

Spring Newsletter



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Scouts Decide Their Programme!

Following on from the previous term, the Scouts Leaders met up with some of the Patrol Leaders from both Troops to plan the Spring Term during the Christmas holidays.

Looking at the programme, you may feel that outcome of the meeting was just to start at the beginning of the badge book and work our way through, with Astronautics and Astronomy being badges we tackled early in the term.

One of the topics that the Scouts particularly wanted to do was cooking and time was found for this in the programme as well.

A couple of joint meetings were also held over the term due to leader absences and camps.

During the term both Troops took part in District events and a County camp, "The Great Escape". Additionally 3



This picture was used in the Astronautics presentation. Is it an alien life form?

Scouts have just returned from a weekend away with the Cubs at Deiniolen.

Joint Troop Evenings

We have held a couple of joint Troop evenings this term due to leader absence (please if you are ever interested in helping please let us know) and camps.

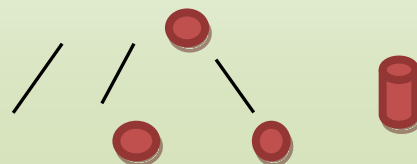
We had a quiz night; including food tasting (the pickled mussels were strangely not popular). We also had a team challenge night with various bases for groups of Scouts to try and solve puzzles.

One of the challenges is adjacent, see if you can solve it!

You need 4 beakers (all the same size) and 3 knives (all the same size). Place 3 of the beakers upside down, into a triangle shape. The beakers must be far enough so that a knife cannot rest on two of them.

Challenge:

Without moving the beakers, rest the remaining beaker on the knives so that is suspended above the 3 beakers.



Scouts Fundraising Target

£2000



**Matched funding
agreed by the
Scout Group
£1048.20**

**Money raised so
far by the Scouts
£524.10**

Astronautics Badge – Rocket Powered Scouts

The first badge that the Scouts looked at this term was the Astronautics Badge.

This involved looking at features on the Moon, Mars and comparing them to features on Earth. We looked at craters, rift valleys and volcanoes. The Scouts had a go at making their own craters.

We had a discussion as to whether alien life could exist in space.

The Scouts had their own go at building rockets from pop bottles to be powered by water and air pressure. They were challenged to build a rocket that could be launched with an egg on board, which could be landed intact.



This is a Tardigrade which can live in boiling water, solid ice and intense radiation. It can live for a decade in a desert with no water and the deepest trenches in the ocean. So living in space should not be a problem. They have already been on space mission and survived.

Astronomy Badge

Both Troops were fortunate to have Chris Collins, a professor of Astronomy at John Moores University, come to give them a presentation on Astronomy.

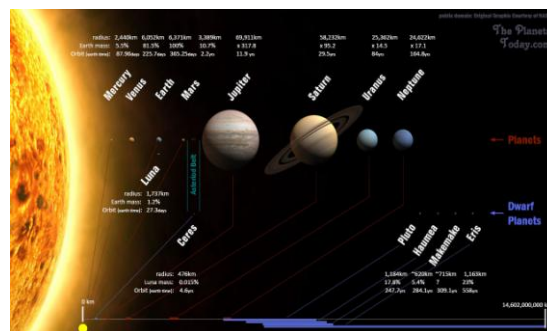
Martin Troop were particularly fortunate that on their night it was cloudless evening and Chris was able to show them a conjunction of planets that was taking place.

Richardson Troop were less fortunate with the weather but the Scouts were shown some apps that can be downloaded for free which would help identify interesting things in the nights sky. These apps are:

- Google Sky Map
- Heavens Above

Richardson Troop made a scale model of the Universe at the hut using the Scouts to represent the different parts of the universe. The Sun was in the centre of the hut, cosily surrounded by Mercury,

Venus and Earth. Poor Neptune was in the porch!



Fundraising Update – Go – Karts.

The Scout group have agreed to match the fundraising that Scouts have already done to purchase the go-karts. We are planning to build the go-karts during the autumn terms. Watch this space for further updates.

International Activity Badge

Most of the Scouts have taken part in the International activities that the Group take part in, either in the annual JOTI activity or at the Chamboree camp which is held every 4 years.

The Scouts, as part of the planning meeting, had also asked to be able to do more cooking. It therefore seemed ideal to link the cooking to the International Activity Badge.

Both Troops made pizza to complete the badge. Additionally an evening was spent making pies (although messy Martin Troop spent so long cleaning up, their pies went home uncooked!)



The Great Escape

Last year's Great Escape was a wet, muddy affair but what a difference it was this year. It was cold at night but no rain all weekend and even some sunshine on the Sunday.

We took two young teams away to this County Competition which has around 450 Scouts taking part. The site at Tawd Vale covers 80 acres of woodland, which the Scouts were able to explore safely between activities. The activities at the Great Escape are quite different from the normal activities that the new Scouts would be familiar with at Cub camps. All of the activities are based around the theme of escape and last no longer than 10 minutes.

Although it was cold at night, the Scouts had plenty of time to "chill" by the fire, which the younger Scouts had lit. Smores on Saturday night were a particular hit! (Smores are toasted marshmallows squashed between two chocolate digestives).



1st Thurstaston Scout Group

We're on the Web!

www.firstthurstaston.co.uk/

This terms programme planning meeting was held between the Scout Leaders and some of the Patrol Leaders from both Troops.

The main focus for this term will be Survival Skills culminating in a one night survival camp.

Full details of this terms programme will come out shortly.

The Great Escape Photos



Deiniolen

Last weekend 3 of the Scouts joined the Cubs for a weekend away at Deiniolen.

The Scouts proved to be excellent role models for the younger Cubs by all accounts.



Camp Dates for 2016 (so far)

29th April/1st May – Group Camp

Details to be advised – Survival Camp

23rd / 27th July – Summer Camp