

A photograph of a campsite in a forest. Several colorful tents (blue, green, red) are pitched on a grassy area. In the background, tall evergreen trees stand against a bright sky, with sunlight filtering through the branches.

Scouts annual report 2022 / 2023

2nd Marlborough Scout Group



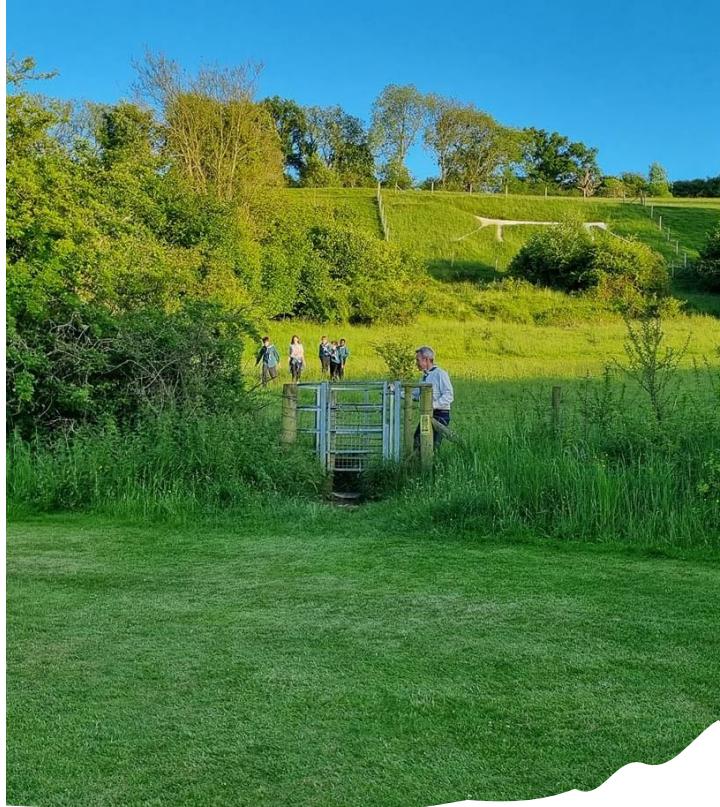
The year started with the park run. This was a fantastic effort to raise funds for the group by children from all our sections, including leaders and parents. This was a great event and it helped raise serious money for repairs to the scout hut. We had lots of fun doing it and it helped us put Marlborough Scouts in the wider community. Well done to all the organisers.

The arrival of some pleasant weather in May allowed us to practice our pioneering skills and build a rope bridge while the other half of the group undertook some much-needed maintenance of the garden at Tesco. (see below)



Derek has been instrumental in securing our commitment to maintaining the small garden at Tesco in Marlborough, for which we are very grateful. The scouts visit regularly to keep the weeds at bay and plant seasonal blubs and plants.





