



MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Programme Highlights

Merlins Scout Troop currently has 24 scouts (19 boys, 5 girls) who enjoy a wide range of activities. During our meetings we have tried climbing, cooking, wide games, sailing, hiking, making hot air balloons, escape rooms, firelighting, map-reading, orienteering, and pioneering. The scouts have achieved outdoor, adventure and team challenge badges. We have held international evenings about the World Jamboree, Uganda and even a Polish scout evening with real Polish scout leaders! The scouts showed us their skills at our own Merlins' Got Talent.

We had a great summer camp last year at Great Tower Scout Site in the Lake District, which included kayaking, climbing, boat trips, climbing Coniston Old Man and gorge walking! In October we had a camp at Paddicks Patch in Woodley where we had a good hike to the Air Museum and carved out pumpkins.

Since the lockdown we have moved to remote meetings on Zoom where we have tried quizzes, cooking, the photography badge, Tai Chi, camping at home and hiking to the moon! We look forward to the lifting of lockdown and the return to a full activity programme outside. WINGS 2020 has moved to 2021, an exciting international jamboree-style camp. We are able to accept more scouts who wish to sign up!

We congratulate Paige Hopkins for achieving her Gold Scout Award this year.

Thanks

My thanks go to all the Merlins leaders, Craig, Alex, Jason and Gavin (our new recruit!) for their valuable and inventive contributions to the troop. Thanks also to our young leaders James and Paige and to our supportive parents.

Fiona Fairhead (Scout Leader)