1st Thurstaston Annual General Meeting 2015
Saturday 20th June 11.00 am

Flag Break – Ed Rudd

1. Fiona Hurley, Chairperson - WELCOME

2. Apologies - Brian Tucker, Steve Anderson, Gillian Carswell, Jane Fieldhouse, numerous parents.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

   Proposed by …Wendy Wood
   Seconded by Chris Perry

4. Chairperson Report - Fiona Hurley, see attached.

5. Treasurer's report - Lynn Harrison , see attached

6. Group Scout Leader's report - Sue Flush., see attached

Appointment of officers - Sue Flush as GSL.

Fiona Hurley has agreed to continue as Chair
GSL to duly appoint - Fiona Hurley.

7. Election of officers - Fiona Hurley 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 Brian Young. 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

Phill presented Marjorie Reed with a service award. Phill agreed with Sue's report that having more adult leaders on board would help such a big and successful group, it would be a great support. Phill said a thank you to all the parents for allowing the children to take part, and a thanks to all the leaders that make the group as successful as it is. A particular well done to Dan Callaghan on his journey to Japan which takes place very soon.

11. Awards. Awarded with the assistance of Phill Richardson.

Beaver Scouts- Thor Colony: attached

Ismay Colony: attached

Cub Scouts- Fletcher Pack: attached

Reed Pack: attached

Scouts- Richardson Troop: Promoted Matthew McGurk and Sam Costall to PL, and promoted Lucas Hughes, Adam Parr and George Rudd to SPL, and other awards attached

Scouts Martin Troop: attached

The flag duly lowered by in the closing ceremony by Ed Rudd

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Group Scout Leader Report 2015

This year I have decided to do the overview of the year first and the most important TQ's at the end.

So to begin where we left off last year – I am going to give you a month by month account of our busy year --- briefly! I promise…….

June 14 – BSL meeting, District Cub Camp at Sandiway, GSL meeting, Scouts Backwoods cooking competition, and having just returned from one camp we held a planning meeting for Sept Cub camp!

July 14 – Cubs to Archers Ice cream, Beavers sandcastle competition at the beach, GSL update meeting, Games night (did it rain? think it did) but was still very well supported and a huge success – well done and thanks Alan. On that note Alan has had a change of mind and is running it again this year - Friday 10th July with a new format – 'the giants are coming' even we are not sure what this means but Alan does so that's fine! We had a work day on the house and grounds.

Aug 14 – the much anticipated Chamboree camp at Cheshire County Show Ground – 21 Scouts and Explorer / YLs attended we had a fantastic camp even with the unwelcome visitor, which was 24hr up chucking bug, several (read lots) of scouts succumbed even Alan and Nathan one of our YL's – I have the constitution of a horse clearly or was it just that I was too busy cleaning up to be ill myself!!

After a few weeks off for the summer we were back at it with a Group leaders meeting and I was planning the YL training programme.

Sept 14 – Cub programme planning, Group Exec meeting, Scout post Stationery order completion, SL meeting, Moot transport, CSL meeting, Cubs sailing at WK – thanks to 2nd WK Sea Scouts. Another house and grounds work day, Tesco scout post meeting, QCW Cub Camp and we took the Beavers.

It was around this time that Helen Bevan our Ismay Beaver leader was taken ill, with many months of uncertainty ahead which led eventually to a diagnosis of MS. Helen is still not able to return to us yet but we are hoping that she can come back with a less demanding role in the future, we miss Helen every week and wish her all the best for the future.

Oct 14 – Scouts and Young leaders took part in the Beavan Comp at Sandiway, more YL training planning, Cubs went to visit the new B'Head Fire Station and took part in the Dist bowling comp, GSL meeting.

I noticed as writing my report at this point in my diary it says Doc's appt a lot! I was quite unwell although I didn't know it – thought it was just a cough but it lasted for many months. So I had to take a step back from the group to get myself better. I am grateful to everyone who stepped up to help out but particularly to Andy my AGSL who made sure all the day to day stuff happened and Vicky who took over the Scout

Post stamp sales with Liz pulling together the Tesco Sales and Royden sorting rotas, thank you.

Nov 14 – First Aid training, Scout Post Distribution night, we

had our Remembrance Parade at St Barts, the County Chief Scout Awards presentations and Bonfire night all in the same weekend. More YL training, Scouts had an overnight camp at HQ, Cubs went to Europa for the CIN splash, GSL support event, Cubs to Manx Science Museum, Beaver Craft day, and Scouts went to Europa for a swim and we held the Xmas Fair. Scout Post stamps went on sale and the Tesco selling rota began.

