1st Thurstaston Annual General Meeting 2023
Friday 16th June at the scout hut

1. Welcome - Earle Brady, Chairperson

2. Apologies received from Sue Flush, Liz Hughes, Alan Parr, Gaynor Vaughan, Phil Everett, Gayle Arasaratnum, Helen Perry, Rachel Phillips, Nia Jenkinson, Rich Morris, Gemma Morris, Roy Kenyon and Jess Fogg – Helen Cross, Group Secretary

3. Minutes of previous AGM agreed, proposed by Vicky McGurk, seconded by Andy Costall - Earle

4. Treasurer's report - Russ Williams, Treasurer

5. Group Scout Leader's report – Caro McBain, AGSL on behalf of Sue Flush, GSL

6. Appointment of new Chairperson – Caro appointed Ivan Kennes

7. Election of officers – Ivan

   Treasurer - Russ
   Group Secretary – Helen

8. Election of Executive Committee officers – Caro

   Laura Mason, Nick Emms, Steve Perlaki, Wendy Wood

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

9. Guest Speaker – Andy Longstaff, District Commissioner

Service awards to John McBain, Steve Perlaki, Ian Roberts and Gaynor Vaughan

10. Awards - Section Leaders

GSL Annual Report 2023

Firstly, my apologies that I can't be with you tonight and many thanks to Caro my deputy for reading out my annual report. This is the first AGM and awards I have missed in my 22-year membership of the Group and I am sad not to be here, all being well I will be back next year.

Each Section does its own annual overview of all the exciting things they have been up to over the last twelve months, we will send those out to everyone soon and load them onto our Group website for you.

It's been another full-on year for 1st T, with continued growth, new leader team members and fantastic opportunities for your children and Scouts of all ages to take part in some amazing activities, events, sleepovers and camps again.

An overview across all the Sections shows we have 228 Youth members, 18 Young Leaders and 36 Adult Leaders, with a further 8 parents serving on the Group Executive.

The Section details are as follows:

Harrock Squirrels – 24 Squirrels, Leader Team – Holly, Ellie, Pippa and Tom – YL

Hillbark Squirrels – 21 Squirrels, Leader team - Jenny, Rachel, Claire (admin) and Ella & Isla - YLs

Ismay Beavers – 22 Beavers, Leader team - Rich, Gemma, Rachel with India and Freya – Yls

Royden Beavers – 22 Beavers, Leader team - Jay, Mel, Lynne, John, Laura with Sadie and Frankie - YLs and Eli (Scout acting YL)

Thor Beavers – 23 Beavers, Leader team – Jayne, Helen and Gregg with Nia and Sam, Gabe and Joe - YLs

Fletcher Cubs – 36 Cubs, Leader team – Phil, Holly, Jon, Emma and Gayle with Dan, Ben G, Ben W, Conrad and Bradley - YL's

Reed Cubs – 31 Cubs, Leader team – Paul, Gaynor, Iain, Jenny, Chris, Mike and Kimmy (Admin) with Alice - YL

Martin Scouts – 25 Scouts, Leader team – Andy, Alan and Ian, India and Dan – YL's. Vicky who does admin for both Scout Troops

Richardson Scouts – 20 Scouts, Leader team – Andrew, Liz, Alex and Dan and Nat – YL's

Saying Thank you, supporting and encouraging our adult and young leader team are the most important parts of my role. To the entire Adult Leader team, Young Leader team and our Group Executive thank you so much for everything you all do for the Group.

Caro and Andy have been so supportive in recent times and had to take the lead in the Group during my recent illness and continue to provide an enormous amount of support on a daily basis. Thank you both sincerely.

We opened another new Squirrel Drey last September and this was recognised when we won the Squirrel Drey of the

Year jointly for both Harrock and Hillbark, very well done Jenny and Holly our Squirrel Leaders, their teams and to Caro for the support, encouragement and commitment to make them both as successful as they are.

Caro has continued to recruit new leaders across the team, as well as supporting the Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs. Andy as ever has supported us both in the Deputy GSL role, thanks again to you both.

