

KESTRELS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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 ask the cubs what they would like to do. This ensures that the cubs remain engaged for the majority of the time and enjoy themselves. 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'.

We enjoyed a Greek Myths themed sleepover in the hut last month. We played wide games on the field, along with playing Greek inspired games, and made an Icarus who came to a sad end on our camp fire. The cubs cooked their own breakfast the next morning. This event provided a great introduction to sleeping in tents and gave an insight to the new leaders camping. We all had such fun and even managed to get some sleep.

Last September, we joined Hawks for a fantastic 2 nights of camping at Paccar, which consisted of an energetic fun and safe camp. It consisted of a very long twin zip wire, archery, climbing wall, with lots of wide games and activities. The very positive feedback we have had from the cubs says it all and we are already talking about our next camp.

Last November we had a day away at Run Ways End, which involved canoeing, caving and crate stacking. And in between we offered some wide games and arts and crafts to give the day a camp-like theme. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this day away.

During the last year we have been on numerous hikes, played petanque, laser quest and marble games. We have completed numerous badges like astronomy, music and Emergency Aid to name a few. Learnt about charity events, map navigating, boat making & floating. We've had lots of camp fires, which consisted of cooking, fire safety and camp songs, plus lots of jokes and riddles. We have done science at The Look Out, Raft building and rafting at WWC, Equestrian at Santolina Stables and Bell ringing at St Pauls.

The Executive Committee our Group Scout Leader 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 camp fire preparation. 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 dedicated team of leaders with support from parents and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers James, Oliver and Ben. 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. The leaders work so hard to support the cubs. The team this year has been myself and the Assistant Cub Leaders, Sam Pedder, Ross Anderson (who has recently stepped down to occasional helper, due to work commitments) and Doug Robertson.

I would like to thank The Leadership Team for their support, sense of fun and

Good- humour in all weathers! **Martina Smith (Akela)**