Dec 14 – More selling stamps, Carol services for Beavers and Cubs, Beavers to the Potting shed Hoylake, Scout and Cubs to the Climbing Hangar in Liverpool. Two weeks of really busy Scout post with selling at Tesco, in the Village and at local fairs, sorting at the scout hut and Royden and deliveries for 2 weekends. All the hard work was worth it for our largest chq ever, in excess of £3k, we get a percentage of every stamp we sell and a levy for all the Xmas cards we deliver. The Leaders and Exec had a well-deserved pre Xmas social at Liz's and we said our farewells to Matty – more about that later.

Jan 15 – we started the New Year with separate Leaders and Exec Committee meetings, there was a DCL and DSL meeting more YL planning and training. Took part in the District Cub 5 a side footie – which we won - hooray and also took 4th place with mixed teams from both packs. The Leader and Exec

teams had our post Xmas meal at the Glegg Arms. Scouts went skiing at the Oval.

Feb 15 – Wallasey Town Hall for the Scout post chq presentation, Scouts attended a County Pl training day, the other troop went skiing, First Aid training for Yls', Beavers and Cubs attend B'Head Gang show – Dist Cub Swim gala we took first and second place again with mixed teams from both packs.

Mar 15 – YL training, Cubs went skiing – thanks to Steve and James Webster for organising these sessions. Beavers went to Tesco for the Farm to Fork visits, Scouts entered the District Bowling Comp and the Cubs went to Deiniolen nr LLanberis for a Cub pack holiday. I attended the 1st scout post meeting of the year. Dist Cub Poster Comp – we won and took third place. Scouts went to the Great Escape at Tawd Vale and we are still cleaning the mud off the tents! Easter Fair run by the Exec this year and a great success it was too.

Apr 15 – Group Exec committee meeting, Scouts went to Deiniolen for the weekend, CSL meeting, First Aid training for Leaders, St Georges Day Parade with a difference we all walked to Hilbre Island what a great day out. Dan our Expl YL who is going to Jamboree this year stayed over on the island with other Expls and welcomed the parade onto the Island with the St G flag. Cubs went to the Kailash Buddhist centre to learn how to meditate, it was so peaceful……

May 15 – Group camp – rained a lot ! Cubs went to Tesco, Dist Agm, Mod A training for YL's, Cubs to Greenwood Centre, Beavers to Gullivers, SL meeting, First Aid training and a camp site visit to Sandiways

June 15 – Dist All Sections camp last weekend – the biggest group we have ever taken, 88 of us – we had to hire a van and a DD bus to get us all there and still used our mini bus and 2 trailers – fantastic camp – we are still drying the tents out !

Last night the Scouts had a visit from Chris Barrow a friend of Liz's who had appeared on Bear Grylls programme the Island – lots of questions about toilets (or the lack of them) apparently

Thanks Section

We would like to thank our team of YI's Olly, Nathan, Josh, Dan C, John, Dan F, Matty, James, Jamie, Ed, Alex, Kieran and Carrick who do so much for the Group – at camp last weekend the 5 who came all chose to come and help rather than participate. They come to help us a B / C / & S every week, we always take a good number of them on camp because they love what they do – in an age when YP often get such bad press, I'm pleased to say we have an amazing bunch who give above and beyond what is asked of them, please give them an enormous round of applause they deserve it.

We have worked hard this last twelve months to assist Dan who is going to Japan very soon to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree, selling his unit badges and fundraising at a few bag packs along the way, we are proud to be able to support him in this way and look forward to hearing all about it when he gets back – maybe we can persuade him to share his experience at this meeting next year. Enjoy yourself Dan we are very proud of you, what an amazing opportunity.

Leader's news – earlier this week I was delighted to present a special silver Thank you pin badge each to the Olivers – couldn't do it today as they are on holiday. Jon and Jayne between them have 40 years of service to this Group and we are grateful for their commitment and dedication.

Also earlier this year Andy Costall AGSL and Richardson Troop SL was presented with a Chief Scout Commendation for Good Service and received it at a presentation from the County Commissioner at District HQ, well done Andy very well deserved.