Very recently some of our team were recognised by the Chief Scout with Good Service as follows

Andy Costall, Liz Hughes & Jayne Oliver - Chief Scout Award for Merit

Alan Parr, John McBain and Vicky McGurk - Chief Scout Commendation for Good Service Award

Each and every leader (younger and older) are a massive asset to our Group and make it what it is today, a hugely successful, welcoming, inclusive and fun place to be each week. They put on amazing activities and events for the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts. Thank you for volunteering, thank you for everything you do for the Group, we wouldn't be here without you. Please give them a massive round of applause.

Thanks also to our Group Executive who run the Group behind the scenes and support our fundraising. Earle our outgoing Chair, Ivan our new incoming Chair, Russ our Treasurer, Helen who has taken over as Secretary, Wendy,

Steve, Laura and Nick. We are always on the lookout for new members to join the team.

Earle and Vicky have provided fantastic service to our Group over the years and we thank them and wish them well (Gift for Earle) Vicky is continuing to do the admin for both Scout Troops much to the relief of the Scout Leader team.

Thank you to all our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders and Adult Leaders and all the parents for your enthusiasm and commitment to Scouting. Together we are an amazing Group and team and provide skills for life through Scouting, long may it continue.

Thanks

Sue Flush - GSL

AWARDS – AGM 2023

HILLBARK DREY

SQUIRRELS SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – PHOEBE MORSE

SQUIRRELS PARTICIPATION – LUCY EVERETT

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – ALEXANDER HARRISON

SQUIRREL OF THE YEAR – NOAH CREE

HARROCK DREY

SQUIRRELS SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – HARRIET WILCOX

SQUIRRELS PARTICIPATION – ADAM INMAN

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – EVIE ANDERS

SQUIRREL OF THE YEAR – BRANDON LU

ISMAY COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – LOCHLAN ADAMS

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – BAILEY EMMS

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – THOMAS CORNMELL

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – SAM LEE

ROYDEN COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – AMY MARTINI

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – CHARLIE HICKEY

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – DEXTER CROSS

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – AMIRA ARASARATNAM

THOR COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – ISACC PROCTOR

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – FREDDIE MILTON

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – EMILY HITCHMOUGH

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – FRANCES KENNY

FLETCHER PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – HUDSON OLSEN

CUB PARTICIPATION – FREDDIE MARLOW

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – BILLY GREEN

CUB OF THE YEAR – CHARLIE MCGOLDRICK

REED PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – ARUN ARASARATNAM

CUB PARTICIPATION – MORGAN WARBURTON

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – EDWARD VAUGHAN

CUB OF THE YEAR – EUAN GREEN

MARTIN TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – DANIEL SPRUNG

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – ELLIOT HALL

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – BEN MARR

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – HARRIET BISSETTE

RICHARDSON TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – TOM BUNBY

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – TOM OLDFIELD

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – WILL BOWEN-JONES

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – GABBY PERLAKI

YOUNG LEADER OF THE YEAR – BEN GRIFFEN

SQUIRRELS

Hillbark and Harrock Round Up

It's been busy!!!

Hillbark	Harrock
X 3 leaders	X 3 leaders
X 1 young leader	X 2 young leaders
X 24 Squirrels	X 21 Squirrels

Badges we have gained or been working on/towards in the last 12 months:

All About Me
All Together
Be Active
Exciting Experiments
Let's Celebrate
Local Superhero
Feel Good
Get Creative
Story Time

Hikes
Nights Away
Joining In

X3 Chief Scout Awards

We have visited Heswall Fire Station and been litter picking.
We have welcomed Cath a local lollypop lady and the bee ladies to talk to to us.

We have attended:

Panto
Remembrance Parade
District Squirrels meet up at Church Farm
Wirral Coastal walk tomorrow

We had our first sleepover and it was a massive success. Circus theme.

At the District AGM we were awarded joint best Dreys in the district.

