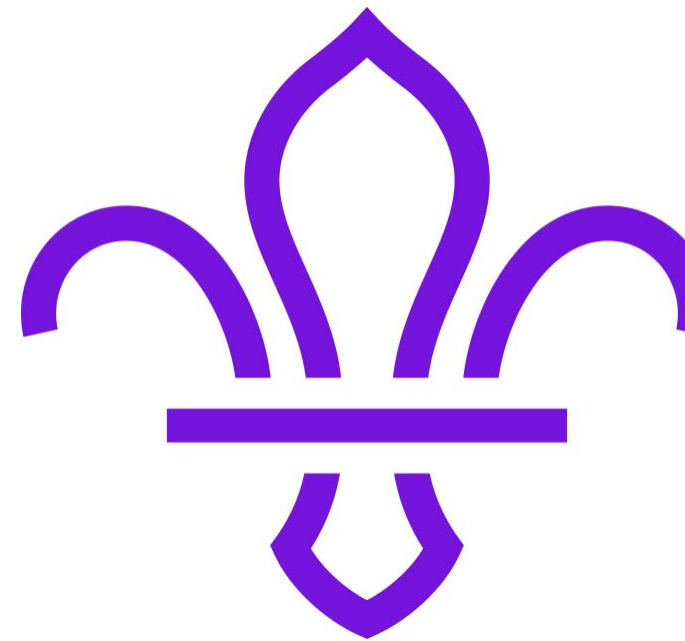


ROWBOAT
AGLIDING PARASCENDING
HALL QUADBIKING GRAFT BUILDING ROWING SAILING
LLING SHOOTING SINGLE PITCH CLIMBING SKIING SNORKELLING SNOWBO
REETS SPORTS SUBAQUA SURFING SWIMMING WATERSKIING WHITEWATER RAFTIN
RFING ZORBING ABSEILING AERIAL RUNWAY ARCHERY BALLOONING BANDS BOUL



1ST HALTON SCOUT GROUP

AGM 28th Nov 2023

GSL Report

It's been a great year for the group over all. We have had a number of changes in the sections, with Naomi taking over in Beavers, Sorrel and Mark taking over running Scouts and with Boyana starting the new Squirrels section.

Robert has been doing a wonderful job as Deputy GSL doing a lot of the time intensive tasks that I would have struggled to find the time to do properly myself, as well as tackling many maintenance tasks.

Over the next year there are a number of changes taking place across scouting, with volunteer training undergoing major changes, the membership management online portal being redeveloped and all the volunteer titles changing to reflect that we are not paid employees and are in fact unpaid 'volunteers'. The Group Exec has already changed it's name to Group Trustee Board, since all the members on the Exec are trustees of the group.

Money

This year we have started to use OSM for our finances, both in the collecting of money and also for accounting purposes. This was to make life easier for our leaders and our Treasurer, and helps us keep track of our income more effectively.

In addition to receiving money for the use of the Car Park by Bee Adventures, we also now have a band that use the Scout hut for practicing in. We welcome anyone who wishes to hire the hut on an occasional or regular basis to get in contact with us, as this is a great source of additional income for us beyond Subs and grants.

The Finance report is attached at the end of this report.

Volunteering

We are always on the lookout for parents who would like to help out in the sections on an occasional, or more regular basis. If you are interested, you can speak to any of the section leaders or me or Robert.

John Elliott (GSL and Scout Leader)

Squirrels

Squirrels is the newest section at Halton Scouts, welcoming children aged 4-6. We had our opening night in June this year and have had 12 starters in the group, with 8 currently attending. We also have several young people awaiting their 4th birthday to join our group soon.

To date, the Squirrels have earned several activity badges and are currently preparing to take part in the first District Adventure Day on the 25th of November at SilverHelme. They were also the first Squirrels to take part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade in Halton. They carried the flag, marched with pride and represented the Scouts values brilliantly, well done Squirrels!

The group currently only has one leader and one occasional helper. We need more adult support to ensure we always meet the adult ratio requirements. We encourage all parents to get involved - there are many ways to support Squirrels and have fun doing it. Please speak to Boyana about different ways to get involved.

Many thanks

Boyana



1st Halton Beavers Report

1st Aug 2022 – 31st July 2023

Over the last year the Beavers section has continued to grow to capacity and I have moved from Section Assistant to Section Leader alongside Sorrel. This current term has been my first as solo leader.

Beavers have taken part in a huge variety of activities over the year and had the opportunity for 5 nights away. An incredible 47 challenge badges and 187 staged & activity badges have been awarded, with 9 Beavers achieving their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Autumn included fire lighting skills, team games nights, space and science sessions. Spring brought qigong, a visit from LANSAR to talk about water safety, pancakes and working on disability awareness. In the summer we visited Eggcup, did some pioneering, some sewing and learnt about Beavers around the world.