I'm going to say a few words about each Section and their leader teams:-

Ismay Beavers – Many thanks to Bev who stepped up to take over and lead Ismay from Helen when she was taken ill, Bev is sadly leaving us very shortly to go and live in America, when you come back Bev there is always a place for you here, we will miss you. We welcome Caroline and Beth to the team, Caroline has agreed to take over in September but

Lucy has decided to step down at the end of this term, so we will need more adult help in this section. Thanks Lucy for all your hard work over the years. Dan F and Carrick continue as YL's here.

Thor Beavers continues with Jayne and Ellie and occasionally Sue, one of our Nan's Lin has joined recently as a parent helper and Pascale is completing his gold D of E service. Matty C is YL here.

Fletcher Pack – Matt Jones has moved on to pastures new after joining us at aged 8 and working his way right up to Akela – we wish him well for the future. I was delighted when Liz agreed to take over as Akela, a role I know she is really enjoying, Liz is ably assisted by Beth and her 4 YL's James, Jamie, Ed and Alex but we could do with more adult support.

Reed Pack – briefly had a new Akela but sadly that didn't work out, so I am back at the helm, assisted by Jon and Paul and our YL's, Olly, Nathan and Josh.

Martin Troop – led by Brian and assisted by Ben a Scout dad who has joined us recently, Adam helped us out for a few months, Dan C and John are the YIs' here. Quick mention for Skye our trail blazer, first ever female scout in Martin troop and Brian's first ever Girl Scout in his troop – it's a learning curve!

Richardson Troop – led by Andy and Alan with Kieran as YL.

I am setting us a Group challenge – with most of our sections having only 2 warranted adult leaders, we do struggle if one of them is not able to make it - so we would like to recruit one new adult leader for each Section this year – we really do need more help as we continue to grow year on year. Please consider joining us, we have great fun, provide a great service and fantastic scouting opportunities for the kids. We have flexible volunteering and job sharing, you can help us every week or once a month, we don't mind we just need more adult help please.

Finally I would like to thank the team behind the scenes, Fiona as Chair, Vicky as Sec and Lynn as Treasurer, they 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. Steve Webster has decided to step down after many years of helping on the Exec, thanks Steve.

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

Welcome Phill Richardson, our District Comissioner, and our other guests from District and to you all. Lovely to have so many of you here for our AGM/Family fun day

I know you don't want a long report, but I 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. 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.

After our successful recruiting efforts at last year's AGM we have swelled the numbers for our meetings and had to move them to the pub – shame! Thanks must go to you all 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 match funded on both our Christmas & Easter fairs by parents, and I must thank Wendy Wood for taking the lead in organising these events. We have also had 2 Volunteer Grants from parents working in banks. In the last year we have also helped with the games night, 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. We've also been able to support Dan Callaghan in his fundraising efforts for his trip to Japan – I'm sure Akela will mention this, but have a fabulous time – we're proud to have you representing the group.

This is the point where I'm asking for more parents to join the Group Exec as Parent reps (I know you've all been prompted to think about it!) - We would like one new parent for every Section. In such a big group it really is vital that we have more adult support from the parent body.

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 facelifted fire circle. 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…

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

Thanks go again to Nathan & Ian for maintaining the group website - please take a look as the archives and photo gallery.

Also a big thanks to Akela our Group Scout Leader for her hard work etc….

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

AWARDS – AGM 2015

THOR COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – JUDE BURNETT

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – JACK EDWARDS

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – DREW WOODWARD-BOOTH

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – ALEX LAW

ISMAY COLONY

BEAVER SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – EWAN JONES

BEAVER PARTICIPATION – DAN YOUNG

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – RYAN GORMAN

BEAVER OF THE YEAR – BEN GRIFFIN

FLETCHER PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – JESS BARR

CUB PARTICIPATION – BEN ROBERTS

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – THOMAS BELL

CUB OF THE YEAR – DAN PERRY

REED PACK

CUB SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – SHAHEER SHAZAD

CUB PARTICIPATION – CHARLIE LIGGETT

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – ETHAN BROWN

CUB OF THE YEAR – SKYE HENNING & JAMES WOOD

RICHARDSON TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – SAM MAXWELL

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – ALASTAIR CARSWELL

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – JOE CROSS

SCOUTS OF THE YEAR – MATTHEW MCGURK & ALASTAIR CARSWELL

MARTIN TROOP

SCOUT SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATTITUDE – LUKE POULSTON

SCOUT PARTICIPATION – MAT CALLAGHAN

OUT OF COMFORT ZONE – BEN TAYLOR

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – DAN FIELDHOUSE

Just a quick overview of the accounts,.

