

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Shortheath Scout Group Year in Review 2024 – 2025**

What a fantastic year it's been! One of the biggest highlights was the launch of our Squirrel section, welcoming 4–6 year olds into the Scouting adventure. We started with 10 eager young members and quickly grew to full capacity — a testament to the programme and the incredible support from our volunteers and parents. The energy and excitement from our newest section have been infectious and all sections have grown to capacity.

Our Winter Funday, organised by the District for Beavers and Cubs, was a huge hit — packed with laughter, games, Santa and great memories. This year the event is happening again and will extend the fun to include our Squirrels too.

This year we joined District Camp instead of running our own, which opened up access to exciting activities like laser tag and a silent disco — experiences that would normally be out of reach for groups independently. We took 69 young members to camp — our largest turnout ever! A massive thank you to everyone who made it possible. Next year we are going back to our own camp and have already got plans underway.

We were immensely proud of the turnout for the Remembrance Parade. It's so important to show our respects, and the number of young people who participated was truly inspiring.

Our festive season kicked off with a trip to TenPin, where we bowled and played laser tag. We wrapped up the holidays with a visit to the Panto to see Dick Wittington — a magical experience for all, including adults 😊

We had an experienced team to help us with our cycling badge, a visit to the fire station, a visit from the police, qualified first aider to help with our First Aid badge, British Legion, Dudley Zoo, Caving, Activity day where we did kayaking & shooting ..... The list could go on 😊

### **Looking Ahead: 2025–2026**

We've got an exciting year ahead!

In November, 12 Scouts will head to London for a sleepover on HMS Belfast, along with some sightseeing — it promises to be a fantastic weekend. Other activities in progress for the year include, Sleepovers at church, group camp, days out to Lego Discovery & Cadbury World. Monopoly Run. We have visitors from the Animal man, blind institute, British Legion, a visit to Pets At Home and many more fun things will get arranged during the year

We are trying to do as many off-site activities as we can, but we need your help. If you're able to volunteer, even occasionally, please speak to a Leader. Becoming an Occasional Helper or finding a role that suits your availability could make a huge difference to our programme and the experiences we can offer.

Thanks to everyone who made this past year so special. Here's to another year of adventure, growth, and unforgettable memories!