



MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT June 2024

Programme Highlights

The Merlin Scout Troop currently has 25 scouts who all enjoyed a wide range of activities over the last year.

In the Autumn term, we started with our usual widgames, followed by the traditional chip shop survey. This was followed by a trip to the Henley Rowing Museum, not for rowing, but to see an exhibition on space, which was filled with all sorts of historical artifacts from American and Russian space missions. Over the course of the next two sessions we built remote control robots, based on remote control cars, using recycled materials. The second of these sessions was where we raced and battled the bots against each other, including a massive house robot! We also had sessions cooking (a stir fry), one focussing on knots around a campfire, and one testing the scout's skills building structures out of spaghetti and jelly babies. We finished the term off with a visit from the Spencers Wood Repair Café, who helped everyone build a wooden bird box.

Over the course of the Spring term, we had several traditional sessions, including cooking (pancakes), a night hike, bike maintenance, a games evening, widgames and a campfire. We also ventured out into Woosehill for an evening of Geocaching. One new way to use recycling this term was to make small boats, and race them along lengths of water filled guttering. We also spent a couple evenings away from the hut at the Scalextric track at Pinewood, and donnuting at the dry ski slope in Aldershot. We finished off the term playing with our new RC cars bought to replace our robot war cars.

Our Summer term has been action packed, with a rugby session, hike in Swinley Forest to Ceasars Camp and athletics, as well as practice for the Brownsea Island camp in May, and upcoming summer camp in July. We still have bell ringing at St Pauls, cooking, blind football and a will finish the term building a bridge across the Emmbrook River behind Morrisons (it was cancelled last year due to bad weather!).

Merlins and Buzzards are planning a week-long summer camp at the end of July at Broadstone Warren Scout Camp. We also took part in a cub/scout group camp to Brownsea Island at the end of May.

In terms of leaders, Merlins have had four consistent leaders throughout the year - Craig, AlexP, AlexM, and Gavin, though sadly, AlexP will be leaving us at the end of the term.

Craig Koch (Scout Leader)