

1st Thurstaston Annual General Meeting 2018

Friday 29th June 2018 7pm

Flag raised by Matthew McGurk

1. John McBain, Chairperson - WELCOME
2. Apologies - Rachel Colburn, Dave & Marjorie Reed, Margaret Fletcher, Richard Twemlow, many parents
3. Minutes of previous AGM

Proposed by Caro McBain

Seconded by Liz Hughes

4. Chairperson Report - John McBain
5. Treasurer's report - Lynn Harrison
6. Group Scout Leader's report - Sue Flush.

Appointment of officers - Sue Flush as GSL.
John McBain has agreed to continue as Chair
GSL to duly appoint - John McBain

7. Election of officers – John McBain as Chair.

Treasurer - Lynn Harrison has agreed to continue in the role of treasurer for a further 12 months.

Group Secretary - Vicky McGurk has agreed to continue.

10. Election of Executive Committee officers - by Sue Flush as GSL.

The Group Council

(John McBain as spokesperson)

To elect Rachel Colburn, Dawn Rudd, Matt Burdon, Gillian Carswell, and Wendy Wood as elected officers and these were seconded by Jayne Oliver
All in favour

Co-opted members of the Group Council were Fergus Lang, Gill Burton, John Burton, Steve Hare, Dave Reed And Marjorie Reed.

10. Guest speaker – Phill Richardson

11. Pass over to each section leader for awards (see sep sheet)

Beaver Scouts- Thor Colony: - Jayne Oliver

Ismay Colony: - Sarah West

Cub Scouts- Fletcher Pack:- Liz Hughes

Reed Pack: - Caroline McBain

Scouts- Martin Troop – Brian Young

Scouts – Richardson Troop- Andy Costall

The flag duly lowered by in the closing ceremony by Matthew McGurk

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Welcome Phill Richardson, our District Commissioner, and our other guests from District and to you all. It's great to have you here for our AGM. I will be keeping my report brief this evening and have just a few things to say:

The Group Exec is responsible for the fund raising programme of the Group, and supporting the leader team, whom I have had the pleasure of working with closely this year taking part in various activities. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for the group. Anyone can join - we have three meetings a year at the start of each term to discuss the events we will be running/supporting, and we get to hear first-hand what each colony/pack/troop is up to.

Thank you for supporting the events we put on, we wouldn't raise as much money without your contributions and attendance. We have been fortunate this year to have matched funding and Christmas & Spring fairs by parents, and I must thank Wendy Wood, who continues to take the lead in organising these events. She does an amazing job every year –thank you.

We have also had the Irby Club envelope drop and the firework night, to supplement the on-going events of the Christmas post, the 100 club and Easyfundraising/Easysearch. If anyone has any other ideas then please discuss them with us.

The income from these events allows us to keep the cost of the subscriptions lower than is required to cover our running costs.

At this point I'd like to ask more parents to join the Group Exec or offer to support the sections during the week as extra Parent helpers - we are continually growing in section numbers so it really is vital that we have more adult support from the parent body both with the Exec and Leader Team.

We have wonderful grounds but they need a great deal of time and effort to maintain. Thanks to Andy Costall, Jon Oliver and all those who have helped at the work days we have had this year. I hope you all admire the new Bothy that the Scout Leaders built for the Group to offer a different camping experience for our young people. Many hands make light work. Again anyone can come and help at the work days – they are great for bringing everyone together and the field always has lots of twigs that need picking up before mowing. It's also a great opportunity to get to know the whole Group.

While mentioning outside I'll briefly thank you all for your continued co-operation shown over the access issues to the site.

Thanks go to Ian and Nathan for continuing to maintain and update the group website - please take a look at the archives and photo gallery. And I must also mention thanks to the Leader Team for the fantastic amount of pictures they put up on the Facebook page that lets parents see what their children achieve on our activity programmes and events. I think the highlight for me was winning the Grass Sledge competition on the Cub Pack holiday!

And finally, a huge thanks to our Group Scout Leader, Sue, and Leader Team for their continued hard work and commitment to the Group. You are fantastic!

So now, I'll pass you to Lynne for her Treasurers Report.

Group Scout Leader Report 2018

Our 85th Year – wow what an achievement – this year a slightly different format from me – a few words of thanks on each Section and then something for you to watch and enjoy.

Each Section has done their own report and these will be available soon on the Group's website and emailed to you – our website is a fantastic fountain of knowledge please have a look at it.