Harrock have done their first Hike.

Not many signed up for summer camp planning a day camp possibly.

We are doing more outside for the rest of the term as the weather is lovely.

Jenny and Holly

ISMAY ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMER 2023

Overview

It has been an extremely busy and successful year for the Beavers and leaders of Ismay Colony. Our leader team has grown to include ABSL Bubbles (Rachel Phillips) who works alongside BSL Malak (Richard Morris) and ABSL Rainbow (Gemma Morris). Sessions are also supported by Scout helper India Morris and a rota of parent helpers.

Our 2022-2023 programme has been exciting and varied as always with all our Beavers being given the opportunity to try new experiences such as sailing and learn new skills such as how to look after and grow different plants. Our programme has focussed on providing fun sessions and encouraging all our Beavers to challenge themselves – and they have all loved it!

Attendance and Registrations

There are currently 24 Beavers registered with Ismay colony, and attendance is high.

This year, we have invested 12 new Beavers into Ismay colony; 3 of these have moved up from the 1st Thurstaston Squirrels dreys. We have also said goodbye to 9 of our Beavers, who have moved on to Cubs.

We are extremely proud that 12 of our Beavers have achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Award. There are only a very small number of Beavers who have left us without having achieved the Chief Scouts Bronze Award, and these are all Beavers who have joined late (i.e. after the age of 6).

We are also pleased that ABSL Gemma Morris recently received her 5-year Service Award.

Programme

Among others, Ismay Beavers have worked on their navigator, communication, photographer, emergency aid and gardener badges this year. They have also been on a den-building expedition to Royden Park, a watersports experience at West Kirby Marine Lake, a 'chippy hike' from Thurstaston to West Kirby, a pottery-painting night at the Potting Shed in Hoylake and a visit to Heswall Fire Station.
Our programme has also included an international visit to Paris, which 2 Ismay Beavers attended, and a circus-themed sleepover at the Scout Hut. Our Beavers had a great time, and they were all extremely brave, especially considering that, for some of them, it was their first night away from home!
There are more nights away coming up: we are looking forward to our trip to Deiniolen in North Wales (this is a two-night camp, which will include visits to Greenwood Park and RSPB Conway); and summer camp (which is a two-night camp at Queen Charlotte's Wood).

The rest of our summer term programme will make the most of being outdoors in the good weather, and we are looking forward to planning another busy programme for 2023-2024.

Cubs Report – Reed and Fletcher Packs

June 2022

Both Cub Packs visited Heswall fire station to learn all about fire safety. The Cubs where shown around the fire engine and they even got to sit in it and use the hose which they all enjoyed.

Two Cubs got invested as well at the fire station.

Both Packs visited NWMAS Ltd, at Broughton Airfield where Akela Iain works.

The cubs got hands on experience of some operational ex-military jet aircraft, this will go towards their air activities badge. They learnt about how an aircraft flies, and the main parts of an aircraft.

Bike rides were completed by the Packs on the promenade from Leasowe to New Brighton.

July 2022

Both Packs spent an evening in Royden Park, shelter building. The Cubs built some great shelters, and one Cub was invested at the end of the night.

We had an evening at the hut where the Cubs made mini catapults to take home.

Had a go at mini Archery and angel throwing. Thank you to Alan Parr for leading this activity.

Our second to last meeting of the term was a joint night with Fletcher Pack at “Wild Shore” in New Brighton. This was a fun night enjoyed by all.

Our last night of the term was spent at Thurstaston Country Park for a BBQ and sports day.

We had our Summer camp at PGL Boretton Park Shropshire. This was a joint camp with Fletcher Pack, Thor, Royden & Ismay Colonies and the Scouts.

This was a mix of adventurous water and land based activities as well as evening entertainment.

Some of the activities included raft building, Climbing, fencing, shooting, an assault course and some Cubs got very muddy, a camp fire and a disco.

We visited Blists Hill, which is a Victorian Town.

