

## **Chairman's Report 2015-2016**

**Welcome to you all – so pleased you could all make it to our annual AGM and awards ceremony.**

**This is my final as chair of the Exec and except for having to speak at the AGMs I have thoroughly enjoyed my stint.**

**It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new chair John McBain, whom I'm sure a lot of you recognise, and I wish him well as he takes over the reins. (Subject to election...)**

**Both my boys have been through cubs, scouts, explorers and Carrick is a YL. My husband has spent many nights away assisting Andy at scout camp, and I got "this close " to Bear Grylls !**

**The whole scouting experience has touched our family for the last 11 years and I would like to sincerely thank Sue our GSL and all the leaders and helpers involved with 1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston. It is fantastic the experience they open to our youngsters. (Sue will report on these – hold on for the ride!)**

**For those like me who want to be involved in the back ground, the exec is the place to be. We have 3 meetings a year and spend a few hours in support of the Group helping with some fundraising activities e.g. the Christmas and Easter fairs, and maintenance – tidying the stores, grounds etc. – all very necessary but not done by magic! See Sue after the meeting to lodge your support – I did 10 years ago and the rest is history!**

**Now for the treasurer's report**

## Group Scout Leader Report 2016

I ended last year's report telling you about our biggest ever camp to date, when we took 88 of us away to District All Sections camp, it seems like a distant memory now, although those who were eaten alive by the midges that weekend probably still remember it well!

The Scout Group continues to thrive and flourish, we are the biggest and best (we believe) on the District by a country mile. At Annual Census this year we reported more children and adult members in the Group than anyone else, as it stands today we have 2 Beaver Colonies supporting 44 Beavers, 2 Cub Packs with 51 Cubs and 2 Scout Troops with 34 Scouts, a total of 129 children, supported by 22 Adult Leaders & assistants and 15 Young Leaders. We also have a strong and dedicated support team on the Group Executive of 11 parents who work behind the scenes to help run the Group, looking after our finances, fundraising, equipment and the House and Grounds. We have another 10 or so parents who are registered as Occasional Helpers who help out as and when they can. This sounds like a lot of people but in reality each Section has 2 or maybe 3 full time leaders each week and we always welcome and need more regular help, so please think about joining us, volunteering in Scouting is very rewarding and a lot of fun.

So now to the overview of the year, so that you can marvel at all that we do with your children! but also so that you can

appreciate just how much goes on in this Scout Group. Each Section does an annual report with more detail – these will be uploaded to the website and also sent to you on email in due course.

Whilst mentioning the web site can I take a moment to record our thanks to Nathan – he has moved the entire website – over 6000 files and items, to a new, more modern looking platform – he has done a brilliant job and I know how time consuming it was – whilst mentioning the website I should also thank Ian my husband who built the original site for us in the first place and Dave Reed who kept it up to date and current for many years – if you haven't looked at it you should – there is so much Group history, fantastic pictures, memories and more, it's a great asset for the group.

### Annual Overview

June 15 – Weekend District All Sections camp, AGM and Bev's leaving do – was that a year ago..... how time flies. We got a couple of new recruits from the AGM with Helen AP to join us as a Beaver Leader in Ismay Colony.

July 15 – The Games was night another huge success, thanks Alan for pulling it all together again, I think it did rain but surely not as much as last year! This year we have moved the games night to early September – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> the theme is Tough Scouter? I'm not sure what that means but I'm sure it will be all the usual fun and games – Alan needs a lot of

manpower to run this night – we have emailed all the information to you, please seek him out and offer your help.

At the end of the July Dan C took off on his adventure of a lifetime, to the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Japan, we watched the opening ceremony online it was fantastic and even more amazing to think that Dan was there in amongst it all. A proud moment for the Group and his family – he came back with so much to tell us all and has shared his experiences widely within the Group and the District, most recently at the District AGM. Dan's blog, portrays some of his experiences, written while he was away, it is on the website – have a look. The 24<sup>th</sup> Jamboree is in 2019 in North America, I know there are some in this room who want to go, we hope so and will support their application, as we did for Dan.