Again this year showed an increase in subs, up by £871.00 on last year. A direct benefit from the introduction of the second scout troup.
Donations have decreased again.
Gift Aid is still to be completed but it estimated in the region of £ 3252.00
Income from the group activities had also increased, by over £5k well done Sue.

Overall fundraising for the year was down against last. Scout post had increased again, along with the easy fundraising. Thank you to the internet shoppers !!

General expenses expanded throughout the year, with the major increase due to the work on the fields outside. Transport maintenance was also a major factor this year.

Fundraising expenses have decreased again, meaning its cost less this year to raise more....well done.

I have recently changed electricity suppliers, as we have expired our fixed term, so we will hopefully see a better result there next year.

Overall, compared to last year April13-14 we have made a huge £3139.00 against the results of last year. So a big well done to everyone who has helped out.

The accounts have been checked and approved by our external examiner.

The future……..

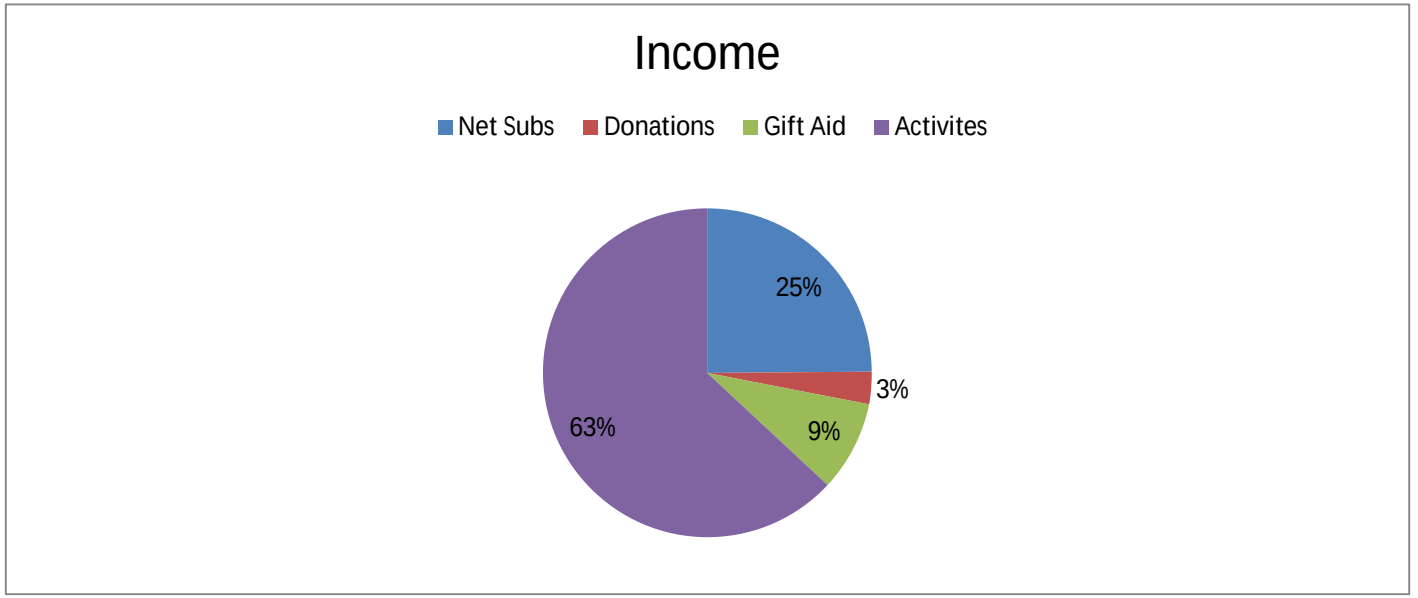
We have now phased out the majority of the term time payments, along with payments made by cash and cheque, which is safer and more secure for the group and parents alike.

We proposed last year to introduce a 10% increase for all subs from September 15, this will bring the fee to £120 a year, or £10.00 per month, note this is after after 4 years with no increase. I will be in touch nearer the time with reminders.

