

SCOUT TROOP

3.
22-23

The Scout Troop has had a bit of a turbulent year with it's leadership team. However, it has ended the year with a solid team and a great programme in place. The highlight of last year was taking some of the Scouts to Somerset for a "proper" scout style week long Summer Camp. By proper, I mean Green Field – where you need to dig your own toilets!

Added to that were lots more nights away packed in wherever we could fit them; the Troop has managed to rack up at least 11 nights away in 2010/2011.

In April, the Troop joint with the Spartans Explorer Scout Unit for a joint Easter Camp at Thriftwood. The Troop were also a great help digging up the ground outside of The Stockade in preparation for the refurbishment work. In June, we saw a team from the Troop take to the streets of London to take part in the Shelterbox Challenge, which was followed by two teams entering the Forest Boundary Hike. July saw the Group's annual Group Camp, where Scouts took part in Rifle shooting, archery, climbing, pedal cars, caving and much, much more. The next half of the year was spent getting the Troop ready for Pioneering Camp and the District's Campatition. These skills that were developed came in handy in the first part of this year, when the Air Scout Troop invited the Friday Scout Troop to take part in it's Survival Skills Camp. It would be thoughtless not to mention the hard work that goes i into making all this possible – including the work of the great set of Young Leaders we have who put in a lot of effort.



My thanks also goes out to all of those who have been involved with the Scout Troop the past year: Martyn Horne, Katy Thompson, Ian Thurgood, Steve Seymour, Bob Phillips, Anthony White and Jonathan Van-Loen and our Young Leaders.

MARK CARTER
(COXSWAIN)
ASSISTANT SCOUT LEADER

AIR SCOUT TROOP

In last years report, Lee mentioned the Group's plan to set up a second Scout Troop, and in October 2010, that idea came to life.

A common theme across all our sections, in fact what underpins the Group as a whole is a focus on outdoors and adventurous activities which for the Air Scouts have included in their programme.

The Troop was originally set up by Katie Hollis and Leigh Garner who joined the Group earlier last year. Unfortunately, due to work and living arrangements both Katie and Leigh had to leave the Troop and the Group. I then stepped in to take the lead and what a first six months the Troop has had.

Air Scouts meets on a Saturday morning which, while for some is unusual, gives us the

chance to provide fun and adventurous activities to the Troop.

The Troops opened with 6 members, and by the end of the year had doubled in numbers without any efforts to recruit. But there is still room to grow and improve and I know that even I am still learning how to do things.

So what have the Air Scouts been up to since October?

They started off developing an interest in aviation by making model aircraft which had a mixed success rate when we took them over to the park to fly them. We then moved on to increase the Air Scouts map reading skills in preparation for an orienteering session in Hainault Forest and a Search and Rescue Wide Game.



The Air Scouts also took part in last year's JOTA and began work on the Communicators Badge which will be developed further in 2011 drawing on the skills that Lee and I have in amateur radio.

We have tried to do our bit to have a positive impact on the community, both locally and further afield and we were incredibly proud to have a number of Scouts attend a special Remembrance Day service at Newbury Park, marching with Cadets and the TA to show our respect. All of them behaved with maturity that belied their years, even in the biting cold.