Aug 15 – Summer camp – fairly local at Queens Charlottes Wood Scout Camp site near Frodsham. This was a great camp with loads of activities for all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders to have a go at, we did wind surfing, high ropes, rafting, go carting, archery and much more. One of the highlights was an evening playing Beetle Drive, who knew you could have so much fun with a couple of dice and a drawing of a beetle!

During camp week I had the sad task of representing the group at the funeral of Dave Gardner one of our older members and a very strong supporter of the Group. The church was packed and a huge number of Scouters were

there. Some of Dave's friends that he had made when he attended a Jamboree in his youth were there wearing their Jamboree Neckers. Dave told me the Jamboree and Scouts changed his life for ever and for the better, he asked for the Scout group to be the recipient of any donations and we used the money towards our new bus, a fitting tribute to one of the good guys who is greatly missed.

Sept 15 – The month started with lot of meetings, programme planning, Exec, Leaders meetings. The Beavers had an overnight District camp here at the HQ and we took the Cubs and some more Beavers to QCW District Cub camp.

Oct 15 – We had our largest ever entry of Scouts and Young leaders in the Beavan Comp at Forest Camp Sandiway, some great performances, including a junior scout team who got lost on the hike, even though the route was virtually identical to the one we had done at summer camp! Great work guys! Other things happening in October included a bag pack at Tesco, Patrol Leader training, JOTI / JOTA for Scouts, an International day in Liverpool for Beavers and the Cubs went to Chester Zoo. Nathan turned 18, yay, a new adult leader!

Nov 15 – The dreaded Scout Post Distribution night, Remembrance Parade at St Barts, the County Chief Scout Awards presentations, Bonfire night. Beaver Craft day, YL training, Cubs went to Europa for the CIN splash, Xmas Fair. Scout Post stamps went on sale and the Tesco selling rota began.

Dec 15 – More selling stamps, Carol services for Beavers and Cubs, Beavers had a hike, went to the Potting shed and the Buddhist centre, Cubs had a hike and went to the Climbing Hangar in Liverpool and attended the District Bowling Competition, Sam Roberts had the highest score on the night, well done Sam. Scouts had a BBQ ????and attended a lecture at Chester Uni about pyrotechnics amongst other things. We did a bag pack at Sainsbury's – gosh it was busy but worth it, good amount of money raised, put towards the new bus cost.

Jan 15 – More meetings, always a few to attend at the start of a new term. Leaders and Exec had their post - Christmas night out, it's always post as we are too busy with the Scout Post in December! Great time had by all. Cubs Five a side footie.

Feb 16 – Wallasey Town Hall for the Scout post chq presentation, having handed over a huge chq the previous week at the GSL Census meeting. Gone are the days when one used to balance out the other, now our capitation chq is much bigger than the income from Scout Post. It's not a bad problem to have, as it's only because we are so big!

First summer camp planning meeting. District Cub Gala lots of Individual medal but no team winner this year. Scouts went Dragon boating. Andrew Milnes Beard joined us at Martin Troop Scouts having just turned 18, yay, a new adult leader!

Mar 16 – Scouts orienteering, Cubs Skiing, Scouts to the Great Escape, I don't think it rained! Cubs and Scouts bowling (not together) Easter Fair. John turned 18, yay, another new adult leader!

Apr 16 – First ever Ismay Beaver camp at our HQ, 18 attended and had a great time despite the weather, well done Caro. Some of us went to West Wirral Gang Show, which was an absolute triumph, the best I've ever seen, 2 Young Leaders Matt Callaghan and Will and a Cub Aidan took part. 18 Cubs and 3 Scouts went to Deiniolen for the weekend, it snowed briefly but then we had a glorious day out walking up the side of the Barmouth Estuary, fish and chip supper as our reward on the beach in fantastic sunshine. Cubs had day out to RAF Cosford and then Group Camp over the Bank Holiday weekend – 3 camps in one month for me – exhausted! - hailstones as we set up camp - really !! in late April / early May.

