

Third Alton Scouts

Endeavour Troop Report 2025-26

Introduction

In my Troop reports I try to recall some of the highlights from the year in question and sometimes even include something of personal note. Sadly, this year we bade farewell to Terry Roberts who had been actively involved with Third Alton for some forty years, first as a supporter, parent helper and later as a leader in many different roles. He will be very greatly missed.

Highlights for the Troop

Splitting what we get up to, someone once called it *Legalised Mischief*, into our regular weekly meetings on Thursdays and the longer weekend activities you will see that the Scouts do have some fantastic opportunities, can build some very useful Skills For Life and in many cases make friends for life. It is very rewarding seeing how our Scouts develop. In fact only last night I was visited at home by one of our former members who is now at university. He was telling me how Scouting had influenced his career choices and also had news of someone else who had been in the Troop at the same time. I appreciated his visit.

Our regular meetings included the following activities:

- Geocaching – setting up caches for Enterprise Troop to find and similarly finding, or at least searching for, the ones they had left for us;
- Rugby skills – courtesy of Fran Williams, a highly qualified local coach and Scout parent;
- A working visit to the Trussel Trust food bank where Scouts found out why we have a food bank, how it works and how the donations are organised.
- Shelter building;
- Emergency Aid, this is a continuing activity which is run by all sections and as the Scouts get older they learn how to deal with ever more complex situations;
- A number of food-related evenings – if a Scout cannot cook a tasty, nourishing meal in a dry, warm indoor environment then there is little hope for success on camp when the conditions might not be so accommodating;
- One evening we had a hike to the Milky Bar at Pies Farm, a change from the other popular destination, Four Marks F&C shop. Who remembers the jingle: “The Milky Bar Kid is strong and tough”? – ours certainly are;
- Several Scouts have achieved Artist and/or Craft badges, often for work they have done in their own time and the results have been very impressive;
- An enjoyable evening making garden trugs from recycled pallet wood. Isn't using hand tools a classic life skill?
- Stop motion animation – it sounds easy to do but there's a lot involved;
- A visit to the Immersion Escape room proved quite a challenge, Scouts who had been before were not necessarily at an advantage because the challenges are regularly changed.



Some things also happened at other times than our weekly meetings and these included:

- A circus skills afternoon, this was open to all Sections but the Scouts focussed on learning to juggle and mastering the diabolo;

- Scouts supported the Alton 10 running race by setting up a water station and cheering on the competitors (including one of our former Scouts, Explorer James, or Dizzy as he is known in his Young Leader role). Helping local community-based groups like this has also benefited the Troop because they have made a welcome contribution to our funds;
- A day spent at the Beastly multi-activity day which was organised by Basingstoke Scouts and Guides. Here Scouts can choose from a plethora of activities, too many to mention and in fact too many to sample each one. Scouts were also able to see, hear and possibly meet the Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields.



In addition to all those things Scouts had at least six opportunities to spend weekends away on camp. Sometimes the camp was an end in itself, for others it was a means to an end. Either way they help build up Scouts' confidence, self-reliance and are of course great fun to be away with friends. In no special order our weekends away were:

- Brownsea Island – the birthplace of Scouting where Lord Baden-Powell tried out his ideas as outlined in his seminal book *Scouting for Boys* in 1907 and this of course led to the establishment of Scouting and the rest is history
- Expedition Challenge – one boy from Endeavour, Ben, and three from Enterprise planned an expedition to a local campsite. This entailed working out routes, train timetables to reach the start of their hike, menus and shopping for food, deciding what equipment they needed and arranging a community project to do *en route*.
- An autumn term camp was held at Birchmere Scout campsite near Wisley in Surrey. Scouts built a bridge, baked bread, explored the locality and of course did much cooking and camp-fire building, singing and yarnning;
- In December a sizeable party went to London Docks and stayed aboard the *Lord Amory*. This is a historic ship which is run as a floating accommodation centre for Scouts. Scouts visited The Lookout, a viewing gallery high up in the City of London. Fortunately the weather was excellent and we had good clear views in all directions, sometimes the top of the building is in the clouds and your good clear views don't exist. After that we walked to St Paul's where we could explore from the crypt where Nelson and many other worthy people's tombs are right up to the very top of the cupola. On the second day Scouts had a private tour of the famous London Fire Brigade boat (and Dunkirk Little Ship) the *Massey Shaw*;
- In March seven teams from the group entered the Monopoly Run, two Explorer teams and five Scout teams from both troops. This has been in our calendar for many years and is always well supported, not only by our own people but by a large number (8000) of Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Rangers from across the country and beyond. Again several of the Scouts stayed on the *Lord Amory* and used it as a base for further exploring;
- Most recently we had a Day of Scouting at the Den. The purpose of this is to do some traditional Scouting which cannot be done in a short two hour evening meeting. Everyone can take their time, more equipment may be used etc. One highlight of this camp was the building of a *mathematical bridge* which is made from interlocking pioneering without any ropes at all, it's really quite fascinating.



We recently had an unprecedented twelve new members join, most of them had already had achieved success in Cub Scouting with Lion and Tiger Packs at Third Alton but a couple had joined from the waiting list. They are a great bunch, keep me on my toes and are settling in very well.

Coming soon will be our Group camp at Tilford and another camp for older members of the Scout section is to be held at Winchester soon after. Scouting is looking good and continues to benefit the youngsters who are lucky enough to take part.

Thank You

Let me finish with a big word of thanks to our leaders: Mike and Paul. Without their support we would not have been able to hold our regular meetings and the quality of our Scouting would have been considerably lower. I must also say thanks to all the other leaders in the group, especially Matt who, behind the scenes, was organising some of the activities we took part in, and all the Mums and Dads for their support in all sorts of ways.

Adam Brook,

Scout Leader, 3rd Alton Endeavour Scouts

