

# Enterprise Troop Annual Report 2025-26

Enterprise have had another packed year of activities, learning and teamwork. We've been fortunate to have two new additions to the leadership team – Ed and Luke (Helm and Kiwi). Ed had been helping regularly for quite some time as a parent helper and Luke has joined him in becoming a uniformed leader. This brings our team to four members, which is great. However, we will still need to ask for help from parents from time to time, so please do answer that call if you can.

Anyway, on to what we've been doing this last year!

## Summer Term 2025

The scouts spent two evenings first laying and finding geo-caches around Alton. Enterprise hid caches for Endeavour to find and Endeavour hid caches for Enterprise to find! This activity built on the skills they'd been learning about grid references and what-three-words as part of the staged Navigator badge.

We were fortunate to be visited by the father of one of Endeavour's scouts for an introductory evening of rugby. This was a mixture of activities designed to build the basic skills required for the game and the scouts found it great fun, including those for whom sport isn't their normal 'go to' activity.

In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell took a group of boys from different social backgrounds to Brownsea Island for an experimental camp. He wanted to test the ideas he was writing in 'Scouting for Boys'. Following the camp, he published his work first as 6-parts and later as a single book. Many young boys took up and followed his ideas and began forming small groups to practise scouting. And so scouting was born and began its growth into the massive world-wide organisation it is today.

At the beginning of July, 26 scouts from both our troops and 7 adults made the journey to Brownsea Island by car, train, ferry and foot to camp at the same place that Baden Powell took that group of young people more than 100 years ago. The camp was mostly a chance for the scouts to chill out and enjoy each other's company. There were games played on the site, walks on the beach and the beginnings of a causeway across Poole Harbour!



We finished off the term cooling off with water activities at the Den – basically an excuse to throw water bombs, wet sponges and water generally at each other. The scouts took great pleasure in drenching Bubbles from head to toe!

## Autum Term 2025

Scouts took part quite a variety of activities that Autumn. We started the term with ‘patrol challenges’ aimed and getting the scouts working together and welcoming the new scouts into their patrols.

We followed with wide games on Kingsley Common – who knew how much fun you could have with old train tickets?

The Autumn term usually includes a walk to a chip shop – and this term was no exception. It’s a very pleasant walk from the Den up through the woods and into Four Marks. And with the chip shop forewarned of our visit there were chips in the fryer ready upon our arrival.



In early October we camped at Birchmere camp site – right near the junction of the M25 and A3. This isn’t a quite camp site, but somehow this doesn’t seem to affect how well the scouts sleep – just the adults! The scouts had a great time building large pioneering structures using the poles and spars that are available on this site as well as cooking, baking bread and going for walks off site.

The darker evenings naturally lead to more indoor activities, and we tried to bring out the scouts’ creative side. Stop-frame animation is something that’s very easy to get into with today’s mobile phone and tablet software. The scouts used Lego, playdough, plasticine etc. to create their ‘sets’ and shoot their own mini-films. The creativity shown was fantastic.

Part of the scout badge programme includes learning about local issues and how they affect people. The scouts visited the Alton Food Bank, operated by the Trussel Trust. They spent time both at the collection point in the market square and at the sorting and storage area within the Harvest Church Maltings Centre in Maltings Close. The scouts really enjoyed learning about the work of the Food Bank and taking part in the sorting, marking and storing recent donations.



We were very pleased to return to the Lord Amory in London's docklands for a weekend 'camp'. The Lord Amory is a fun place for the scouts to visit and very different to camping in tents. After traveling up to London on Friday, we then spent Saturday exploring London taking in the

views from a tall building on Bishopsgate, then climbing many steps up to the top of St. Paul's cathedral from where we were able to see the building we'd just visited. St. Paul's is such an interesting building and with the inclusion of an electronic guide the scouts really enjoyed exploring and learning about the building and its history.

Sunday morning, we visited the Massey Shaw fireboat that is moored on the same quay as the Lord Amory. This boat has a rich history and was one of the small boats that crossed the channel to Dunkerque to affect the rescue of thousands of soldiers from the beaches.

