christmas favourites - it was an awesome, and sugar fuelled party, enjoyed by all!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the assistant Scout leaders, the parents and the Scouts for being such a great Troop to run.

Debbie Mullinger
Scout Leader
May 2016