

Enterprise Scout Troop - a tale of two halves.

What a great Scouting year Enterprise Troop have had, there have been changes along the way, but we have grown as a troop, shared fun, friendship and activities and had some great Scouting adventures on the way. We started back in September with nine Scouts, Wolfie / Pam, our Young Leader Bubbles / Becky and welcomed back Gordon to Scouting; We got him as a transfer from Endeavour Troop after a taking a break, and Skip may still be waiting for the transfer fee!

The autumn term was full of international night (Italy) making our own pizza, sharing our hobbies with each other, turning into super sleuths for our murder mystery night, testing out our Robin Hood skills with soft archery. Halloween fun saw us trying gross food of bum sandwiches and armpit fudge and scaring parents with Wolfie and Bubbles very realistic fake wounds. Improving our sewing skills developing our camp blankets, sausage sizzle fun and our own act of remembrance in November. Scaling the heights of the climbing wall at University of Surrey on a joint activity with Endeavour certainly ended the year on a high!.

Over the term Some of us even had chance to fit in a weekend camp with Endeavour Troop at Pinsent campsite at Winchester where tomahawk throwing was a highlight. A trip to the Lord Amory and London fun for the weekend and a night hike and sleepover with Endeavour.

In October Bubbles / Becky, our Young Leader, turned 18 and took on an assistant Scout Leader Role with the troop. In December we said goodbye to Wolfie / Pam as Scout Leader as she moved into her new role of being District Commissioner for our District of Rotherfield - she keeps a keen eye on how we are growing. A huge thank you to all parents and supporters of the troop who have given their time and support to make Enterprise the Troop we are today. We welcomed Mike Severs as Scout Leader in January and what a great job he and the team are doing of growing the section.

Wolfie / Pam

In January I joined Enterprise troop as Scout Leader and immediately welcomed six new members to the troop boosting the numbers to fifteen scouts. We started the term with a celebration, as Enterprise had its first birthday – cake decorating scouts-style with scouts rolling icing, covering their cakes and then decorating with various colourful themes! And, of course, those cakes then needed to be eaten!

The scouts next started on the construction of their pinewood derby cars – marking out their car shapes, having their pine block cut and then sanding and finishing off the construction before taking home to paint and turn into colourful racing mean-machines!

As a break from construction, we then turned to cooking – Chinese style – and learned a little about the Chinese New Year celebrations. Each patrol cooked a different dish, and they were all shared between the whole troop at the end of the evening. Definitely a popular meeting with several scouts asking for copies of the recipes.

Our pinewood derby race night saw the scouts bringing their newly decorated and finely tuned cars back to the Den for race night! A heated evening of competitive fun ensued, and it was great to see the variety of cars and how each scout had made theirs unique.

After a popular as ever evening of "Fitness with Gordon" we then had a highly enjoyable trading-post evening organised by Bubbles / Becky. Tasks covered a wide range of skills and subjects allowing all the scouts to get involved and contribute to their patrol's success.

The second half of the spring term saw the scouts working towards the pioneering badge through a series of skills-based sessions and constructions. This was broken up with a fantastic evening of woodworking where each scout made their own birdfeeder and used tools and techniques that many hadn't had the chance to use before. The scouts were amazing and worked so hard to create something they could take home and be proud of.

March saw the ever-popular Monopoly Run in London with several of Enterprise taking part, some staying on the Lord Amory for the weekend too. There is something quite amazing about being in one place with so many other scouts and guides from around the country and sharing an experience. Several of our new members were invested in London either at Jubilee Gardens or on the Lord Amory - a quite unusual place for their joining ceremony.

Finally, before the Easter holidays, the scouts used their newly acquired pioneering skills to make catapults and fire tennis balls at each other! It was great to see how well the scouts used knots and lashings to make something practical and have fun at the same time.

We are now in the summer term and again the troop has grown with new members taking our count to nineteen – more than double its size at the end of 2022.

We again joined up with Endeavour to hold an evening of fun competition between the two troops. Some members also joined with Endeavour and scouts from other groups on the annual cycle trip to France, where they cycled around 90 miles across three days visiting sites associated with the D-Day landings and battles around Normandy.

Over half the troop attended the Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT), enjoying an 8 mile walk from Bentworth back to the Den with scouts taking it in turn to navigate.

Three of our members helped distribute drinking water to runners competing in the Alton 10mile run, alongside several members of Endeavour. This was a great opportunity for the scouts to help within their community and they were rewarded with many thanks from the runners and a sense of having done something good.

We are now making use of the longer summer evenings and trying to be out and about as much as possible before the summer holidays. Scouts have already spent an evening mapping out the various features of 'the butts' using a technique called table-planing and an evening out walking are already planned. We will also be pioneering outside at the Den.

Finally, big thanks to all the leaders and parents that have helped with Enterprise over this last year. As our troop continues to grow larger, we'll be ever more reliant on people

coming forwards and offering to do their bit to help – and have fun at the same time. Scouting can be as rewarding for adults as it is for young people, so don't be afraid to get involved.

Mike Severs