



KESTRELS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2021 has been a difficult year for scouting due to the pandemic. The Kestrels' leadership has strived to provide a broad range of activities based around traditional Scouting skills and values, both online and in person where permitted. Our aim has been to ensure that the cubs remained engaged through a wide variety of activities, many being devised by the children 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'.

Wokingham District Cubs normally gives us opportunities to join other packs at district events like the District Quiz, the Sixers Supper and the District Camp. Sadly, due to covid these events could not take place.

We also missed out on other big events like Wings (for a day) 2020/21, and our own Summer Camp in Paccar, although hopefully we'll make up for it, next year.

However, zoom has been a godsend, and we have experienced lots of online sessions. These consisted of a making scones, creating a 2-course meal, making bird feeders, learning about home safety, recycling, book reviews and having a creative Christmas Party and much more.

We were also extremely grateful to have had lots of volunteers willing to talk to us about various topics: Eleanor's mum from the local Foodbank explained the significance of this charity especially during these Covid times. Felix's mum chatted to us about the importance of Children's mental health for Mental Health Week. Lynne our local resident and neighbour answered all our questions, ensuring we learnt what changes have taken place over the last 50 years, for our Local Knowledge badge, and lastly, we had an amazing Environmental Conservation talk from Amanda's son Louis.

Thankfully once getting the green light, face-to-face scouting resumed, starting with a campfire. There were lots of experiences, like the new climbing wall at Dinton Pastures, hikes around Woosehill, campfires, cycling maintenance, kite making, shelter building, athletics and much more.

The Executive Committee, our Group Scout Leaders and a team of dedicated parents have supported Kestrels this year. The parent rota has worked well, and we have appreciated all their help. 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 volunteer 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. I have been greatly supported by my amazing Assistant Cub Leaders Sam Pedder, Ross Anderson and James Fairhead. I would like to thank The Leadership Team for their support, sense of fun and good humour, especially in all weathers!

Martina Smith (Akela)