Let's thank each Section

Ismay Beaver Colony

Sadly Helen stepped down as BSL at Easter and we would like to thank her very much for her time as Beaver Leader, Sarah agreed to take over and has been assisted by Steve and Sharon alternating weekly. Gemma who does the Ismay admin is now helping each week assisted by Young Leader David and some parents who help on a fairly regular basis when their work allows them. There are currently 29 Beavers in this Colony and I have to say that most of them turn up every week.

They have a fantastic programme and do some amazing activities, in the last 12 months they have had a sleepover at the hut with a great turnout and some of the Beavers are becoming seasoned campers, with great numbers from Ismay attending our recent Group Camp as day visitors and even more coming to the joint summer camp in July – well done team Ismay.

Thor Beaver Colony

Led by Jayne and assisted by Rachel and Dan each week, Sue L when she can make it and some parent helpers. Rachel has had to take some time off to have a replacement knee operation and Dan often has to work away, so we are keen to recruit some new parent helpers for this Colony, Lucy is their Young Leader. 24 Beavers regularly attend Thor Colony with good numbers attending the recent Beaver District camp at our HQ and some more coming to our summer camp next month. They also have a great programme and some really interesting activities, outings and adventures.

Fletcher Cub Pack

Led by Liz, with assistance from Jon, Beth and Ed when he is home from Uni with Young Leaders, Matty, Adam, Alastair & Henry. Matty turns 18 very soon and will join us as an adult leader. Fletcher Pack has expanded considerably and 36 Cubs attend each week, both packs follow the same programme and attend the camps and outings together. They have done some great activities this year and taken part in most District events.

Reed Cub Pack

Led by Caro, with assistance from Paul, Josh and Nathan and Olly (when they are home from Uni). Young Leaders are Will, Mathew and Matty. Some of our YL's have been doing serious exams again this year so we appreciate the time they give us all the more. 25 Cubs attend weekly, both packs camp a lot and this year we have been to Deiniolen and Group camp already with Summer camp and QCW District Cub camp to come. Cubs are embarking on a fantastic new International adventure next year with 25 of us attending a PGL holiday to Paris next February, my thanks to Caro for taking the lead on this exciting trip.

Martin & Richardson Scout Troop – now merged

With Andy and Brian as Scout Leaders and assistance from Alan, Andrew and Dan (who recently turned 18) Ben has sadly been unable to attend due to his work relocation. Carrick and John are also Assistant Scout Leaders and attend when they can and are home from Uni, the Young Leaders are Lucas, Jacob and Josh. 31 Scouts are on the books at the moment but 7 move on to become Explorers and YL's (we hope) at the end of this term. As with Cubs the Scouts follow the same programme and share outings and camps together.

I am delighted to announce that Scouts have recently brought home some silverware to add to the trophy cabinet, Sam Shepherd was the top scoring Scout in the District Bowling Comp in the autumn and they won the recent District Backwoods Cook off – very well done to all involved and our leaders for running the Cook off event.

We are also delighted that two Scouts from our Group were selected to attend the WSJ in the USA next summer 2019. Congrats to Mathew Callaghan and Jamie Young on this fantastic achievement, we know you will have an amazing experience and we will be helping with the fundraising along the way.

6 of our Scouts and 10 Young Leaders are attending Chamboree 2018 this summer and 2 more Scouts and one

YL are going to Belgium for the first District International camp.

Thanks Section

We have a fantastic team of adults and Young leaders who make this Scout Group what it is and enable us to achieve everything that we do. They provide top quality, first class Scouting for your children each week and more with the camps and outings, please join me and thank them for their time, dedication and energy, we would not be as successful as we are without them. (Applause)

Behind the scenes is another team, equally as important and hardworking.

John who has taken on the role of Chair and agreed to continue and brings his many practical skills to the group, thank you.

Vicky who has agreed again to stay on as Group Sec and does a huge amount of work assisting both Scout troops with their admin – thank you.

Lynn our treasurer has also agreed to stay on and keeps us on the straight and narrow financially – thank you.

Our Exec Committee, Wendy who organises the Easter and Xmas Fairs, Gillian, Jane, Dawn, Chris, and Matt who all help with the running of the Group and our fundraising. Jane and Chris have decided to step down this year so we are looking for more support in this area please. Thanks to both for all their hard work and efforts over the many years of service they have between them. Dave and Marjorie, the Group President and his wife who support us all year round.

Thanks to everyone who is involved, leaders young and old, parents, and let's not forget the children, the reason we all do it. Scouting is a great fun and we all love it – there is always room for more help so please consider joining us, you won't regret it – I promise.