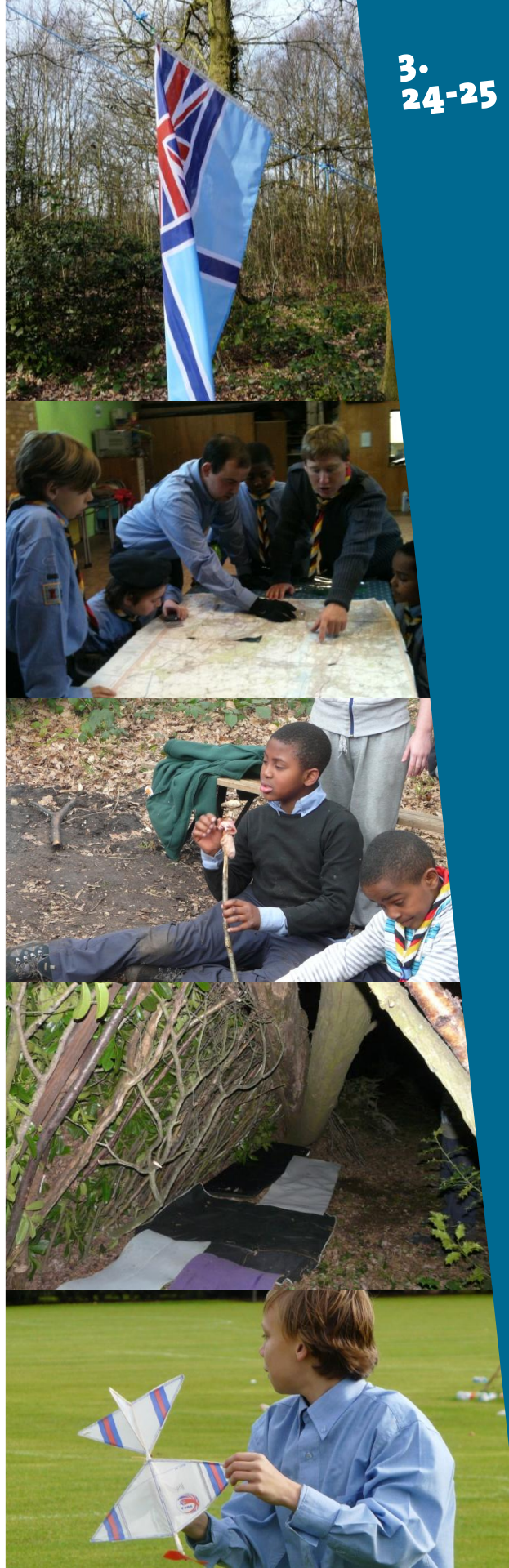
At the start of 2011, the focus of the programme was preparation for the Troop's Survival Skills Camp in March. This involved knife and axe work, backwoods cooking (where they tried to cook sausages in cabbages leaves on an open fire), first aid, fire lighting, how to build a bivouac and water purification.

What is planned for the year ahead?

- Summer Camp
- RAF Hendon Visit
- Gliding
- Power Kiting
- HMS Belfast Visit
- Master at Arms Badge
- Flight Simulator Training
- Kelvedon Hatch
- Climbing

A big thanks goes out to Eileen and Lee for their support in my new role as Scout Leader, and to Darren Billings, Ben and Savanna.

JAY SALTER
(BOMBER)
AIR SCOUT LEADER



I have always loved helping young people live their dreams and to taste real adventure . . . as well as getting caked in mud. I also hope I can use this post to encourage masses of adults in the UK to volunteer as leaders.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout



GROUP SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT

3.
26-27

2010/2011 was the first full year of the unit's existence and in the year, the Active Support Unit has focused on the Building & Grounds and the PR & Communications.

The aim of the Unit is to provide flexible volunteering opportunities to adults and now has 12 member who provide support in a variety of ways, so help on a rota on section nights, others write the Group's newsletter and articles, others organise social events and while others will look after the Group's camping equipment once we have our new store in place.

The Unit has had much support from the team at HQ and prides itself on being the first Group level Active Support Unit nationally. If you feel that you would like to get involved and volunteer a little of time, becoming a member of the unit would be the role for you.

At the end of March 2010, the Unit had seven strands of support that the Group had identified as needed. They were; Social, Fundraising; Building & Grounds; Activities; PR and Communication; Programme Support and Quartermaster

In the Unit's first full year it has set in place funding to re-locate the store room and create a new office space; run two Group camps; organised a Ladies Pamper Day; had two of its members complete the Climbing Instructors Course; provide weekly support to the Beaver Colony and the Scout Troop, appointed a newsletter editor and created the Group's recruitment material.



For 2011/2012, the Unit has a lot of work to do, including;

- Finalise funding for the refurbishment work to commence.
- Plan and organise Group Camp and JOTA Camp.
- Plan and organise a number of social events. Planned events are: Pamper Evening for Mums; Quiz Night; Open Day; and a Christmas Dinner.
- Increase its instructor skill set.
- Implement the QM role.

My thanks goes out to all of the Unit Members and the Coordinators who have helped make the first full year of the Unit a successful one and I look forward to seeing the results of many of the projects that we started being completed in the year to come.

Eileen Pooley

**Group Scout
Active Support Manager**