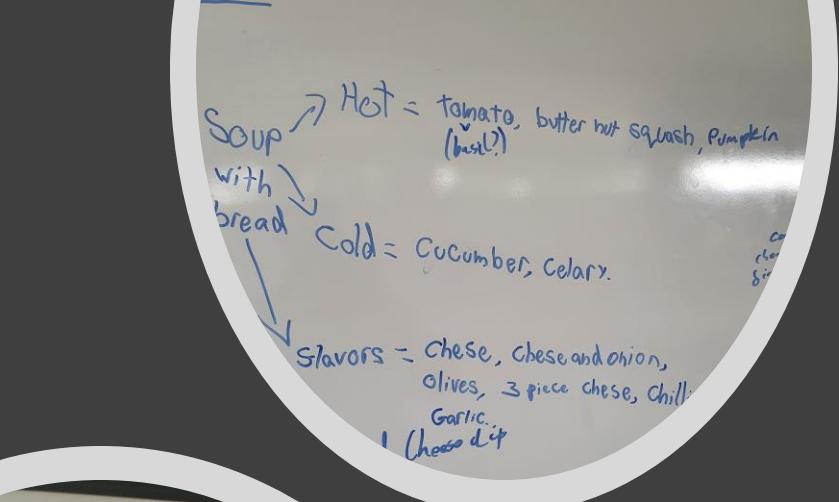
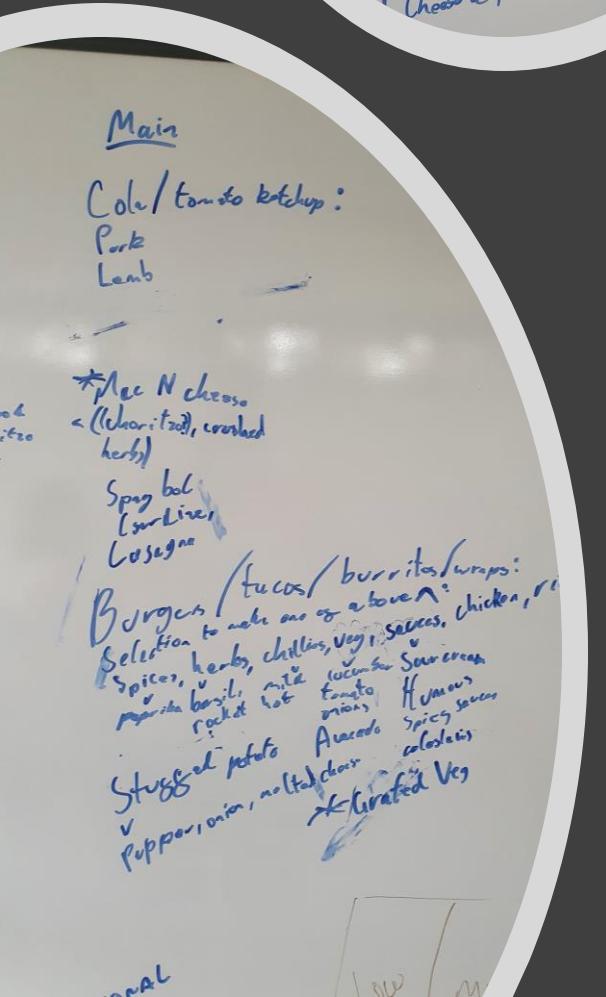
The lighter evenings gave us the opportunity to get out of the scout hut and the grounds to enjoy the warm weather. Being a leader is about teamwork and helping other sections if they are short of leader power. We were delighted to be joined by Sarah for an evenings hike in the sunshine. Can you guess where we went?

Outdoor cooking is always a favourite with the scouts. The Summer evenings gave us the opportunity to try out our new hanging grill by cooking some homemade burgers. I think it was successful by the look of their faces.

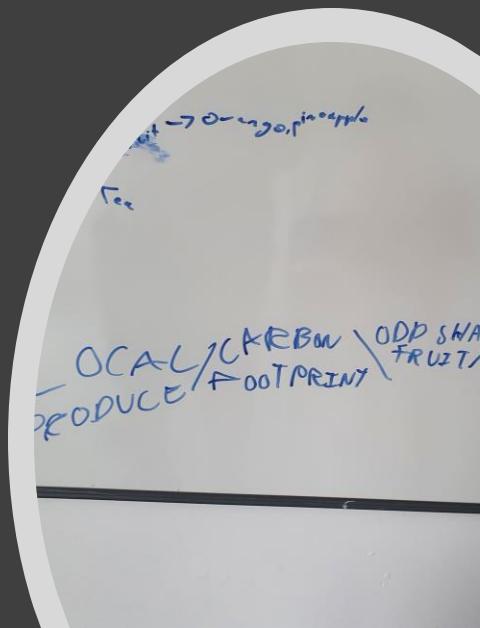


Our end of season water party is always a fun way to start the Summer holidays, although we did get a bit damp....





