

EXPLORERS



Banderlogs Unit Report 2020-2021



The following is a summary of Banderlogs activities in the last year:

- Badges awarded in the last 12 months;

1 Platinum Award

4 Young Leader Missions

1 Chef

9 Air Activities Lvl 1

20 Community Impact Lvl 1

7 Emergency Aid

1 Navigator Lvl 3

11 Nights Away (levels 2-50)

1 Young Leader Belt

1 Young Leader Module

1 Creative Arts

11 Hikes (levels 2–20)

13 Digital Maker (levels 1–2)

1 Nautical Skills Lvl 1

2 Paddle Sports Lvl 4

5 Time on the Water (levels 1-5)

4 Explorers earned the lockdown 'Camp At Home' challenge badge where they had to spend 12 nights camping at home, bivvying or sleeping in unusual places around the house. Matt Corser managed to spend a night sleeping in a garden swinging seat!

We have several lads helping with other troops, packs and lodges in 3rd Alton, working towards their Young Leader Modules. We were proud to recently present Finley Walsh with his Young Leader Belt. He is the first ever member of Banderlogs to complete the Young Leaders Scheme, helping with Woodside Beaver Colony each week.

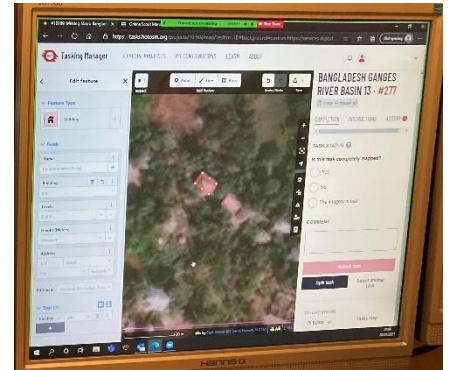
- The last year has seen Banderlogs have to adapt to all of the different lockdown rules and regulations in order to continue Scouting. For the September half term, meetings were held outside, where we enjoyed our traditional favourite activities; campfires, wide games, hikes.
- For last summer and from November to Easter, our weekly meetings were held on Zoom. These provided a welcome chance for the Explorers to meet their friends socially for a couple of hours each week.



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- As well as playing games, our Zoom meetings included the following highlights:
 - Survival skills – catching food, animal preparation, natural navigation.
 - Community Impact Badge Level 1 – Missing Maps. Explorers were taught how to digitise buildings from aerial photographs. We then ran 2 sessions digitising buildings over unmapped areas in Bangladesh for the American Red Cross. We managed to cover about 200 grid squares in total. By having better maps of remote areas in Bangladesh, the Red Cross will have better data on where people live in flood-prone areas of this country and be able to co-ordinate their emergency response more rapidly, hopefully saving lives in the future.
 - Digital Maker Badge Level 1
 - Sign language, braille and lip reading
 - Zooniverse – Explorers looked for spiders on Mars, searched for quasars and interpreted dolphin speech using this online science collaboration website.
- Since Easter, we have returned to the Den and a resumption of the usual Scouting activities and also a new one - laser tag in the woods.
- Banderlogs membership currently stands at 23, an increase of 3 from last summer. We regularly get 20 members attending each weekly meeting.
- For Banderlogs leadership team, the main change in the last year is the addition of Sam Bland. Sam has been really helpful and bailed me and Chris out numerous times when we had 'technical glitches' or 'senior moments' with Zoom meetings and internet games. We get great help from Steven Boardman from District regarding Duke of Edinburgh planning and activities, and who also attends our meetings regularly. Finally, my thanks go to Matt, the other 3rd Alton leaders, and to the committee members and parents, who have helped to support Banderlogs in the past year during these tough times.



Best Regards,

Graeme Robinson

Banderlogs