May 16 – District AGM, in the Awards section – both Cub packs were mentioned as a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Cub Pack of the Year. We were delighted when Dan Youds was announced as Explorer of the Year – and then Olly Courtney as Young Leader of the year – Nathan HC was nominated for Young Leader (18-25yr category) These are individual awards very much down to the success and achievements of Dan and Olly themselves, but we are very proud that they are from our Group, very well done both of you.

## Thanks Section – Personnel changes

Over the last year we have said our goodbye to Bev from Ismay and Kieran and Alex who were Young Leaders.

Nathan, John, Olly have become adult leaders but they are all off to Uni in Sept, we wish them well and hope to see them in the holidays.

Dan & Josh, Rebecca, Mat, Lucas, Isaac, Will and Ben have all joined us as YL's, most were Scouts with us but 2 were not – having done their D of E service with us they liked it so much they decided to stay.

I would like to thank our team of YL's – Josh C, Dan C, Dan F, Matty, Matt C, Jamie, Ed, Carrick, Will, Isaac, Lucas, Ben, Rebecca, Dan Y & Josh Y who do so much for the Group – 12 of them are coming to summer camp this year. They come to help us at B / C / & S every week, – we have an amazing group of young people who give above and beyond what is asked of them, please give them an enormous round of applause they really deserve it.

We have some personnel and other changes coming up in September, I am going to step down as Akela in Reed Pack after 14 years and Caro is taking over, Helen AP is taking over as BSL in Ismay, assisted by Sarah and Beth. Liz Ellis is moving to Thor to help out there. In September Richardson Troop is changing its night to Thursday for several reasons, we have



canvassed the parents and they are all pleased with the change.

My personal thanks to all the adult leaders and helpers in the Group, we really have a great team, we all enjoy what we do and have a lot of fun doing it, it is time consuming, it can be frustrating at times, but thanks for giving so generously of your time and energy and support. I could not do my job without you, the Group is as great as it is because of the people in it – thanks again. Please stand up and take a round of applause.

Finally, I would like to thank the team behind the scenes, Fiona as Chair, who has sadly has decided to stand down this year after many years of being actively involved with the Group, thanks Fiona we really appreciate everything you have done for us. We have a gift for you as a token of our appreciation.

Vicky as has agreed to continue as Group Sec and also does all the Scout troop admin and record keeping. Lynn has agreed to stay as Treasurer and as her younger sons approach the age to join, we hope to have her for a while yet. These people are fundamental to the success of the group and we are extremely grateful for their support. We also have a strong body of parents on the Exec committee who assist in the running of the Scout group – our thanks to Wendy, Gillian, Jane, Dawn, Steve, Chris, Matt, Dave,

Marjorie and Rachel for all your help over the last twelve months.

Well I'm done, I do hope I haven't missed anyone – 1<sup>st</sup> T continues to grow and thrive and I continue to be very proud to be the Group Scout Leader of such a fantastic group of children and young and not so young Leaders! Thank You.

Here we go !!

Increase in subs which was swallowed up by a larger increase in the district capitation.

Donations were up this year by £373....thank you ! Also just over a £300 increase in the annual gift aid claim, thanks to all the people who signed and returned the forms. It's always nice to get something back off the revenue. Income for the activity account has also increased , which means there are more events and trips being paid for.

General fundraising was up, xmas & easter fairs, bonfire night ect, however scout post was fractionally down as was easy fundraising and 100 club.

Expenses increased last year, mainly within the activity account, as I said earlier the income for this account has increased due to more events, events cost and therefore, expenses increase. We did however save in the region of £700 on our annual electricity bill.....well done me for sorting that one out. The main expense this year however was the purchase of the new minibus, but when we offset that gain the maintenance costs for last year it doesn't sting as much!

Overall, for the year our total group balance is £35,040.71 comparing to last year of £40,066.35 with the main expense of the year being £9750 for the minibus a difference of £5025.64 is not bad.