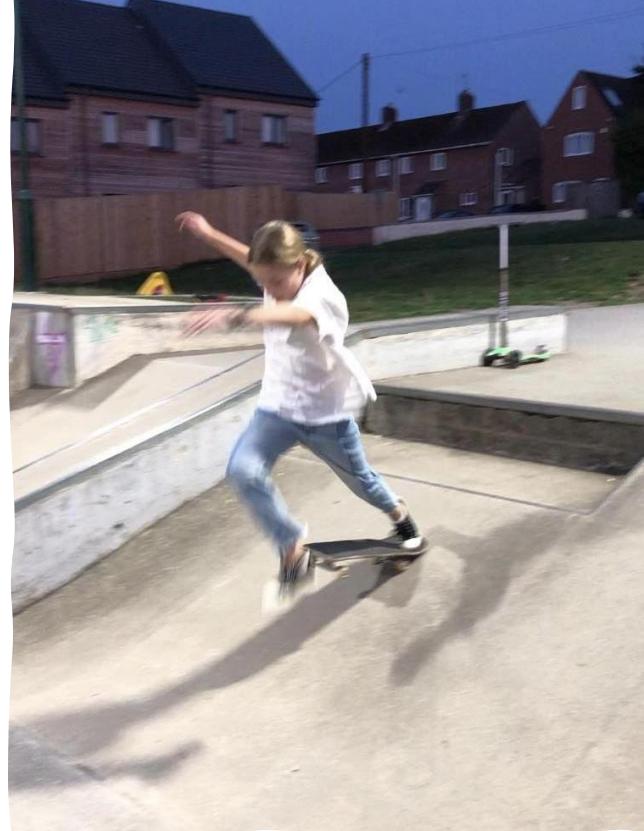
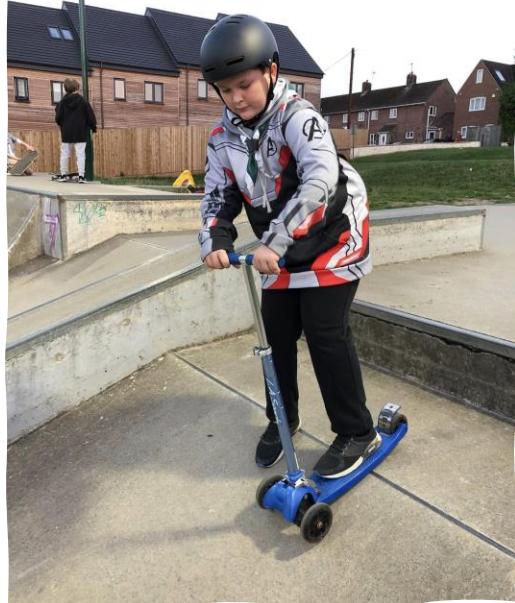
What a great first day back after the summer break. Angel and axe throwing, building fires and mind maps in the hope of the district cooking competition.