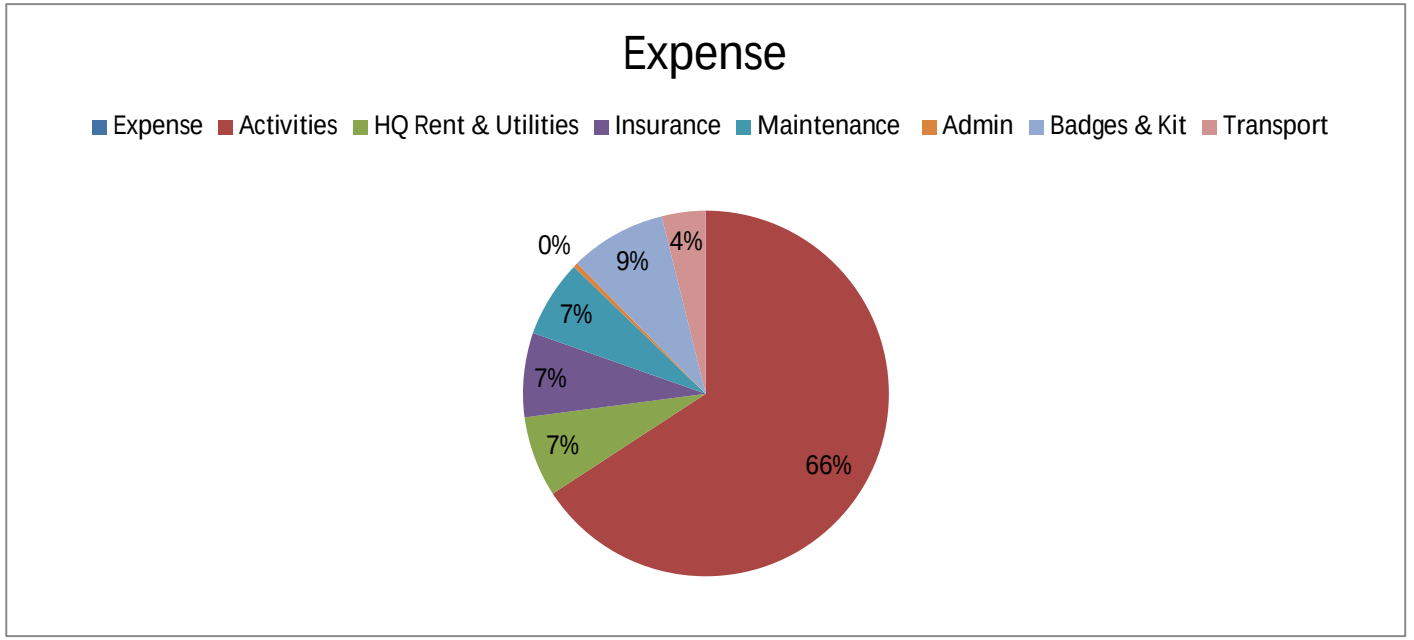
If you want further information or any assistance give me a shout after the meeting.

Does anyone have any questions ?