## Treasury Report 2015/16

		14/15	15/16
		Year to date	
<b>Income</b>	<b>Donation and similar income</b>		
IS	Subscriptions	£14,699.00	14707
N	District capitation	-£5,576.00	-5616
	Net subscriptions	£9,123.00	9091
DON	Donations	£902.58	1275.6
GA	Gift Aid	£2,958.30	3284.39
	Other income, including activities account	£26,370.52	32081.82
	sub total	£48,477.40	£45,732.81
<b>Grants</b>			
GT	Grants (includes start up activities account)		
	sub total	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Fundraising (gross)</b>			
IF	General	£2,764.81	£3,660.67
IF	Scout post	£3,114.65	3075.04
IF	Easy Fundraising	£263.74	107.77
100	100 Club	£492.00	470
	Other (Apr Internal Trsf)	£0.00	0
		£6,635.20	7313.48
AS	Asset Sale		0
	see below for current investment interest	£135.51	63
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£55,248.11</b>	<b>£53,109.29</b>
<b>Adjustment</b>			
ITRF	Transfer	£90.00	0

## Expenditure

<b>Charitable Payments</b>			
TRF	Youth Programme and activites account trf	£24,535.96	29725.07
G	Adult support and training	£0.00	0
B	HQ rent	£1,000.00	1000
C	Water	£235.23	254.3
D	Electricity	£1,706.00	1024.06
I	Insurance (Property + equipment + personnel)	£4,769.17	3634.23
F	HQ Maintenance - repairs and renewals	£4,729.27	6600.65
K	Materials and equipment purchases	£882.46	1719.92
E	Administration, printing etc	£53.38	154.8
L	Uniforms and kit	£162.00	456
M	AGM/hospitality	£193.29	551.88
Q	Transport insurance	£0.00	224.11
O	Transport Purchase	£0.00	9750
P	Transport Maintenance	£1,031.34	226.01
R	Transport Road fund licence (Sept refund)	£225.00	241.67
T	Transport Fuel	£0.00	0
W	Badge Account	£2,411.28	2250.03
	sub total	£42,024.38	57812.73
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>			
H	General expenses	£608.36	
A	100 Club	£360.00	£360.00
U	Other fundraising activities	£0.00	
	sub total	£968.36	£360.00
	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£42,992.74</b>	<b>£58,172.73</b>

<b>Net income of</b>	<b>£12,255.37</b>	<b>-£5,063.44</b>
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Accumulative Cash Balance

### Current Account Bank

Bank balance  
Outstanding receipts  
Uncleared cheques

<b>Closing bank</b>	<b>6966.65</b>
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### Bus Interest Account @ 1/4/13

Bank balance  
Interest to date

<b>Closing Account balance</b>	<b>1802.55</b>
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### Lloyds TSB Deposit Account 6 Week withdrawal

### Scout Short Term investment Account

<b>Total fund available</b>	<b>£38,006.97</b>	<b>21855.38</b>
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Activities Account opening cash balance @ 1/4/13	£224.82	2059.38
Total income	£26,370.52	32081.82
Total expenditure including £2969.90 unrepresented Chq's	-£24,535.96	-29725.07
<b>Closing cash balance @ 31/3/14</b>	<b>£2,059.38</b>	<b>4416.13</b>

<b>Closing Group balance @ 31/3/13</b>	<b>£40,066.35</b>	<b>35040.71</b>
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# **1st Thurstaston Annual General Meeting 2016**

## **Saturday 11th June 10.00 am**

Flag raised by .....Carrick Hurley.....

1. Fiona Hurley, Chairperson - WELCOME
2. Apologies - Brian Tucker, Steve Anderson, Alan Parr, Jon Oliver, Jayne Oliver many parents
3. Minutes of previous AGM

Proposed by ...Liz Hughes.....

Seconded by ...Caroline McBain.....

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

Appointment of officers - Sue Flush as GSL.