September 2022

Changes in leadership took place with Akelas Ian and Paul taking joint control of Reed and Akela Phil along with assistant Holly taking over Fletcher pack.

Our first night back after the summer break was an all section activity at the Brimstage Maze Maze.

On the Saturday afternoon 15 Cubs went sailing and windsurfing on West Kirby lake led by the sailing school.

We had “Royal Reflection” to remember our late Queen.

On another evening the Cubs had to build the tallest tower using only marshmallows and spaghetti to support an apple.

36 Cubs from Fletcher and Reed Packs attended the District Cub Camp at Hadlow Fields.

They took part in a range of activities, including a camp fire and morning yoga.

Reed Pack came 2nd in the District Tug of War.

A local bee keeper came to talk about Bee keeping and the equipment that is needed to Reed Pack.

October 2022

The Cubs brought in their Hobbies & Collections and talked about them to the rest of the pack.

The Cubs learned about ‘Day of the Dead’, and made Sugar skulls and masks.

November 2022

There was a joint Halloween party with Fletcher and Reeds packs

We had the awards night and firework display

We visited the Teams4u warehouse in Birkenhead to learn about the shoebox appeal and helped fill the Shoeboxes.

Remembrance

Each Cub was asked to find out about a member of their family or a family friend who had been involved in a war. It could be a great grandparent who may have been involved in the first or Second World War, or it may be someone who is currently serving in the Army, the Royal Air Force or the Royal Navy. They had to try and find out the following things:

Their Name

Which service they were in (Army, Air Force or Navy)

What their job was.

Any interesting facts, such as their rank or something they did during the War.

They had to talk to the rest of the pack about them.

We attended remembrance parade at St Bart’s along with the other sections.

As part of Parliament, Week Mayor Jeff Green visited us to talk about his roll of mayor and how the council works.

Cubs went to the Potting Shed in Hoylake and painted their own Ceramic Christmas tree.

This was a great night, and one to be repeated in the future.

We had a “Cubs got talent” night where they had the opportunity to perform their chosen talent in front of the rest of the pack.

December 2022

Both Cub packs went on a “Christmas Chippy Hike” along the Wirral Way from Thurstaston to West Kirby. Thank you to Bagheera for getting the Chips.

Cubs mad Christmas Tree pizzas

We had a Christmas party on our last night before Christmas. We played traditional party games including musical statues and musical chairs and pass the parcel.

The cubs had cake, coke and cloudy lemonade.

January 2023

The start of the New Year and term we went to watch the Chrysanthemums Panto "Red Riding Hood" at the Floral Pavilion.

Our first night back at the hut, we had a board games night. All the Cubs brought in a variety of board games.

A local bee keeper came to talk about Bee keeping and the equipment that is needed to Fletcher Pack as the meeting was cancelled before christmas.

We celebrated “Chinese New Year” and made Chinese dragons and Lanterns.

We had an “International food night”. The Cubs tried a variety of foods from around the world. They tried onion bhajis, spring rolls, kiwi fruit and pizza.

February 2023

We had a “Get Knotted” night and the Cubs had a go at tying a variety of knots.

We made Paracord Survival bracelets.

A Map & Compass Skills night.

During the half term break Cubs from Reed Pack along with Cubs from Fletcher Pack, Beavers from Royden, Ismay Colony and Scouts from Martin & Richardson troop travelled by coach to Paris.

We visited the Eiffel Tower, where 2 Cubs from Reed Pack got invested and we had a river cruise. The evening entertainment included mini Olympics, Crepe making and on our last night a disco,

We spent the whole day in Disneyland.

March 2023

Reed Pack visited the National Police Air Service base at Harwarden, to see the Police helicopter and to learn about the role of the helicopter, the Officers on board and the equipment they use. Due to the Helicopter breaking down Fletcher Pack did not visit the Site but Constable Beth attended the hut and gave the cubs a presentation and showed them videos from Police chases etc.

We had a fitness night.

Made Mother's day cards, which was led by young leaders.

Learnt how to look after their pets, and they earned their Pet carers badge.