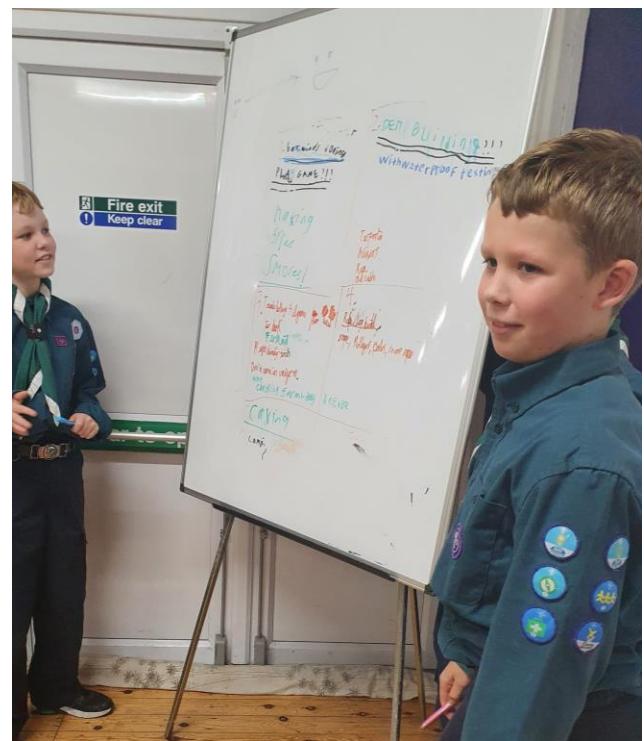
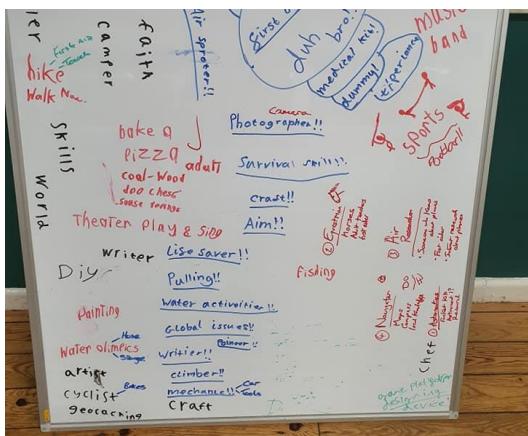
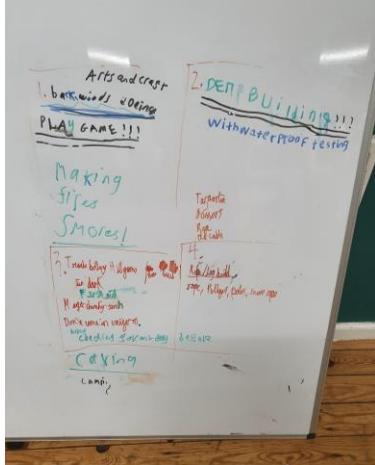


In September Scouts around the world were deeply saddened by the death of Our Patron, HM The Queen. She was a dedicated supporter of Scouts, Her Majesty has been a peerless role model for our young people.

As the evenings draw in, we try to squeeze the last bit of fun out of them by going to the skate park. This was the first time for a few of the Scouts and I think they'll be returning....



As part of our #skillsforlife strategy we had a planning and presentations evening, which generated some great ideas. We plan to build in this work by asking the Scouts to lead some activities, with our help if they need it. A common message though was "let's go camping" so it looks like we've got some work to do to deliver these youth shaped experiences.



We had another great air activities session towards the end of September, which was expertly delivered by Captain Becky Gilbert. Lots of interesting questions and amazing knowledge of things associated with flying.



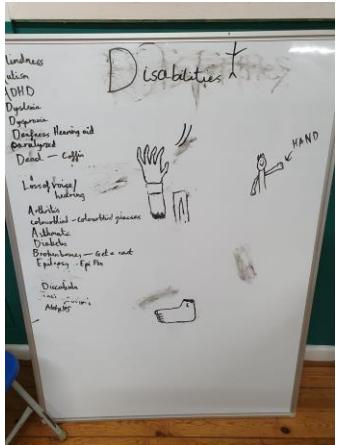
The onset of Autumn gives us the opportunity to try some traditional school games. Did you know that the game of conkers was first recorded in 1849?



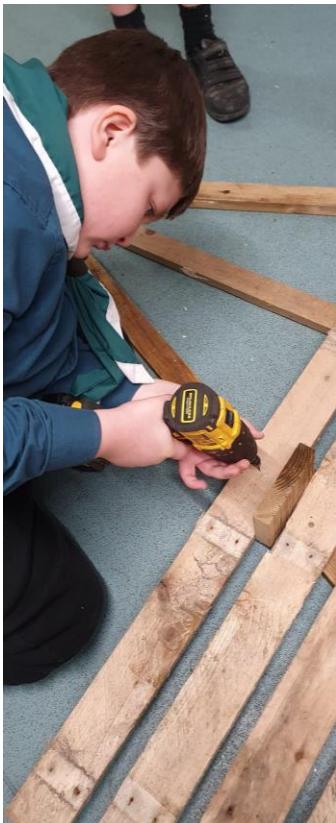


The weather was perfect – warm and bright for Novembers Remembrance Parade in Marlborough. Phoenix Brass Band lead out of the High Street, into Barn St via Oxford Street and down to the War Memorial adjacent to the Wye House roundabout where the silence was scrupulously observed and the wreath laying ceremony took place.