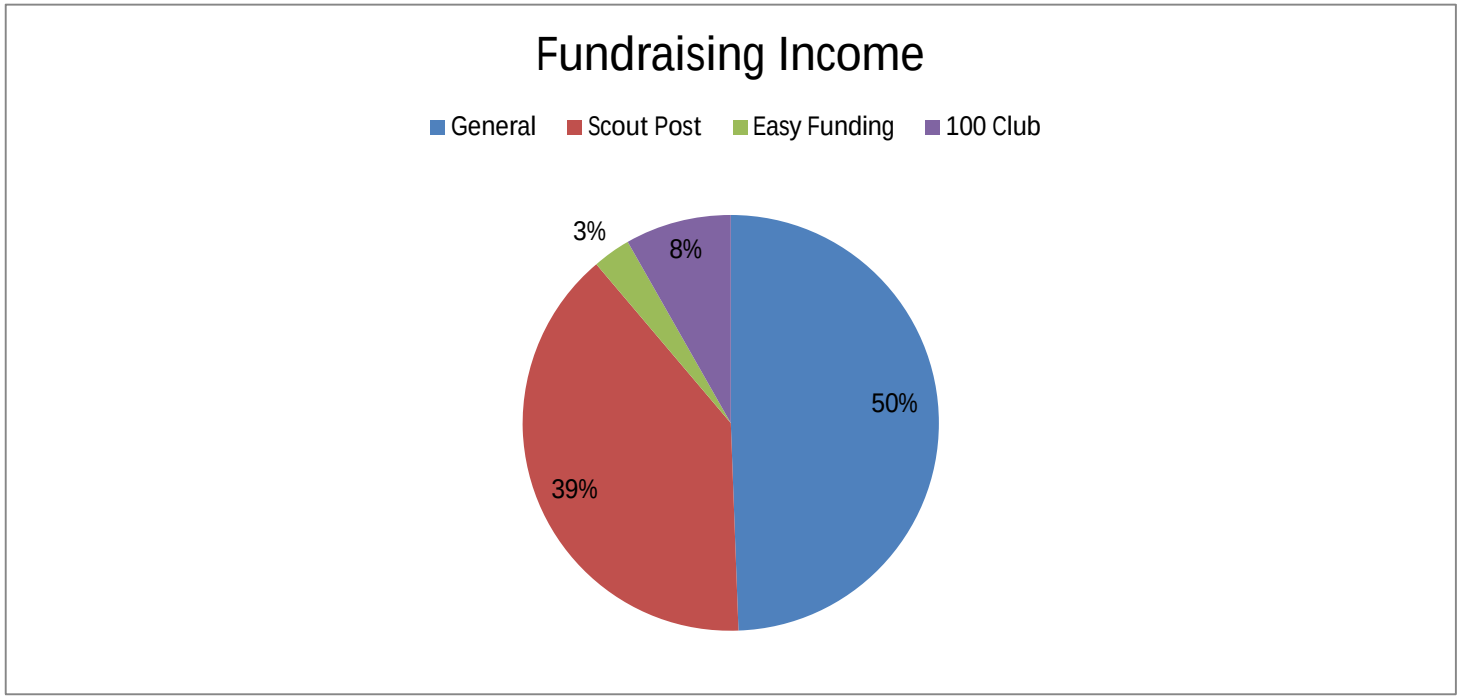
Income		
Net Subs	£8,252	25%
Donations	£1,067	3%
Gift Aid	£3,019	9%
Activites	£21,282	63%
Total	£33,620	



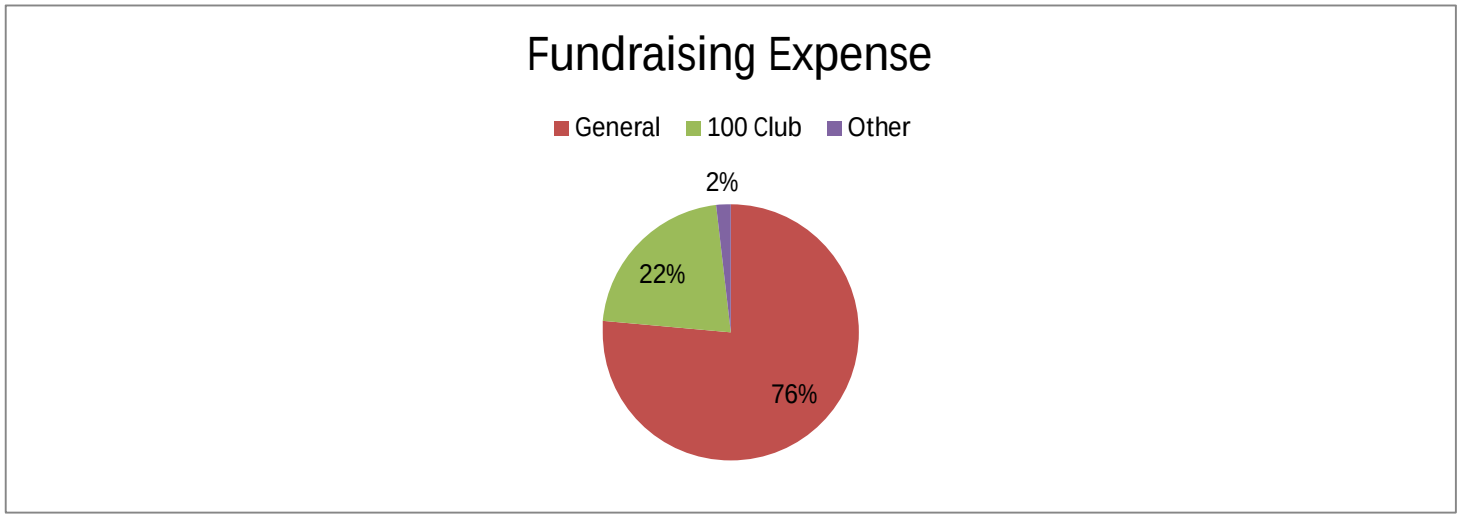
Expense		
Activities	£24,902	66%
HQ Rent & Util	£2,697	7%
Insurance	£2,831	7%
Maintenance	£2,579	7%
Admin	£161	0%
Badges & Kit	£3,225	9%
Transport	£1,471	4%
Total	£37,866	