Back in Alton we continued the theme of learning about our society and how it works by taking part in the national 'Parliament Week', learning about how our parliamentary system works from elections right through to how laws are made. This was enhanced by a visit from a cub leader who happens to work within the system, attending sessions of parliament in the house of commons. She was able to help the scouts run a short debating session on a topic they had chosen.

Finally, we got creative again with some Christmas crafts – which hopefully are now in your Christmas decoration boxes to be brought out year after year!

## Spring Term 2026



January saw the troop visiting Immersion Escapes in Alton's market square. This was a fun and challenging evening solving two of their Escape Rooms. The scouts worked well together solving puzzles to complete two different rooms.

Scouts again practised their navigation skills trying to find clues around Alton on our Murder Mystery Night. Having found the clues they had to use logic to work out who murdered whom and with what weapon and getaway vehicle.

Scouts always enjoy cooking and we normally cook Chinese style around the Chinese New Year. This time we really set the bar high attempting 8 different recipes bringing everything together at the end for everyone to enjoy.

After half-term we started working towards the Skills Challenge badge with various activities such as ironing, sewing etc. All useful skills for life.

With the Monopoly Run weekend ahead we joined Endeavour troop on their Thursday meeting to team up and work out strategies for the challenge. Scouts went home with maps, lists and strategies ready for Saturday's run.

The Monopoly Run itself was another fantastic event. Some of the troop made a full weekend of it and stayed on the Lord Amory Friday and Saturday night with the Monopoly Run on the Saturday and a museum visit on Sunday before coming home.

Continuing with our Skills Challenge badgework the scouts used woodworking skills to upcycle some old wooden pallets into garden trugs. This was a popular activity as woodwork is something they rarely get to do outside of school.

In 2025 we held our first 'day of scouting' event at the Den doing activities that take longer than our usual 2 hour evening meetings. Following on from that success we held another in March, and scouts created large scale pioneering projects, cooked over open fires and camped out in a rather chilly night behind the Den.

With the evenings becoming lighter we ventured off on a hike from Four Marks to Chawton visiting Pies Farm's 'Mily Bar' along the way. Scouts practised their navigation skills with Ordnance Survey maps.

## Summer Term 2026

We began the term cooking on open fires using some wild garlic foraged from the local area. This is a great free plant that gives a subtle garlic flavour to recipes and the scouts really like it.

We walked a circular route from Selborne village car park taking in the sites and completing a nature-based treasure hunt on the way. Scouts again practised their navigation skills around the footpaths and bridleways.

This year we were again given the opportunity to take part in Basingstoke scouts' BEASTLY event in Dummer. This year's was the biggest event yet with approximately 2,000 young people and some 500 volunteers attending the day. What had been long forecast as a slightly miserable rainy day turned into glorious sunshine. The scouts had a fantastic time exploring the four zones at the event and there was even a visit by the Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields.

This term we have focused on the stage Emergency Aid badge. Scouts have been learning potentially lifesaving skills and hearing about beavers, cubs and scouts from around the country that have put the skills they have learned to use saving lives of family and strangers alike.

Scouts have also been learning about survival skills and using tarps to create shelters that can be used to protect from the elements for the night. We hope to put these skills to use in a future camp.

Finally, we had our 'burger competition' where scouts cooked, assembled and presented their ideal burger combination. There were some quite interesting combinations of herbs and spices added by some!

We're now looking forward to some of our scouts completing their Expedition Challenge towards the end of term. This is a difficult challenge where scouts plan a journey to and from a camp site potentially using different methods of transport as required. They plan and cook their own menu and do something worthwhile on route.

## Thank You

I'd like to thank Bubbles, Helm and Kiwi for their dedication over the last year. Bubbles has been completing the final year of her degree course but still found time to attend scouts each Friday and has been a solid member of the team. Helm and Kiwi have supported and now joined the team more formally as leaders and they are most welcome.

Finally, I'd like to thank the scouts for their enthusiasm over the year. It's great to see them enjoying themselves, learning new skills and forming lasting friendships.

Mike Severs

3<sup>rd</sup> Alton Enterprise Troop