



## **MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### *Programme Highlights*

The Merlins Scout Troop currently has 29 scouts (20 boys, 9 girls) who all enjoy a wide range of activities despite the relentless lockdowns that have forced us online for much of the last year.

The last year will be remembered for the lockdowns, which prevented us from meeting face to face. However, that didn't stop us - we still tried to meet every week, and still had a great time with a variety of Zoom based sessions, including quizzes, escape rooms, learning about the local food bank, plus plenty of cooking at home, which always went down well.

Thankfully we were able to meet face to face for much of the autumn 2020 and summer 2021 terms, and have tried the usual variety of exciting activities including cooking, canoeing, wide games, hiking, fire-lighting, map-reading, orienteering, cycling and pioneering. The scouts have achieved outdoor, adventure and team challenge badges, all making good progress towards their Chief Scout Gold Awards.

Special thanks to Steve, Dave and Ryan who helped us with a couple of sessions canoeing on the Kennet and Avon canal, so very peaceful getting back to nature along beautiful countryside (apart from the noisy excitable scouts!).

Sadly we have been unable to have any camps this year, but we are hopeful that we will get at least a few nights away in July as lockdown measures end.

### *Thanks*

My thanks go to all the Merlins leaders, Fiona, Alex, Jason, Gavin and Paul for their valuable and inventive contributions to the troop. Thanks also to our young leaders Harriet, Paige, Matthew and Xander and to our supportive parents.

Craig Koch (Scout Leader)