



MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT June 2024

Programme Highlights

The Merlin Scout Troop currently has 27 scouts who all enjoyed a wide range of activities over the last year.

In the Autumn term, we started with our usual widegames, followed by the traditional chip shop survey, which like the year before was forced to go a little further than usual as most of our local chip shops had closed! This was followed by an international evening, a night hike, cooking on fires, a bonfire where we made tin lanterns, and a trip to Clip and Climb for a great climbing session. We continued the term with a trip to Coral Reef, cooked some pizzas in cardboard boxes and finally built, decorated and raced Pinewood Derby cars on a newly improved track with electronic timing.

Over the course of the Spring term, we had several traditional sessions focussing on astronomy, mini pioneering (building mini bridges and testing them with weights), and cooking pancakes. In the second half of the term, we had a skills evening with the help of several parents and another night hike in Swinley Forest. The highlight of the term was the Mother's Day Cafe, something the Beavers do every year. We had the same format, but with Prosecco!

Our Summer term has been action packed, filled with canoeing and kayaking, trips to Go Ape and sailing at Dinton Pastures. Other sessions included binbag fashion, pioneering, cooking and practice for our upcoming summer camp in July. We will finish the term building a bridge across the Emmbrook River behind Morrisons

Merlins and Buzzards are planning a week-long summer camp at the end of July 2024 at Biblins Scout Camp in Ross-on-Wye. Craig and Simon also organised a short Expedition Camp for a few of our older scouts in July 2023 at Youlbury Scout Camp.

In terms of leaders, Merlins have had four consistent leaders throughout the year - Craig, AlexP, AlexM, and Gavin. John has been able to help throughout much of the year, but has had to step back.

Craig Koch (Scout Leader)