

1st Weald Brook Scout Troop

www.1stwealdbrook.org.uk



Report to the Annual General Meeting 2nd June 2019

The last year of Scouts has had its ups and downs. However one item of consistency has been the young people who have attempted many things and been enthusiastic.

Some highlights of the year are our first entry into County Backpack where our team were sent out from Thirftwood on the Saturday morning for a day of map reading and walking interspersed with activities. They then set out again on the Sunday morning for another half day and all the leaders were really proud of their efforts. Yes, they got lost, they did not complete as many bases as we hoped, but they did learn that understanding maps, using grid references and working as a team are important skills.

We entered two teams for the annual Pedal Car Olympics – when we tell people that we are going camping in January, they think we are mad. This year the weather was kind and there were the largest number of teams taking part in the history of the races.

A team also took part in the London Monopoly Run – a Saturday going to the places on the board and using an app to buy properties or pay rent.

During the year the leaders have struggled, not because of the Scouts but because of other commitments. Alan has had a lot of pressures at work and often gets called into late meetings. Luke has a new job which takes him out of the country and prevents him being able to attend Scouts. Bernard has been our stalwart but, as Group Scout Leader, he is not meant to be running a section. John's job has also required a lot more European travel .

This has led to a crisis for the Troop, which has been shared separately, with the prospect that there will be no appointed leaders to lead the Scout section from September. It is not a prospect that any of the leaders are happy with but without a few more people to become leaders and share the load, it is the harsh reality.

But back to some of the joys of the last year. We had a visit from Rock School to learn about rhythm, using voices and the structure of music. We enjoyed a basics camp with shelters, fires and rope walks. Of course there were lots of traditional scout activities like fires, cooking, creating things from poles and rope including catapults and ballistas.

We celebrated Chinese New Year making dragon heads, learning how they sing and dance, and cooking in the Chinese style. Holi was another festival with the Scouts enjoying covering each other in colours. At the end of the Spring Term we went to the dry ski slope, at the Scouts' request, and those who had not skied before got their Snowsports Stage 1 whereas those with experience achieved Stage 4.

The numbers remain strong and we have all enjoyed the last year, we hope the next year will also be successful.

John, Bernard, Alan and Luke.