When I wrote out the list of events we've held, I was impressed with how much we have been able to pack in: Beavers attended Red Rose in August and became Vikings for the day. It was great fun and I really hope to join next year's Red Rose this time with added camping. We've been climbing, on STEM and Environment Days, spent the Night at the Museum and at Giggles. We've had some poignant national events reflecting on the death of the Queen, joining the planting of the Queen's Green Canopy and then taking part in the Big Help Out to Celebrate the King's Coronation. The year culminated in almost the entire section joining the Group Camp at Little Dale which was a great success.

I'm really proud of my Beavers, who have all grown within themselves, shown great determination when trying new skills and a wonderful strength in overcoming personal challenges.

Thank you

Naomi (Badger)



Cub Scout Report 2022-2023

Over the last 12 months the numbers of cubs in the pack have remained between 18-25 children. Several cubs have left the pack to move on up to scouts and there are several new cubs who have moved up from the beaver section too. In September and October 2022, we started the scouting year by testing out our new air rifle shooting range, we completed activities all about dinosaurs, we held a Halloween and bonfire party, made poppies for Remembrance Day, we had a night on chocolate and finished the year with a Christmas party.

In January and February 2023, we looked at safety with the cubs completing their home safety and personal safety badges. We celebrated Chinese New Year and held an international night and also made pancakes. We built an obstacle course, tried ballista building, had a go at fire-lighting and held a challenge night. These were just some of the activities we completed before Easter.

After Easter we took the opportunity to get outside, found out about St George, celebrated the King's coronation by making crowns and cakes, completed the athletics badge, had a go on the orienteering course in the village and tried out some new outdoor games. We had an evening looking at tents, played some water games, looked at maps and navigation, had a challenge night and looked at our left side before completing the year with a joint party with the beaver section.

Throughout the last 12 months the cubs have done various joint activities with one or more of the other sections in the group. These have included a Night at the Museum sleepover with the beavers in October, a group Halloween and bonfire party, taking part with the scout group in Remembrance Sunday and planting some young trees along the path behind the new Storey houses with the beavers. In December the cubs attended the district Santa sleepover at Our Ladies Catholic College with several other cub packs and also went tubing at Kendal Snowsports club in January 2023 with the beavers.

In April the District camp was cancelled, so the beavers, cubs and scouts in the group still went camping to Littledale instead and had a fantastic weekend despite the thunder, lightning and heavy rain showers that got all the cubs soaking wet.

All the children coped very well with the changeable weather conditions and everyone had a great time. Just about all the children in the group attended the camp and enjoyed a fun-packed weekend full of activities. Many thanks to the leaders and parents who helped out on the camp to make it a great weekend.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Ben for all his help each week at cubs and also Robert for his help too both at pack nights and behind the scenes doing maintenance, looking after the stores and equipment and doing lots of admin.

I hope this next 12 months is as good as the last.

Anne Prescott

Cub Leader

Maintenance Report

It's not been as busy a year as the previous in terms of maintenance, but still some important and long benefiting jobs completed, the main items being the:

- Replacement of flooring in both of the toilets and cloakrooms as the tiles were starting to lift, this has been a major improvement and not only improves the safety but also makes the toilets and cloakrooms feel brighter and cleaner. In doing this, all 4 toilets were removed to allow the flooring to be laid and at the same time came a great opportunity to paint the walls.
- Replacement of lighting in stores, toilets and kitchen which were aging and beginning to fail and flicker. This was completed around March time and has made the spaces brighter and also saving on electricity.

As always there are always still lots of jobs to do, but this list is getting smaller and is mainly now cosmetic. The main item of concern now however is the drains from the hut to the septic tank/pit which are believed to be sunken and collapsed and repeatedly blocking up. Any knowledge on this area would be greatly appreciated. We also have a quote to replace the flooring in the kitchen and store rooms which is lifting and looking very tired at 40+ years old and we will be looking for funding and fundraising to go towards this in the future.

At some point we will likely look to have a maintenance day/weekend where we can hopefully clear some more of the list, we didn't get around to organising something this last year, but it would likely sometime around easter 2024 as the weather improves. If you are willing to lend a hand at any time, be it cleaning now and again or doing some maintenance let me know, help is greatly appreciated. Finally, we welcome the use of the building by the local community and if you are looking for a space to use for an event or group activity, birthday party or anything else, speak to one of the leaders, all we ask is a fairly small fee to essentially cover the running costs.

Robert Prescott