Can a blind person build a jenga tower? Can a one armed person make a paper aeroplane? Some of our Scouts found out when we looked at different disabilities and how we can make everyday life better for them.

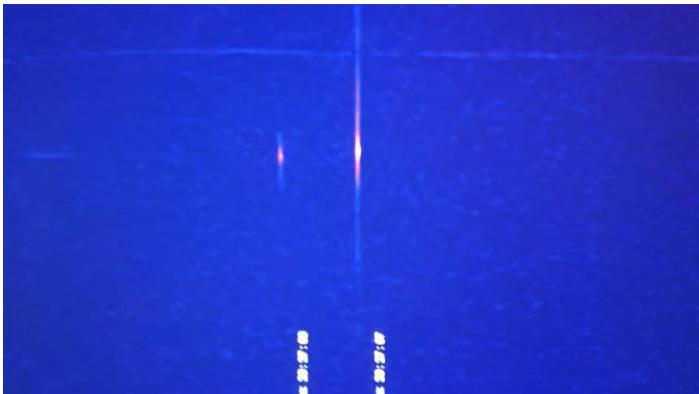


Our Scouts used their DIY skills to make another Christmas tree by recycling wood from old pallets. Thanks to a combined effort of Wednesday and weekend Scouts, the new Christmas tree and lights went up in time.



Kennet troop have been meeting one a month with some new scouts and a couple of old-hands. They've been busy doing axe throwing, fire lighting, Backwoods cooking, DIY, air rifle shooting, indoor hockey and "Grannies Keys".



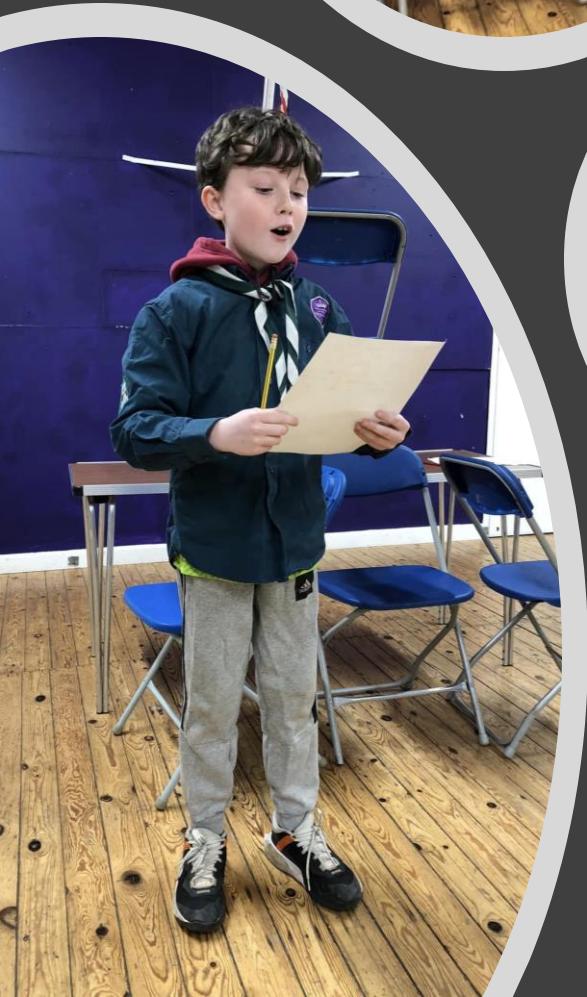


We had a really interesting evening at the Blackett observatory in January, courtesy of Marlborough College. We watched the observatory's live stream which monitors meteors as they enter our atmosphere and burn up. The brighter the blip on the screen, the bigger the meteor. You can watch the live stream on their YouTube channel. Just search for Blackett observatory. These rocks are approximately 4.6 billion years old!



