



MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Programme Highlights

Merlins Scout Troop currently has 28 scouts (20 boys, 8 girls) who enjoy a wide range of activities. During our meetings we have tried fire-lighting, cooking, wide games, whittling, kayaking, candle making, conservation work, climbing, mountain biking and orienteering. The scouts have achieved outdoor, fitness, global, expedition and community challenge badges plus chef, craft and dragon boat badges. The highest point with the badges was to see the Chief Scout's Gold Award presented to Annabel Taylor, the first for Merlins. We were also delighted to see 3 older scouts transfer to Explorers. We competed in the Berkshire Dragonboat Regatta, and won the cup, which was a great day for the team!

We enjoyed an amazing international summer camp with the Buzzards at WINGS in Windsor, an experience the scouts will remember for a long time! In September we camped at Chalfont Heights (Paccar) and the older scouts completed their independent expedition. We all had a good hike, had an archery session and went on the high wires course. We also joined Buzzards for a sub-zero camp at Ellis Hill Farm. In March we spent 1 night in a cardboard box to raise money for Shelterbox, and most even slept! This summer we are excited to be camping with Buzzards in Snowdonia.

Thanks

My thanks go to my assistant leaders Monika Mändler-Zhao, Clive Taylor, Eddie Farndon, Alastair Fairhead and to my occasional helpers Tim Helliwell, Tanya Unger, and Bill Watson. Eddie will be leaving our team at the end of this term after many years helping the Group, and Tim has also left us. I have 2 ladies who have volunteered to join us, but I would also like to recruit a man, so please consider if you can help. Thanks also to our Young Leaders, Ed Watt and Will Farndon. They have been great support!

Fiona Fairhead (Scout Leader)