Fiona Hurley has requested to step down as Chair for the forthcoming year  
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

(Fiona Hurley as spokesperson)

To elect Jane Fieldhouse, Rachel Colburn, Dawn Rudd, Matt Burdon, Chris Perry, Gillian Carswell, Steve Anderson and Wendy Wood as elected officers and these were seconded by Caroline McBain... 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 District Commissioner

## 11. Awards=

Beaver Scouts- Thor Colony:

Ismay Colony:

Cub Scouts- Fletcher Pack:

Reed Pack:

Scouts- Martin Troop

Scouts – Richardson Troop

The flag duly lowered by in the closing ceremony by  
Carrick Hurley

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## **AWARDS – AGM 2016**

### **THOR COLONY**

**BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – DYLAN WEST**

**BEAVER PARTICIPATION – ISAAC RIMMER**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – COREY COOK**

**BEAVER OF THE YEAR – LOUIS SCRAGG**

### **ISMAY COLONY**

**BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – RIDLEY LAMBE**

**BEAVER PARTICIPATION – GABRIEL MCBAIN**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – ERIN MCGURK**

**BEAVER OF THE YEAR – ALEX BROOKER**

### **FLETCHER PACK**

**CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – NAT HUGHES**

**CUB PARTICIPATION – ETHAN KEWIN**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – BEN GRIFFIN**

**CUB OF THE YEAR – BEN ROBERTS**

### **REED PACK**

**CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – LUKE WATSON**

**CUB PARTICIPATION – WESLEY ELLIS**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – JOSH OZTURK**

**CUB OF THE YEAR – CHRIS GREEN & CHARLIE LIGGETT**

### **MARTIN TROOP**

**SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – JACOB FOLEY**

**SCOUT PARTICIPATION – MATTHEW MCGURK & JAMIE YOUNG**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – JAMES WOOD**

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR – MATHEW CALLAGHAN**

### **RICHARDSON TROOP**

**SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – BEN GREEN**

**SCOUT PARTICIPATION – JOSH MCCOY**

**OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – NIA JENKINSON**

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR – JOE CROSS**





## **THOR BEAVER COLONY**

Since last year's A.G.M the Beavers have had a fun and very enjoyable time, here are a few of the activities, events and camps: -

### **June**

Made boomerangs and flew them on the field.

Water night, all got wet and had a great night.

### **July**

Attended the group games night.

Had a sand castle competition on Caldy beach.

### **September**

Attended the District Beaver camp at our Scout HQ and had a fun filled weekend. Here are some of the activities: - backwoods cooking, tent pitching and knotting. After tea we had a night hike followed by songs around the camp fire, with toasted marshmallows, followed by a film and then bed.

Our Holidays:- where the Beavers went for their summer holidays.

Found out about another Country: – Ireland.

Planted bulbs at the front of St Chad's Church.

### **October**

Made dinosaur fossils.

Street dancing - Joint night with 6<sup>th</sup> Heswall Beavers

Visit from our local Coastguard.

### **November**

Talk about remembrance day and made poppies.

Looked and talked about the night sky, for the space activity badge.

Attended the remembrance day service at St Bartholomew's Church.

Made Christmas crackers.

Made reindeer tree decorations from fir cones.

Attended the District Beaver Christmas craft day at St Chad's Church hall.

### **December**

Made Christmas cards.

Attended the District Beaver Carol service and party at St Andrew's Church. West Kirby.

Night Hike from Caldy to West Kirby along the Wirral way.

Bowling at Bromborough.

### **January**

Talked about personal challenge's and New year resolutions.

Learned about fair trade food.

Learned about the right to clean and safe drinking water and made a basic water filter using sand, pebbles and a drinks bottle.

### **February**

Learned about saving energy & recycling.

Hip – Hop dance - Joint night with 6<sup>th</sup> Heswall Beavers

Learned about endangered animals and then each Beaver went on to draw a zoo filled with endangered animals.

### **March**

Learned how to make a phone call and learned their phone number & how to send an email or text message.

Attended the District Beaver challenge at St Andrew's church Hall in West Kirby.

Learned the Phonetic and Semaphore alphabet and spelt their name and worked out a simple message.

### **March**

Easter egg hunt around the field.

Had a visit from an Astronomer, at the end of the evening the Beavers were positioned around the hall to represent the planets and their positions.

Made a solar system.

### **April**

Attended the St George's Day service at the Methodist church in West Kirby.

