



# SCOUTS

It's been another very successful year of Scouting for 1<sup>st</sup> Roffey's troop. We currently have a very strong troop of 28 Scouts on the book and will gain some from Cubs at Christmas and lose a few to Explorers. This year we had 4 scouts progress on to Explorers and have gained new starters from cubs and externally.

Last year we were preparing for Dave Stanley to join us as a leader, and I'm delighted to say he has now completed his first full year with us and is a great asset to the Leader team which is constantly growing in strength. We are very lucky to have a very young and enthusiastic group of leaders which out of the 6 of us produce an average age of 30, which is highly unusual for scout troops! Even more impressive is the amount of experience this team has considering our young age with the average years of service as a leader being 6.3. Taking into account that 2 leaders having only been with us for less than 2 years, that's quite good going. For a reference I am told that the normal average for an adult staying in a leadership role in the UK is less than 3 years.

Summer camp this year was a great success again. Last year we dived into the unknown and explored Phasels Wood activity centre, which was the first time we had done a camp of that type. This year we went to the opposite end of the spectrum and returned to a more normal 1<sup>st</sup> Roffey camp which is completely back to basics. We went to a field just outside of Rogate village where we evicted the cows and, after a bit of poo clearing, set up home for the week. This type of camp completely separates the Scouts from their normal world, with no running water or plumbed in toilets, no electricity and no Wi-Fi!

I think it's fair to say that all the Scouts enjoyed themselves, and they were certainly tired at the end of the week! The weeks camp saw them build bivouacs in the forest and sleep in them for one night, plan, shop for and cook a three course meal unassisted for their patrol, complete an advanced pioneering project where they built and used an aerial runway down the hill (zip wire), create a waterslide down the hill to cool off from the scorching heat and had the chance to play plenty of games.

As well as these activities we sent the Scouts out and about into the local area on a hike. I would like to say how proud we are as a leader team of the Scouts that we took away and on their brilliant behaviour and the way that they conducted themselves while on camp. They were all a credit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Roffey scarf and I hope they all enjoyed themselves and learnt some valuable life skills.

Outside of summer camp we have continued to offer a full range of activities to our youngsters, including kayaking, rafting, climbing, shooting and archery as well as developing their traditional scouting skills. There were also some very good results in both the Downsman competition and the Overland on which work is just about to begin for the training for this year's competition.

This coming term sees us return to the hut on troop nights as the winter programme approaches with our intention being to focus on some badge work. We need to put in some work now towards the gold award for our older scouts, training our new Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders and teaching our new members their basic skills.

All in all it's been a very good year for 1<sup>st</sup> Roffey Scout Troop and we are anticipating another good one to come.