



KESTRELS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Kestrel's leadership team continues to provide a broad range of activities based around traditional Scouting skills and values. We try to offer a wide variety of activities and we often ask the cubs what they would like to do. This ensures that the cubs remain engaged and enjoy themselves for most of the time. We encourage them to try new skills and enjoy new experiences in a safe environment. We encourage the older cubs to support the new cubs and to develop the skills needed to be a 'Sixer'.

Wokingham District Cubs have given us opportunities to join other packs at district events. Sadly, there was no District Quiz this year, which the Kestrels and Hawks excitedly won the previous year. However, some of the older cubs attended the Sixers Supper along with many other packs from the District.

We enjoyed a Gravity Force sleepover in March with the Hawks, in which we had the whole complex to ourselves. We had two, one-hour trampolining sessions where I never seen them look so exhausted. We also watched a movie in our sleeping bags while munching on numerous snacks, all under one roof. We all had such fun and even managed to get some sleep.

We had a very enjoyable experience camping on the grounds of Warwick Castle which involved a coach trip. We managed to explore the Castle, gardens and grounds, while also being entertained by a spectacular bird of prey show, seeing real life knights, sword fighting, ancient tales and more.

During the last year we have experienced the competitive Lazer Quest, paddled on canoes, hiked, cooked, guy making, bonfire, camp fire, sung, international themes, cycled, martial arts, entertained and danced and much much more. Then Covid19 happened, but we still managed to keep Cubs functioning through using zoom, which was alien to most. We undertook numerous badges (probably a record amount), communication, photography, navigation, emergency aid, personal safety, air activities, science, numerous kahoot quizzes, bingo, cake in a mug, pizza making and of course the popular scavenger hunt. Some Cubs have also attended Remembrance Day Sunday services and helped with fundraising by supporting the Santa Float.

The Executive Committee, our Group Scout Leaders and a team of dedicated parents have supported Kestrels this year. The parent rota has worked really well and we have appreciated all their help, particularly with our international night and camp fire preparations. Our Cubs, your children were fearless, polite and kind and never cease to amaze us!

Kestrels cub pack continues to be run by a small but very dedicated team of leaders, with the support from parents and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, Charlie, Connor and Bradley. The leaders share the planning and running of pack nights which has made a big difference to the workload this year as new leaders grow in skills, confidence and training. We unfortunately lost an invaluable assistant Cub Leader Simon Rotherham, at Christmas, who left due to work commitments. And our amazing Akela, Amanda Parker, stepped up the ranks, leaving us Assistant Cubs Leaders with the difficult discussion of who should fill her role. It was a very daunting and scary thought of becoming the next Akela and I felt completely out of my depth. But I did not need to worry for long, as I have been greatly supported by my amazing **Assistant Cub Leaders** Sam Pedder, Ross Anderson and Audrey Ramsay. I would like to thank The Leadership Team for their support, sense of fun and good humour in all weathers!

Martina Smith (Akela)