

Apollo Troop Annual Report 2014/2015 (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)

Apollo Troop started the year with 15 invested Scouts and finished the year with 22. During the year 2 Scouts moved on to Explorers and 3 left the Troop to do other things. Seven new Scouts were invested, three moving up from Cubs and three who were new to Scouts and one transferring from another Scout Troop. Five Scouts, who had previously been invested, transferred from other Troops. We are pleased to hear that Scouts who moved up to Explorers in previous years have continued their Scouting as members of 2 of the district Explorer Scout Units. David Runacres, one of those who moved up to Explorers last year has been busy training and fund raising in preparation for being part of the Cambridgeshire contingent to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan this summer.

Phil Pearce and Greg Jones continue as joint Scout Leaders with Phil taking charge of programme planning and leader's meetings. Phil & Greg both took major roles in organising the SWAN Norfolk Broads Sailing Expeditions. Phil was the fleet sailing manager for SWAN 65 in 2015, which was particularly challenging due to adverse weather.

Steve Belcher and Steve Pearce continue as very active Sectional Assistants. Steve Belcher is very active in planning and delivering the weekly programme and has coordinated the collection of supermarket vouchers to acquire games equipment.

Steve Pearce looks after the Group website (<http://www.2ndnenescouts.org.uk/>) and also ensures that our camps and events are thoroughly and properly organised, making sure that notices are produced for each event and that the website is up to date, as well as making sure that the required tents and equipment are in order; taking on a on procurement role acquiring replacement and specialist equipment.

Chester Oliver and Andrew Nash have been taking on more responsibility as they continue as Assistant Scout Leaders.

Andrew has been assisting new Scouts through the requirements for their investiture.

Chester has taken charge of meetings as part of his training and gained his Adventurous Activity Permit for Yachting so that he could take charge of a Norfolk Broads River Cruiser Yacht for the SWAN Expedition as well as serving on the expedition management team.

James Kirkpatrick and Frazer Nash have continued at University, but also continue with their Assistant Leaders appointment and very ably assist the Troop when they are back in Peterborough. They both complete their studies in 2015 so we wish them all the best for their graduation and hope to see them back in Peterborough during the summer.

Louise Runacres continues as our excellent Troop Administrator ensuring that all the subscriptions are collected, emergency contact details maintained, and Scouts get the badges they have earned from taking part in all the activities. Stephen Coupland [ex-Apollo Scout] has continued as a Young Leader.

During the year Apollo Scouts took part in interesting and varied troop meetings at the HQ as well as camps, expeditions and events away from the HQ including: 2 SWAN Sailing Expeditions to the Norfolk Broads; St. George's Day Parade and weekend camp with the whole group; County Competition weekend at Mepal; Traditional Patrol Weekend Camp at Yaxley; Bike Treasure Hunt at Ferry Meadows; End of Term Barbecue and 'Royal Tournament'; Summer Camp at Walesby (thanks to Challenger and Longthorpe Troop leadership); Expedition Challenge weekend that involved planning and undertaking a journey by public transport and foot from Orton to Shaklewell Hollow and Rutland Water and return; Remembrance Sunday Service; Peterborough Gang Show at the Key Theatre (as cast and audience); Wide Games and Operation Discovery Night Exercises in Nene Park to prepare older Scouts for Explorers; Hike from Southey Woods to Bretton Centre Chip Shop; Tobogganing at Tallington; Weekend Camp at Warren Oak in Herefordshire that included walking on the Malverns and preparing an exotic meal; sessions at the Climbing Wall; -Zatego District Night Exercise in Ferry Meadows. Apollo Scouts also attended the 'All the 4's Walk' and The Peterborough Scout and Guide Canoe Club.

During the Year, Apollo Scouts attained: Creative, Promise, Adventure, Outdoor and Expedition Challenge Awards; Athlete, Athlete Plus, Chef, Guide and Entertainer Activity Badges.

Apollo Scouts did a total of 73 Nights Away and 53 Hikes Away during the year.

The Apollo Leaders would like to thank all parents and guardians who have helped with meetings and events; and for their continued support in ensuring that the Scouts are smartly and correctly attired in their uniform for a prompt arrival to troop meetings, and for ensuring they have the appropriate clothing/equipment for all scouting activities including hikes and camps. We have a friendly leadership team; we welcome new help in any aspect of putting on the troop programme and value all contributions large and small. Please pop in to see us at a troop meeting, normally on a Monday night, to see what we do and if there is anything that you would like to help with.

Phil Pearce & Greg Jones - Joint Scout Leaders;
Louise Runacres - Troop Administrator

2nd Nene Apollo Troop