### **May**

Attended Group camp at our own HQ and had a fun filled weekend. Here are some of the activities: - Hike on Thurstaston beach and circus skills.

Joint Hike with Ismay colony.

### **June**

Amongst other activities we have planted Sunflower seeds, as part of our 30 challenges.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Linda Warburton, Sue Lang and my Young Leaders Rebecca Lambert, Matthew Costall and Dan Youds for their help in running Thor Colony Beavers.

Jayne Oliver.

Beaver Scout Leader.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston

### Ismay Beaver Colony Newsletter

#### Annual Report

September saw the arrival of a new leader team at Ismay Colony, consisting of BSL River (Caro), ABSL's Sunshine (Helen) and Rainbow (Beth) and our Young Leaders, led by Carrick - Dan, Isaac and Will who have enthusiastically embraced their new roles. A visit from the District Commissioner in November saw the ABSL's and YL's invested and all are in the process of completing their own personalised training programme in addition to attending the colony.

We completed a variety of activities during Autumn term, which included participation in County Events - the International Day, Beaver Christmas Day, Beaver Carol Service and Christmas Party and Group events including Bonfire Party and Christmas Fair and Section events including a Craft Day, Christmas Carol Service and Party and Colony events including a visit to The Potting Shed, The Buddhist Centre and a Night Hike.

We focused on Map reading in September, this included learning about the cardinal points of a compass, drawing and labelling a map, following a map and understanding the information on a map. This came in useful for our Night Hikes this year!

We also completed the International badge, learning about different languages, countries, traditions, food and even a song! The Beavers had the opportunity to attend the County International Day along with Thor Colony and enjoyed the opportunity to travel by train.

Spring term we concentrated on Teamwork, Skills and Personal Challenges. We also completed Emergency Aid 1 & 2 and Animal Friend Badges. This has consisted of having visitors to the Colony from the Community and visiting different businesses and community services.

We completed a wide variety of activities during Spring term, which have included participation in a District Beaver Event - the Beaver Challenge where a team from the Colony took part in a number of Challenges with Beavers from West Wirral. The Group event we attended and thoroughly enjoyed was the Easter Fair where we had lots of fun and helped to raise money for the Group. Colony events including a visit to Birkenhead Fire Station and Pets at Home in Bromborough where we met a range of animals suitable to be pets.

The Beavers completed their Emergency Aid badge stage 1 and 2, and had a visit from the local Police Force who also brought the Police van and a range of Police resources which the Beavers enjoyed using. The Colony also developed its teamwork skills with each other taking part in a variety of Games and Easter Craft, including making Easter Nests and Cards. The Lodges continue to be organised, under Carrick's lead, giving responsibility to the older Beavers to lead by example and build confidence with the Colony saying goodbye to Dan Young, Ben Wood, Alex Brooker, Ryan Gorman and William Lemon all completing their Moving On Award and joining Cubs. This term moving on are William Matchett, Gabe McBain, Owen Armstrong and Ewen Murray.

The highlight of this year has to be our first Beaver Sleepover at the beginning of April. Eighteen of our Beaver colony attended the sleepover which took place on 2 and 3 April. Despite the rain on Saturday, the Beavers had a fantastic time at Tam O'Shanter Farm meeting a wide range of owls and a number of farm animals. After lunch at the farm we moved to Thurstaston, walking to the Visitor Center and observing the birds in the Bird Hide. Then it was onto the beach for a Scavenger Hunt followed by a Hike to Caldy and back. The Beavers effort was tremendous and I was very proud of the can-do approach and enthusiasm. Ismay completed the Hike which in distance was the equivalent of two hikes and it was brilliant to see the happy, smiling faces at the end of the hike. After organising themselves for tea and we had a hearty singsong around the campfire followed by a movie night and a good night's sleep! Sunday morning and the Beavers got themselves up, dressed, breakfasted and packed ready for a morning of golf in New Brighton which they all thoroughly enjoyed! Thank you to all the Adult Leader team and Young Leaders and parents who attended the Sleepover which ensured a successful and enjoyable sleepover and for the help, advice and humour throughout this term as well. We also attended Group Camp and had the opportunity to finely tune our Circus Skills amongst a range of activities. We also had the opportunity to camp out - which was a first for some of the Colony - enjoying a variety of weather but mainly rain! We have also welcomed more ABSL's in the form of Liz Ellis, who has now moved to Thor Colony and Sarah West "Bubbles". Our parents have given us their full support this year with the Parent Rota, thank you so much, and Paul Farnworth and John McBain who have attended on a regular basis offering additional cover and/or support for various activities.