AWARDS – AGM 2018

THOR COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Joshua Hughes

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – Charlie Webster

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Ethan Poynton

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – Joseph Cheesman

ISMAY COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Jesse Cox

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – Gabriella Perlaki

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Freya Morris

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – Harriet Bissette

FLETCHER PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Alex Brooker

CUB PARTICIPATION – Ptolemy Ellis

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Ollie Pover

CUB OF THE YEAR – Ben Griffin

REED PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Tom Oldfield

CUB PARTICIPATION – Isla Brady

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Finlay Stitcher

CUB OF THE YEAR – Gabriel McBain

MARTIN TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Luke Watson

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – Finn Dawson

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Summer Henning

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – Skye Henning

RICHARDSON TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – Theo Redwood

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – Sam Shepherd

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – Lewis Blakemore

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – Nia Jenkinson

YOUNG LEADER OF THE YEAR – Alastair Carswell

Fletcher Chief silver

Zack Armithalingham

Sam Quayle

Ben Griffin

Sam Roberts

Ismay – chief Bronze

Erin McGurk
India Morris
Harry West
Ruby Roberts
Ava Randles

Due
Zack Armithalingham
Tom Griffin
Nathan. Wright
Finley Emma
Daniel Williams
Gabriella Perlacki

Martin Troop Chief Gold Award

Skye Henning

Jamie Young

Alex Oakes

Cameron Stirrat

Tom Callaghan

Thor chief bronze

Here is a list of the Beavers who have achieved their Chief Scout Bronze award in the last year: Jared Cross, Zachary Cree, Sam Matthews, Nathan Smith and Oliver Cundall.

Nathan and Oliver will be receiving theirs at the A.G.M.

The following achieved their Chief Scout Award this year: Reed pack

Josh Ozturk, Jake Singleton, Daniel Young, Dylan Lear, Will Matchett, Grace Watson, Gabe McBain and Dylan West.

Regards

Caroline

The Ismay Beavers started the autumn term by becoming farmers for the evening helping to feed the chickens, goats, pigs and donkeys at Chicken Farm Corner in Ellesmere Port. We all had a fabulous evening and one we are all keen to repeat! Our other autumn term visits included a walk and woodland craft in Royden Park, pottery painting at the Pottery Shed and a very competitive game of bowling! When we had meetings at the hut the beavers completed First Aid stages 1 and 2, Space Badge and worked towards their My World Badge, which included inviting a Police Officer along to chat about "Stranger Danger". My favourite evening of the autumn term was our Halloween party, what isn't there to like about watching beavers dunk their heads into water and chase doughnuts around that are hung from the roof!?! Also, it was lovely to see so many of Ismay supporting our group events such as our Bonfire Party, Christmas Fair and Remembrance Sunday Parade, their behaviour on this occasion made me very proud.

With dark nights and some pretty awful weather we held most of our meetings at the hut. We looked at healthy eating and made some healthy fruit salad and muesli, which helped the beavers towards their cook's badge (more on this later!!). The beavers also completed their musicians badge, by making their own instruments and learning campfire songs we then held an "Ismays Got Talent" contest where each lodge had to perform a small rhyme / song on their instruments... I think all ears were ringing by the end of that meeting!! Ismay also completed their international badge throughout the term, finishing it off by celebrating Chinese New Year. We were also lucky enough to organise a trip to Birkenhead Fire Station. The beavers all got the chance to get a go with the hose which they all thoroughly enjoyed!! As well as our weekly meetings the beavers also took part in a sleep over at the hut. For some of the beavers these sleep overs are often their first time sleeping away from home, however parents are usually more worried than the beavers!! ... a nice long walk, lots of campfire songs, hotdogs and a film saw most beavers safely off to sleep with smiles on their faces.... although most were up at an unmentionable hour and I required a rather large coffee!!

Our Summer term began without our lovely BSL Sunshine (Helen) who took the decision to step down leaving me at the helm! ... She was a fabulous leader and is very much missed at Ismay. However, this left us VERY short on leaders and Gemma Morris, who had already been helping with our admin stepped in and now is a regular face at our meetings and a much-valued part of the Ismay Leader team. Summer term began with finishing our cooks badge with a "Beaver Bake-off" 24 beavers all making their own fairy cakes was an experience!! ... but we all had a massive amount of fun, and managed (just!!) to get cakes eaten before home time. We then took advantage of the glorious weather and had a fabulous evening pond dipping at Thursaston Country Park, the beavers got very competitive who could catch the biggest fish! The beavers have also enjoyed a picnic at our local park, scavenger hunt on the beach and are just about to embark on a "Wirral Rocks" project. So, if all goes to plan there will be plenty of new rocks spreading a little happiness around The Wirral, courtesy of Ismay. Our final meeting will be our traditional sandcastle competition with Thor Colony on Caldy beach. Ismay will try their best to defend their title!!