Fundraising Income		
General	£3,376	49%
Scout Post	£2,690	39%
Easy Funding	£200	3%
100 Club	£564	8%
Total	£6,830	



Fundraising Expense	
General	1269
100 Club	£360
Other	£31
Total	£1,659



Treasury Report 2014/15

				13/14	14/15 To Date
Income					
	Donation and similar income				
	IS	Subscriptions		£13,763.00	£14,699.00
	N	District capitiation		-£5,511.00	-£5,576.00
		Net subscriptions		£8,252.00	£9,123.00
	DON	Donations		£1,067.00	£902.58
	GA	Gift Aid		£3,019.49	£2,958.30
		Other income, including activities account		£21,281.53	£26,370.52
			sub total	£33,620.02	£39,354.40
	Grants				
	GT	Grants (includes start up activities account)		£0.00	
			sub total	£0.00	£0.00
	Fundraising (gross)				
	IF	General		£3,376.08	£2,764.81
	IF	Scout post		£2,689.68	£3,114.65
	IF	Easy Fundraising		£199.80	£263.74
	100	100 Club		£564.00	£492.00
		Other (Apr Internal Trsf)		£0.00	£0.00
				£6,829.56	£6,635.20
	AS	Asset Sale		£0.00	
		see below for current investment interest		£48.07	£142.24
			Total Income	£40,497.65	£46,131.84
	Adjustment				
	ITRF	Transfer		£0.00	£90.00
Expenditure					
	Charitiable Payments				
	TRF	Youth Programme and activites account trf		£24,901.85	£24,535.96
	G	Adult support and training		£0.00	£0.00
	B	HQ rent		£1,000.00	£1,000.00
	C	Water		£232.92	£235.23
	D	Electricity		£1,464.00	£1,706.00
	I	Insurance (Property + equipment + personnel)		£3,831.17	£4,769.17
	F	HQ Maintenance - repairs and renewals		£1,829.51	£4,729.27
	K	Materials and equipment purchases		£750.00	£882.46
	E	Administration, printing etc		£128.20	£53.38
	L	Uniforms and kit		£630.00	£162.00
	M	AGM/hospitality		£27.80	£193.29
	Q	Transport insurance		£964.26	£0.00
	O	Transport Purchase		£0.00	£0.00
	P	Transport Maintenance		£282.00	£1,031.34
	R	Transport Road fund licence		£225.00	£225.00
	T	Transport Fuel		£0.00	£0.00
	W	Badge Account		£2,594.63	£2,411.28
			sub total	£38,861.34	£42,024.38
	Fundraising Expenses				£0.00
	H	General expenses		£1,268.32	£608.36
	A	100 Club		£360.00	£360.00
	U	Other fundraising activities		£31.28	£0.00
			sub total	£1,659.60	£968.36
			Total expenditure	£40,520.94	£42,992.74
			Net income of	**-£23.29**	£3,139.10

Accumulative Cash Balance

Current Account Bank		
Bank balance	£13,286.54	
Outstanding receipts	£10.00	
Uncleared cheques	£0.00	
Closing bank	**£13,296.54**	
Bus Interest Account @ 1/4/13		
Bank balance	**1800.77**	
Interest to date		
Transfers in		
Transfers Out		
Closing Account balance 31/3/14	**£1,800.77**	
Lloyds TSB Deposit Account 6 Week withdrawal	£10,072.34	
Scout Short Term investment Account @ 31/3/14	£11,518.46	
Total fund available	**£36,688.11**	**£38,012.81**

Activities Account opening cash balance @ 1/4/13	**3103.14**	£224.82
Total income	22023.53	£26,370.52
Total expenditure including £2969.90 unrepresented Chq's	-24901.85	-£24,535.96
Closing cash balance @ 31/3/14	**224.82**	£2,059.38
Closing Group balance @ 31/3/14	**£36,912.93**	**£40,072.19**

Thor Beaver Colony report 2014/15

In the past year we have been very busy. We have talked about wildlife conservation, and visited the Wirral country park where we had an interesting talk and were shown around by Frank Bennett who is the head ranger. We talked about different types of animals both large and small, we also had a Mini Beast hunt around the grounds and looking at what they had found through magnifying glasses. We have learnt the Life cycle of a frog and Dylan one of the Beavers brought in his Bearded Dragon to show us.

