**1st Woodend Scouts Annual Report for 2023 2024**

1st Woodend Scout leaders made the decision to run with just one troop night as numbers were low before Christmas, now running on Tuesdays with around 23 scouts.

We have 7 leaders: Mike Rickwood (Boomer), Pete Carnegie, Ian Kershaw, Dan Rickwood, Simon Carnegie, Poppy Bulteel, Jeff Broderick.

Badges

Over the past year the scouts have been achieving a wide range of activity badges from Crafts, Hikes, Entertainer, cooking, camping, Pioneering, Navigator, Hobbies, Master at Arms, naturalist/Forester badge, some of these badges then work towards their Challenge Badges which when they have achieved enough works towards their Gold.

We had 1 who moved to explorers and had achieved his gold award.

Troop Nights

The Scouts over the last year have been practicing their knots and building towers, swings, obstacles, and trebuchet. Practicing their basic Scout skills with Knife, Axe and Saw Safety and Fire Lighting, Backwoods Cooking, shooting with air rifles, river walks and testing, bird boxes, bug hotels, planting of wild flowering seeds, growing of potatoes in a bucket learning how to sharpen tools safely, putting up Tents along with other activities such as Team Challenges.

Camps

The Scouts have taken part in various camps. We also had two camps at Avening Green where the scouts go off on a bus to Yate with a budget to purchase their own food and cook their own meals on open fires. And a camp at Woodhouse Park.

Other Activities

The Scouts over the last year have also proudly supported some of our local events for fund raising such as Charities Fair, Town Hall Teas, Charfield Fete, Cromhall Flower Show, where, as always people commented on their good behaviour and manners. The Scouts had their Christmas party at an indoor crazy golf

Churches

As always, the Scouts turned out in with a good representation at both Charfield and Cromhall for Remembrance Parade. The Scouts also had a good turnout for the Carol Service which was held at Tortworth Church where they created a quiz for the congregation.

I wish to thank all the leaders for their continuous support, dedication and enthusiasm each week on the troop evenings and at camps and the continuous hours put in behind the scenes. Especially as this year has seen myself occupied with other work commitments.

And like to thank all the Scouts for their enthusiasm and attendance.

YIS

Mike Rickwood (Boomer)