The Cubs learned how to build, and light a fire to roast marshmallows on to make their Smores. They each took it in turns to light the fire using a flint and steel and cotton wool. They all managed it, with success.

There was a visit to Fletcher pack from Constable Emma who gave a talk on cyber security

April 2023

The Summer term started with a pack holiday to the Old School Lodge in Deiniolen North Wales. We visited the Greenwood forest Park on the Saturday and RSPB Conway on the Sunday.

The Wednesday after the pack holiday we had a basic skill night.

We made Catapults and learnt Knots.

May 2023

We have had a "Team challenge night"

Tower building: Using only newspaper and tape they had to build the tallest tower possible that stands up by itself.

Candle lighting: The Cubs where provided with garden canes, matches, sellotape, string and elastic bands. There was a tea-light some distance away. Without getting any closer, they had to light the tea-light using the equipment provided.

The next week the Cubs in their sixes where given a sheet containing various signs, symbols and pictures and they had to identify as many as they could.

We visited the Kailash Buddhist Centre in Bidston Road in Oxton, to learn about Buddhism and its ceremonies and meditation.

The last Cubs before half term they did camp fire cooking and cooked hot dogs wrapped in pizza dough, this was followed by roasting marshmallows to make smores.

June 2023

After the half term break the Cubs had a night of sailing on West Kirby Lake. A great night was had by all.

BADGES

Between both packs 521 badges have been awarded in the last 12 months and 5 chief scout silver awards

Going forward the Cubs have kite making and flying planned, a cubs bike ride and hike before the summer camp.

Both packs have increased in size with Reed currently having 35 cubs and Fletcher having 38 cubs. This resulting from a couple of cubs entering the movement and numerous moving up from Beavers.

A number of cubs have now moved up to Scouts continuing their scouting journey.

Cubs are lucky to have a great leader team which has expanded over the last few months to now include 3 Akelas, Phil, Paul and Iain and numerous assistant leaders

Gaynor (Kaa), Jenny (Chil), Mike, Chris, Holly (Raksha), Gayle (Owlette), Emma(Keeo) Jay(Jacala), John O(Bagheera) and John Mc(Baloo)

Both packs have great young leaders who are a credit to the movement.

Ben Griffin, Ben Wood, Daniel, Conrad, Brad, Alice and Gabriel

1st Thurstaston Scouts
Martin & Richardson Troop Annual Review 2022/23

June 2023

Summer Camp 2022 - Boreatton Park

Both Troops attended the summer camp at Boreatton Park last summer. Which commenced with a lovely 8 mile stroll for the Scouts, with the promise of ice cream when they finished. Some were less than impressed when they realised that the ice cream was around the corner from the starting point!

In between activities the Scouts really enjoyed the outdoor draughts set, with Grand Master Elliott dominating the games. The Scouts took part in many activities over the days that they were away, including kayaking, an adventure course, fencing, climbing, high ropes course, the giant swing and a disco.

Autumn Term 2022

The Scouts started the term with a trip to the Maize Maze, followed by a few weeks working on their Teamwork Challenge Badge. We then started some preparation work for the Beavan Challenge camp which we attended early in October.

Beavan Camp

JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet)

Shortly after returning from the Beavan, we also had an overnight camp at the hut to take part in JOTI. This involved speaking to other Scout Groups across the world and we managed to speak to many countries that we had not previously spoken to.

Night Hike

In October we also had time for a night hike from Storeton to Arrowe Park.

To finish the term, the Scouts worked on their Creative Challenge (making videos to promote Scouting) and then worked on their DIY badge making bird boxes. We finished the year with a trip to the Boulder Hut.

Winter Term 2023

We gave the Scouts a variety of different activities over the winter term, working on local knowledge, astronomy, chefs badge (bean & chorizo stew and camp donuts), meteorologists badge and even introduced the Scouts to an iron and ironing board!

Some of the Scouts also took part in the District Paintballing event.

Great Escape Camp

Once again the Scouts attended the Great Escape Camp at the start of the Easter Holidays.

