

It may be winter but we don't hibernate!

By Canford Heath Scouts

We have again packed a large variety of activities into one term; here is a taste of what we achieved. We start each term with a troop forum, these allow our Scouts to view the previous term and vote upon each activity and agree those to be completed again or need to be adjusted for the next occasion. The new term timetable is also agreed by both Scouts and Leaders. This term we began with a games night and the following week a baking and cooking evening. Volunteers represented each patrol and were judged upon their baking with the winners progressing to the next stage. The remaining Scouts completed a cooking challenge on gas burners. The older, experienced Scouts help the younger ones, who quite often have never had the opportunity to cook before.

We attended the Harvest Festival at St. Pauls Church, with all sections bringing food to be donated to the Poole Food Bank. This is an event we have attended for several years. Here we are following the Service just prior to helping carry the food to the Food bank car. It was pleasing to see such a large amount donated by both our local community and all sections of Canford Heath.



The next Wednesday evening, we undertook a newspaper challenge with each patrol completing numerous activities involving the use of one newspaper. These included, locating well known persons pictures, using letters to create a code, build the tallest tower etc.

We attend our local councillors regular litter picks and have been for four years, this term we have attended two, one around the Aadastral shops area and the second around the Chaldon Play Park area. The time counts towards their Community Challenge.



The Scouts enjoyed an evening of decorating biscuits, relay games and tying themselves up in knots, some of which were the correct ones! The hiring of a mobile skittle alley allowed for a much enjoyed skittles competition evening accompanied by a meal of sausage or burger and chips.

We were very pleased when the Poole Radio Society again agreed to attend our JOTA/JOTI weekend at our hall. The Scouts really found the event both interesting and enjoyable. They were able to contact other Scouts from around the world using various forms of communication including the Morse Key. We had our own officially registered call sign. In between turns at the various stations they carried out repairs and gardening around the hall, this included gutter cleaning, path repairs and trimming our Scouting Centenary hedges.

During the previous term we completed a sponsored swim and walk. With the money raised we decided to buy food from Sainsburys. We had spent an evening with them earlier in the year, completing quizzes around the store and food tasting as part of their fair trade events. Fair trade foods were bought along with other food items with the help of Kirsty of Sainsburys. We had a great time shopping and the Scouts enjoyed the opportunity to take turns at the checkout passing the food across the “bleeping machine” as one of them referred to it. Kirsty also gave us cakes and biscuits as a well done for the sponsorship success, we all enjoyed these the following Wednesday.



The food has been divided between the Salvation Army and the Poole Food Bank. These activities have worked towards the Global Challenge.

Our following evening activities included the bake off semi final, which was judged by Bill and Sue of the Radio Society who attended to present the Communications badges. They agreed that the standards were very high and it was very difficult to pick winners to progress to the final. Games and food related quizzes completed the evening.



Every year we hold a November Camp at Butchers Coppice to coincide with the Poole Remembrance Service and Parade in Poole Park. The activities include cooking with various burners, camp fire with soup and rolls, fireworks party, rifle shooting competition, Scouting skills and wide games.

We are gathering outside the Jubilee Centre just prior to leaving for the parade, once a final check has been made of each other to ensure standards are being maintained. This year was the largest parade for many years. Unfortunately the long period of standing usually takes its toll on the young attendees but we are pleased to say that over the years we have never had any of our Scouts collapse during the Service.



Our final evenings include various games and patrol challenges including construction with bamboo canes to build a tower with a candle on top and the bake off final, this time judged by parents. The standards were again very high. Well done to everyone who took part.

During December we are attending the District Carol Service at St. James Church and an evening ski bobbing and ringos at Snowtrax which will include our annual awards ceremony and Christmas presents. Our last Wednesday will involve various crafts that allow for Christmas present and card making.

This is followed by a much needed rest to recharge the batteries ready for the New Year and another fun packed term. Happy New Year to you all from Canford Heath Scout Troop.