The beavers enjoyed a fabulous day at the hut for our group camp. They took part in craft, nerf battles, catapults, pizza making, samba music and meeting some fabulous weird and wonderful creatures! All finished off with having tea together! ... A great day had by all! Nearly half of Ismay is signed up for Summer Camp which makes me very proud and hope they are looking forward to it as much as I am!

As it stands Ismay is being led by myself and assisted by Gemma, we are running at capacity with new beavers joining as soon as there is space. In order to comply with adult to child ratios and be able to plan such fun and diverse programmes we are extremely parent reliant at the moment. So a massive thanks to all the parents who have helped us with our trips and for being such fun we are extremely grateful. Also a massive thanks to Akela Caro, John (Baloo) , Sue (GSL) , Paul Oliver (Rickie) and the Young Leaders Will and Alistair for all their help with our Ismay sleep overs, without them they couldn't happen.

Writing this I didn't realise how much we had actually got through, but busy beavers are happy beavers! Its been my absolute pleasure to watch the Ismay beavers grow in confidence throughout the year, they are all such curious, lively, adventurous, fun and generally fabulous children. I look forward to another year of Ismay adventures!

Yours in Scouting

Sarah (Bubbles)

Annual Newsletter 2017/2018

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Two Troops Become One

Earlier this year, the decision was taken to amalgamate Martin Troop and Richardson Troop into a new Troop meeting on a Tuesday.

By merging the two Troops we have been able to provide better leader support of the Scouts and should be able to offer a better scouting experience for them. Instead of concentrating on one activity for a night we can sometimes offer 4 smaller activities with the Scouts spending time on each one. This gives a greater variety for the Scouts to experience and hopefully activities they can enjoy and engage with.

We have also installed a points system for the patrols. Points are awarded for good



behaviour, winning games, showing positive leadership. Points are lost for poor behaviour. The competition runs for the term and the winners will receive a special prize just for their patrol.

County and District activities as one Troop, the transition from two Troops to one went very well.

As we have always camped and taken part in

Autumn Term Highlights

As we draw to the end of the Scouting year some of our senior Scouts will be moving on to Explorers and to become Young Leaders. So it was really pleasing that during the Autumn Term

they each achieved their Chief Scout Gold Awards.



More Autumn Highlights

During the Autumn Term the Scouts took part in the following activities:

- International Activity Badge
- The Beavan Camp
- Jamboree over the Internet (JOTI) including an xbox challenge sleepover.



Spring Term Highlights

Not often that we get to say this but 1st Thurstaston Scouts had success at a District competition.

Sam, one of our Scouts, was the highest scorer during the competition.

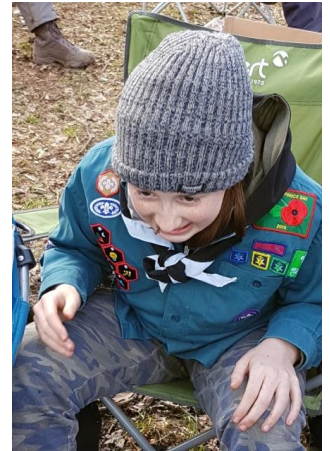
He scored a fantastic 95 to take the trophy home.



More Spring Highlights

During the Spring term the Scouts took part in the following activities:

- Night Hike along the Wirral Way and sleepover.
- Electronics Activity Badge
- The Great Escape Camp



Summer Term Highlights

Much of the summer term has been spent preparing for Survival Camp.

During the term, the Scouts practiced their fire lighting skills, using axes and saws, bivvy building and backwoods cooking.

All this was in preparation for the camp which started with a hike into Sandiways Campsite. Then the Scouts had to find various bits of equipment before heading into camp.

Once at camp they had to

make their own lunch of mackerel, rice and vegetables cooked in tin foil over an open fire.

They then had to make their sleeping shelters, collect wood for their fires and then build a raft to retrieve a voucher for the rest of the food for the weekend from the middle of the lake.

The Scouts cooked all their own meals for the rest of the weekend and finished off with a hike out from the site.



The Strange Structure – The Bothy



The strange structure that has appeared on the far side of the trailer park is our new bothy.