A tiring weekend for some!

Spring/Summer Term 2023

For the Spring/Summer term we are starting to prepare the Scouts for summer camp which will be a back to basics/survival theme. We have already looked at fire lighting, working safely with axes, knives and saws. Currently we are working on navigation.

Some of the Scouts attended the first County Expedition weekend in which they passed their expedition challenge badge. We also attended the District Orienteering Competition and had some very creditable performances.

Thor & Royden Colony report 2022/23

Since September the Beavers have taken part in a variety of activities. On our first night back in September, we joined in with the Group event at the Maize Maze in Brimstage, we have had a visit from Helen and Angie the Bee ladies who came to talk about bees and bee keeping and the equipment that is used, which the Beavers all tried on!! this was an interesting evening. They have learnt how to make a phone call, send a text message and email. The Beavers have learnt how to spell their name using Morse code and work out a simple message, this was for the Communicator badge. They have completed the Readers badge, by designing a cover for their favourite book, making a bookmark and explaining what they are used for and how to look after their books.

We have visited the Teams4U warehouse in Birkenhead where the Beavers helped by packing Christmas shoeboxes, which were going to children in deprived countries. They also learnt about the different countries by watching a DVD. They brought in their own Christmas Shoebox which they had packed at home.

The Beavers have learnt about Remembrance and wrote their own prayers, plus made a large Poppy wreath which was on display at St Bartholomew's Church, Thurstaston. We attended the service on the following Sunday.

We have painted pottery at the Potting shed in Hoylake, made Christmas stockings and Reindeer decorations. Attended the District Beaver Nativity Service where 5 of our Beavers had a part to play.

On our first night back after Christmas we held a Lego night where each Beaver brought in a container of Lego and built a futuristic machine. We also said goodbye to Bella and wished her all the best as she moves on to Cubs for her next Scouting adventure.

We have had a visit to Heswall Fire station, the Beavers enjoyed looking around the Fire engine and sitting in it, needless to say, the best part of their evening was squirting water from the hoses. At the end of the evening, they had a talk on fire safety.

Over the next couple of weeks, they learnt about Health and Fitness by taking part in different Agility games, they made a fruit kebab, and discussed different food groups (not so healthy and healthy), made posters promoting healthy eating; these can be seen on the wall in the Scout hut and had a fantastic Fitness night, which was run by Helen (aka Sunshine).

The Beavers have completed their Cooks badge, by learning about kitchen hygiene and safety, food hygiene, they have made French bread Pizza's with different toppings - pineapple, pepperoni, chicken and sweetcorn, and they made chocolate crispy cakes.

They have learnt what to pack for a camp or sleepover and they have made card vases containing daffodils for Mother's Day.

The Beavers have learnt about different Disability's, how to push a wheelchair safely, they have guided each other blindfolded around an assault course, they have talked about different equipment that can assist a Disabled person. We had a visit from Sue with Guide

dog Sparkie, and she spoke to the Beavers about the work that the Guide dogs do to help a blind person, this was a very interesting night and the Beavers asked lots of questions. They learnt how to Fingerspell their name and the Beaver Promise.

The Beavers have enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. Learnt how to tie their shoelaces, reef knot and a bowline. They had an Experiment night, with 4 experiments- volcano, Candle, Skittles & water surface tension.

We talked about what plants need to grow, the tools that we use and the different seasons. The Beavers then planted a sunflower and herb seed and have taken them home to look after and record the seeds growth, this is to be returned in 2 months' time.

We have been on a Nature and Minibeast hike in Harrock wood in Irby. We are now learning how to look after our pets and the wildlife, the Beavers have made Fat balls to hang up in their gardens and are recording what birds they can spot in their garden. They will also be making bug hotels.

I would like to thank my leader team, Helen and Gregg, also my Young Leaders Nia, Sam, Gabe and Joe for all their help. I would also like to thank all of my parents for their help and support over the year.

Jayne Oliver – Beaver Scout Leader (Rusty)