The Summer term is upon us and we are working towards our Adventure Challenge, Outdoor Skills and My World which will involve a wide range of opportunities for all Ismay Colony Beavers , including a Woodland Walk, Den Building, Scavenger Hunt, a visit to Claremount Farm and a Picnic in the Park! We continue to welcome new Beavers to our Colony.

We have had a fantastic year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Leader Team and Young Leaders in the Colony for a brilliant year and the Group Leader Team and Young Leaders for the support and advice they have provided. As many of you know BSL River is moving on to become Akela at Reed Pack and Sunshine (Helen) will be BSL at Ismay.

I will miss the Beavers and Leaders at Ismay, but I know that the Colony will go from strength to strength next year with a strong and committed Leader Team.

Yours in Scouting

River

BSL Ismay Colony

1st Thurstaston

## **FLETCHER & REED CUB PACK ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

After a lengthy planning session whilst at our summer camp at Queen Charlotte's Wood where we decided to spend our year working towards 3 Challenge Badges, we welcomed back our Cubs in September with a Pack Forum. We decided what our new Pack Code of Conduct should be and swapped tales of our summer holidays. The rest of the Autumn Term was devoted to working towards the Adventure Challenge badge; we covered activities such as kite making & flying, fire lighting, making hot-air balloons & constructing a giant ballista(with the help of our trusty scout leader Alan!).

We somehow managed to fit in a weekend camp at Queen Charlotte's Wood with the other Cubs in the District. We covered the International Badge, making food & crafts from different countries; had a rousing camp-fire on Saturday & took part in the annual tug-of-war competition-sadly, no trophy for us this year!

Both packs helped to put together Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which were delivered to less fortunate children in Eastern Europe. Along the same charitable route, we enjoyed a "splash" at Europa Pools in aid of Children In Need where Pudsey Bear put in an appearance & Akela Liz achieved a first by investing some new Cubs actually in the pool!

We finished the term off in style with our District Carol service, a night hike along the Wirral Way(with chips at the end!), a brilliant trip to the Climbing Hangar & the District Bowling Competition.

After a well-deserved rest for the leaders, the spring term saw us beginning the Skills Challenge learning how to use an iron correctly & finding out the best way to peel vegetables without taking the skin off your knuckles! The Cubs were also set the additional challenge of gaining their Home Help badge- both Akelas were thrilled to be handed an impressive set of photo and video diaries, and also a huge vote of thanks from grateful parents!

We took part in the District Safety Poster competition with the theme of Computer/Online Safety- we learned how to stay safe online- valuable life-skills gained.

Both packs fielded strong teams in the District Five-a-side football tournament- no winners again but our performance bodes well for the future! More importantly, our Cubs showed tremendous sportsmanship. Hot on the heels of



the football, we then took part in the District Swimming Gala- no overall winner's trophy but lots of individual winner's medals and a strong sense of camaraderie!

The rest of the term saw us learning about our skeleton and healthy teeth, and refreshing /improving our emergency aid skills. We went skiing on the dry slope at The Oval- more investitures, this time on skis!! We raised lots of money for Sport Relief by icing, decorating and then eating cupcakes! The term was rounded off in style with a night bowling in Bromborough.

The Easter holidays saw us off to Deiniolen for our annual Pack holiday; we woke up to snow on Saturday morning & our hearts sank. By the time we got to Barmouth the sun was shining and it was warm! Our "little "stroll turned into a 14kilometre hike & we really needed the fish and chips on the beach afterwards! Needless to say, the Cubs all slept well that night!