It is partially completed at the moment. When finished it should sleep up to 14 scouts in hammocks. The centre of the bothy will be covered by a parachute whilst a sunken fire pit will keep the structure nice and warm.

It is hoped the bothy will be in operation for the next Scouting year.

Thor Colony Report 2017/18

Over the last year we have been busy working towards various badges and having fun. We have had a beach scavenger hunt at Thurstaston and have held our annual Sandcastle competition at Caldby beach, with Ismay Colony.

The beavers have made and flown kites, they have designed and made their own machines from recycled materials.

We have had a Lego evening, this was presented by Brixmania. The Beavers were given a theme on what to build, all the Beavers and some of the leaders had a great night.

We have had a visit to Hoylake Lifeboat Station.

The Beavers have learnt about the beginning of Scouting and where the first camp was held. They have learnt greetings from other countries, for example:- Hong Kong, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and France.

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We have had a visit to St Bartholomew's Church and climbed up to the bell tower.

The Beavers have had a Fitness night, where we had 4 bases:- sit ups, star jumps, press ups and running. The Beavers were split into 4 groups, they took their pulse before they started the exercise and again at the end. They have learnt about the importance of personal hygiene, balanced diets and have made a healthy sandwich, a snack and dessert.

We have visited the Buddhist Centre in Birkenhead and have taken part in the Remembrance Service at St Bartholomew's Church.

The Beavers have made Saltdough Christmas tree decorations to sell at our Christmas fair.

The Beavers have been Bowling at The Bowl in Bromborough, this was our last night before the Christmas break.

We have taken part in 3 District Beaver events, the Christmas Craft day in November, the Carol Service and party at the beginning of December and the Beaver Challenge in March.

On our first night back after Christmas we took the beavers to Birkenhead Fire Station, they all had a great time especially when it came to using the hoses.

The beavers have taken part in the following activities: they have designed a poster to promote Healthy eating, writing with their feet they have found out about a Paralympian and did some Signing.

We have had a visit from Peter Farnhead who came to talk to the Beavers about Guide Dogs for the Blind and he brought a Guide dog with him named Sarge.

One night the Beavers brought in a Scrapbook of photographs that they had taken, and we discussed with them why they took these particular photos. We then discussed how to take a good photograph.

The Beavers have been planting Potatoes, Lavender and Marigolds in the Beaver Garden. They have learnt about the different tools that we use, what plants need to grow and about the different Seasons.

They have learnt how to put up a tent and light a fire. On the night that they did the fire lighting the Beavers toasted French bread and had it with butter and Jam, which they all enjoyed.

The Beavers have made Teapot cards, with a tea bag inside, for their mums for Mother's Day. For Father's Day they made a Bookmark which included a photo of themselves.

We have taken part in a 1 night District Beaver camp, the Beavers took part in a series of games and challenges, in the evening we had a hike then songs around the camp fire. The next day we held the first ever Beaver 'Tug of War'.

I would like to thank my leader team and parents for all their help over the last year.

Jayne Oliver. B.S.L. Thor Colony. (Rusty)

Treasurer Notes AGM 29June2018

Hello,

Overall the group is £1349.3 up on the closing balance from last year.

Income has generally increased all around:

Subs £1017

Gift aid £374

Donations £408 less this year. Also the annual HQ charge was an increase of £711 this year compared to last.

Other income is the income from the activities account £28873.96, payments for trips/ fun days/ events, all the days that our children enjoy and benefit from, with that in mind I should point out that the expense for the activity account is £25098.41. Which gives a positive result of £3775.55, however, if we look a little further down the page you will note the main account transferred £4300.00 to top up the activity account throughout the year.

The top up / treasury account, is where are the money from the fundraising goes:

Again this year compared to last:

General fundraising (easter fair/ Christmas fair/ bonfire night) £839 increase.

Scout post was £20.00 lower this year compared to last

Easy fundraising £46 increase – Thank you to all the shoppers

Expenses :

Increases in water costs, property insurance, admin, uniforms, hospitality, transport both maintenance and insurance.

Reductions in maintenance cost and badges

We have not received a charge for electricity this year as ‘apparently’ we have a £900.00 credit to utilise. Once the meter readings are submitted things may change.

The main bank account balance is roughly £3500.00 higher than last year. We decided to close the business interest account as the benefits were really poor, again the activity account benefitted.

The deposit account and the Scout short term investment accounts yeiled £81.00 in interest.

So again for the ??? year running we are proposing no increase in subs.