



MERLINS ANNUAL REPORT June 2026

Programme Highlights

The Merlin Scout Troop currently has around 20 scouts who have once again enjoyed a varied and active programme over the past year.

In the Autumn term, we started with our usual widegames, followed by the traditional chip shop survey. We then developed navigation skills before moving on to a cooking session at the hut. As part of our wider skills programme, we covered online safety and had a creative tie dye session. The scouts also worked together in teams to build and carry sedan chairs, which proved both challenging and entertaining.

After half term, we resumed with a session creating hot air lanterns and also took part in the annual poppy collection. One of the highlights of the term was the night hike, testing navigation and teamwork skills in the dark. We then spent several weeks working on our Pinewood derby cars, from initial design and build through to a competitive race at the end of term. In addition to our usual hut-based sessions, we also enjoyed a trip to Coral Reef and an escape room, both of which were great fun and tested teamwork in different ways. Earlier in September, we also held a weekend camp aboard the Golden Hinde in London, giving scouts a unique opportunity to experience life on a historic ship.

Over the course of the Spring term, we returned after Christmas with widegames and a trip to karting, which was a particular highlight for many. We also completed a hike into town and celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a pancake cooking session. Practical outdoor skills remained an important focus, with a fires evening involving cooking sausages and marshmallows. We also ran a session combining Mother's Day preparations with some carving skills. The scouts further challenged themselves with a trip to Clip 'n Climb, and we finished the term with a session on first aid.

The Summer term has been another busy and varied period. We started with widegames before heading out for an orienteering session. Cooking remained a popular activity, alongside more outdoor-focused sessions such as hammock and shelter building. We continued making use of our RC cars for some fun and competitive challenges. As the weather improved, we took advantage of more adventurous activities, including laser tag, a paddling session on the water, and a hike. The term also included ultimate frisbee and a visit to Lagoonapark, followed by an end of term session on the water slides.

Looking ahead, the troop will be attending the Wings Jamboree in Windsor at the end of July, which promises to be a fantastic week-long camp with a wide range of activities and opportunities to meet scouts from across the region.

In terms of leadership, Merlins have continued to be supported by a consistent team of leaders throughout the year, delivering a wide-ranging and engaging programme for the troop.

Craig Koch (Scout Leader)