

# SCOUTS



Another hectic Scouting year has finished, after climbing, zip wire, visiting the birthplace of Scouting, doing badges, camping, water fights, cooking, a new Scout Troop ... and well, just a lot of action, adventure and fun.

This year has seen exciting growth in the Scout section, and after much deliberation, we decided to open a second Scout Troop to meet the demands. We now have 22 Scouts in Spartans Troop (Wednesday) and 39 in Amazons Troop (Thursday). We are sure that 61 Scout has to be a record for the Group! We also have a great team of young leaders, and an expanding adult leadership team. Ben has taken over as the Spartans Scout Leader (still supporting Amazons), and Debbie remains Scout Leader for Amazons (also supporting Spartans).

As always, the highlight of the year was our annual summer camp, this year to sunny Sussex! We stayed at a lovely wooded site Broadstone Warren, and made full use of the site for fires, axe and saw skills, not to mention shelter building. The weather was fantastic and the Scouts enjoyed a huge number of activities, as well as exploring the area. Activities on camp included raft building, a visit Brighton, zip wire and a trip on a steam train. The Scouts favourite activity seemed to be rafting (despite varying success!), with cooking and eating as a close second! 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 2017 in the Isle of Wight!



Going through the years photos has reminded us just how much we've achieved this year! From badgework and learning new skills, to a trip to the Science Museum, cooking and wide games. A few highlights have been making our own go karts (and racing them!), a Patrol Leaders training evening, and a navigation challenge night, not to mention collectively swimming the distance of the ferry trip to the Isle of Wight!

Camping has been a big part of our Scouting year, with a Group Camp at Skreens Park in September, Spring Camp at Thriftwood in February, Easter Camp at Copley in May and a night hike and sleepover in November. During these camps we've earned plenty of badges, tried loads of different activities from caving, Jacobs ladder and rock climbing to making paracord bracelets, and cooking in camp ovens to make an Indian feast for dinner! Collectively the Scouts have been on Camp for 232 days this year that's 33 weeks of Scouts camping!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Assistant Scout leaders, the Young Leaders, the parents and Frank for all your support in the success of the Troops, and the Scouts for being such a great group of young people they make us very proud to be Scout Leaders.

**Debbie Mullinger and Ben Ramsay**  
Scout Leaders  
May 2017