

# Scouts

## 3rd Alton Sycamore Dell Squirrel Drey

We are rapidly approaching our second year of running our lively, loud and very lovely Sycamore Dell Squirrel Drey at 3<sup>rd</sup> Alton. We now have 16 Squirrels who range in age from a teeny-tiny just turned 4 to a very grown up nearly 6 that join us every Tuesday evening for fun packed adventures.

Over the last year we have said good bye to some fabulous leaders – Katie (Kite) and Rachael (Puffin) – who is now supporting beavers, but have welcomed George (Otter). Mike (Ducky), Chris (Pigeon), Lizzie (Lizard) and Ali (Toucan) have continued to support me leading the Drey. As always, our (soon to depart) incredibly dedicated Group Lead Volunteer Matt Collins, managed to work his magic in the back ground supporting the Drey. He will be very much missed when he leaves us this term.



Our older Squirrels have been AMAZING at supporting the new children who join the drey showing them the important things (like where the loo is!) and how to make the Scout salute.

The leaders were once again bursting with pride when our Squirrels took part in the Alton Remembrance Parade alongside the other uniformed groups.



Our Squirrel meetings continue to follow the same structure every week (unless we're out and about of course!) with free choice of activities when they arrive at The Den, then our opening song, reciting our promise to remind us to be "kind and helpful" and then flag break (which they are very very excellent at!). We always try to play a game or two ("Fruit Salad" and "Find the Squirrel" being the drey's particular favourites) to burn off some of that bouncy Squirrel energy before getting stuck into an activity (Sycamore Squirrels LOVE crafting) and winding down with a story that's been selected by a Squirrel and a snack.



Over the last 12 months we have 2 sleepovers (many thanks to all of the parents that "slept" over with us!), 3 campfires, a night time hike and an animal spotting hike!

We have visited the Alton Food Bank; stopping by Sainsbury's before hand to pick and then buy our donations. We held an evening learning all about hedgehogs and a volunteer from Hart Wildlife talked to us about how hedgehogs are looked after if they are poorly.

The squirrels made Christmas crackers and the following week delivered them to patients on the wards at Alton Community Hospital. The patients were so SO delighted to see the children (probably not so delighted with my "singing" of Christmas carols!). We had "Sarah Science" come and help us with some exciting experiments (bottle rockets were a "blast"!!) and Nurse Jane learn all about helping in an emergency. The squirrels were all very brave when we went along to Top Rock to try out some climbing. Even Pigeon had a go!

We were super proud to have awarded the drey's first Chief Scout Acorn award early in the year and since then lots more squirrel's have worked hard to achieve this very special badge!

We are looking forward to more adventures next year, including our first time attending group camp!



**Emma (Ratty)**