Burns night fell on a Wednesday this year which gave us the ideal opportunity to celebrate the life and poetry of Scottish poet Robert Burns, who would have been 264 this year. The Scouts prepared, cooked and taste tested Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. Huge thanks to Ken and Cal for dressing in traditional clothes and Cal for doing a great rendition of addressing the haggis.

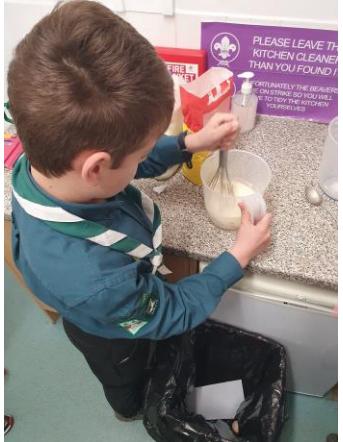




As part of national storytelling week we had some interesting, fun stories and short poems from Scouts. We even had a jokes routine thrown in....



To celebrate Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) we tried to make pancakes in a coat hanger pizza style, but it didn't quite go according to plan as the mixture was too runny. Between you and i, while the others make the fires to cook the pancakes, we thought that we'd try our mixture to see what it tastes like!





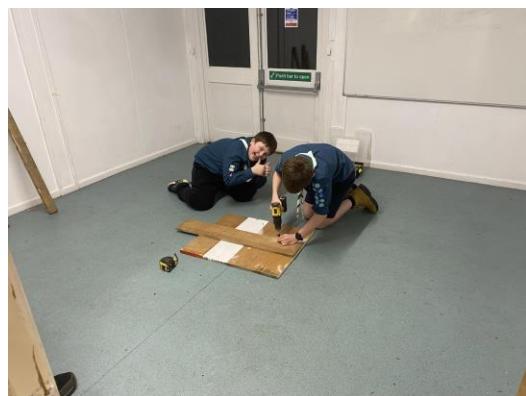
Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant (St Davids Day) gave us to celebrate the patron saint of Wales. Scouts made Welsh cakes and tried Bara Brith. I don't know where the dodgy looking daffodil came from.....



Kennet troop continues to meet monthly and in March they started with Angel throwing, then cleared a patch and sowed wild flower seeds, game of indoor hockey, Investiture training and started on the Chef badge. Then time for a hike ending with investing 5 Scouts at Treacle Bolly. Then back to the hut for some dodge ball.
Welcome to Marlborough Scouts.



As part of our
ongoing
#skillsforlife
strategy we had
an evening of
Easter themed
DIY and games run
by scouts for
scouts





Kennet scouts is becoming more popular and Aprils meeting started with a walk up to Savernake Forest and back. Then a problem solving game before removing turf & digging a fire pit for some Backwoods cooking.

One group made sausage casserole while the others made their own egg-free burgers. The garlic bread got a bit burnt but the corn-on-the-cobs cooked well in the embers. Baked bananas for desert and then the washing up and returning the turf! Next it was up to Treacle Bolly for two investitures and throwing a free eggs around, a French Easter game.



As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We bring communities together and contribute to society. Above all, we aim to build better futures. That's why we encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we aim to have fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed in life.

Delivering an interesting Scout programme each term is not just about one person, but about the whole leadership team coming together to deliver a fun and challenging programme that move our young people forward, giving them new skills and experiences they otherwise might not have had. I would very much like to thank Ken, Derek, Cal and Becky for their continued support and our scouts for their continued enthusiasm they show each week.

I hope that as we move forward into the summer months we can spending a lot of time outdoors in the run up to the end of the year, using the time effectively focussing on the world around us, the environment and the community and hopefully supporting some community initiatives along the way.

Steve Connor
Scout Leader