So far this summer term we have begun covering the Outdoors Challenge with activities such as shelter building in Royden Park, a fun night tangling ourselves up in knots making camp gadgets, practising pitching tents and looking at the Country Code.

We gained valuable skills learning how to put tents up in a hailstorm at Group Camp, and also had fun the next day developing our circus skills.

We are looking forward to a night of geo-caching, water games (hope its warm weather!)and a visit to the Butterfly Farm. Our term will finish with the traditional flourish that is crabbing at West Kirby! We also look forward to the fun that awaits us at our Summer camp!!

What a busy, tiring, eventful, and above all, enjoyable year of Cubbing it has been!!

Akelas Sue & Liz



# 1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston Scouts Newsletter

Newsletter Date

End of Year

## New this year:

- Andrew Beard, Scout Leader



- A new mini-bus



- A new updated website  
[www.firstthurstaston.co.uk](http://www.firstthurstaston.co.uk)

## Scouts Now Planning Their Programme

This year we have tried to involve the Scouts more in planning the activities that will go into their programme. At the start of each term Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders have taken part in planning meetings with the Scout Leaders.

## Autumn Term

### Fundraising - Go Karts



Over the course of the year the Scouts have raised money towards the purchase of a couple of petrol powered go-karts.

We have delayed purchasing the go-karts until the Autumn as this will form the basis for activities for the Scouts for that term (i.e. when the weather and light make it harder to do outdoor activities).

We will keep you updated with how we get on but if any one wishes to add donations to the Go-Kart fund please let us know.

## District Five-a-Side Tournament.

We supplied 50% of the teams for the District Five-a-Side Football Tournament and came 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Ok last and second to last, but it was a sunny day for the spectators at least!



## Beavan Camp



This year we took our largest number of Scouts to a Beavan Camp. Many of the Scouts were on their first Scout camp since leaving Cubs.

Although we were not placed amongst the leading teams in the competition, it was a great experience, particularly for the younger Scouts.



## Irby Christmas Lights



A new event for the Scouts this year was to take part in the celebrations to mark the switch on of Irby Village Christmas Lights. It was a cold blustery long day but the Scouts kept going, raising the profile of the Group and helping to raise more money for their go-kart funds.





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## Spring Term

### Astronautics, Astronomy & Cooking

The Patrol Leaders and assistant Patrol Leaders asked if these topics could be given some time in the Spring term.

#### **Astronautics**

This culminated in making water powered rockets, which if correctly pressurized rose to around 75 feet. The challenge to carry an egg up and land it without breaking proved to quite difficult, with few surviving to journey.

#### **Astronomy**

We were fortunate to have Prof. Chris Collins come to the hut for both Troops to give a presentation on Astronomy. Martin Troop were also lucky that he came to the hut for them on a particularly clear starlit night and was able to point out some interesting celestial things happening above the Scouts heads.

#### **Cooking**

Both Troops made pizza and pies at the hut. Some pretty impressive results and apparently no one was hospitalized as a result of consuming the Scouts cooking!



## Great Escape Camp

Cold but thankfully not as wet or muddy as previous years at the Great Escape camp in March. Two young teams were entered into the competition and although we did not come too high up in the placings, everyone had a great time.



## Summer Term Survival Camp Training

The Scouts are due to attend an overnight Survival Camp later in June. No tents, lighting and looking after their own fires and cooking their own meals from a supply of food (they decide what to cook and how they cook it!). Before the Scouts go to camp training on shelter building, backwoods cooking, navigation and fire lighting has been given. There will on camp, be leaders to ensure that the Scouts have a safe, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable experience.



Shelter building – need a bit of waterproofing!



Backwoods cooking – Fish cooked in newspaper. Shortly after this picture was Taken, the Scout concerned discovered That fish do have teeth and you shouldn't put your finger in their mouth!



Map reading practice



## Laser Combat

Both Troops had a night at Laser Combat in Liverpool. Different games were played over the night. The consensus amongst the Scouts and Leaders was that it was a great night out.







Date for the Diary