We have learnt about the Country Code, and know what to do and not to do in the Countryside. Each Beaver designed their own poster.

We held our annual Sandcastle competition at Caldy beach, we were joined by Ismay Colony.
We have told the Beavers about the origins of Scouting and about our founder Baden Powell.
We discussed Beavers natural habitat and have made Beaver pencil pots.

We have prepared and tasted different healthy foods and monitored our heartbeats after different exercises. Learnt about Personal hygiene and designed Healthy eating posters. We have attended the following District events, the Christmas craft day, Carol service and party, the Beaver Challenge and Gullivers World.

We have made a prayer tree and each Beaver wrote their own short prayer to put on the tree and at the end of each meeting they read them out. Around Christmas time we made Reindeer calendars, Walnut whip snowmen and visited the Potting shed in Hoylake when each Beaver painted their own figure. We have had a night hike along the Wirral way from Caldy to Thurstaston and been Bowling.

After Christmas we had a joint New Year party with Ismay Colony. We visited the Buddhist centre in Oxton and learnt about their beliefs.

We have talked about what to do in emergency and in pairs the Beavers bandaged each other. We have had a cooking night and made muffin pizzas, pancakes and chocolate crispy cakes.

We have identified different types of birds, made bird feeders and the Beavers have designed and created their own birds. At the beginning of May we attended the Group camp.

We have learnt how to pack a rucksack and how to tie a reef knot. One night we went and planted trees outside St Chad's Church hall, for the community and enjoyment of others.

We have been to Royden Park for an Alphabet hike. We have learnt about the Weather, the Beavers coloured in their own Weather maps and pretended to be Weather presenters.

We have just attended the District All Section camp at Sandiways Forest camp.

I would like to thank Ellie, Sue L, Linda, Pascal, Rebecca, Matthew and all of my parent helpers for there help and support throughout the year.

Jayne Oliver Beaver Scout Leader

Thor Beaver Colony

1st Thurstaston Ismay Beaver Colony Annual Report

We finished our Summer Term with the fantastic annual sandcastle building competition at Caldy Beach, it was a great end to a fabulous year at 1st Thurstaston for the Beavers and they all enjoyed themselves a lot.

Once back in September it was time to get started on a new term and embrace the Beaver Scout Motto – Fun and Friends! We try to balance our programmes with having lots of fun partnered with some work towards activity badges. It always gives us great pleasure to see our Beaver Scouts with an arm full of badges, they enjoy achieving them and feel proud that they have earned them.

We had lots of activities planned up until Christmas 2014 and these included the annual Beaver Scout nativity play, the trip to the potting shed and of course the wonderful trip to Archers ice cream parlour where we got to see a freshly made tub of vanilla ice cream being made! It was very tasty!

From January 2015 we started our term with a wonderful new year's party that we teamed up jointly with Thursday nights' Thor Beaver Colony. A great night of fun, games and laughter was had by all!

For those Beaver Scouts who have never been on a camp I thought it would be a nice idea to have an indoor campfire of our own! Alan Bennett, from the West Wirral District came to our hut and taught us some fabulous traditional camp fire songs – followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows!

We met a Boeing Dreamliner airline pilot who enthralled the children and hopefully fired some of their imagination for future careers in the airline industry.

A visit to the sponsor of the Animal Friend activity badge was a great evening for the Beaver Scouts – we visited Pet's at Home in Bromborough for a guided tour and we even got to pet some of the animals. We invested our new Beaver Scouts here – what a great memory!

With the Tesco Farm to Fork initiative sponsoring a badge for the Scouting association it seemed like a great idea to make a visit here. A great way to teach the Beaver scouts about healthy eating and how our food goes from the Farm to the Fork!!

We had some very special visitors from Hoylake School of Dance who put us all through our paces with a fantastic street dance routine! A great evening and lots of fun and laughter all around again!

I thoroughly enjoyed taking the Beaver Scouts to Tranmere Rovers for the match day experience. What a great coaching session they had followed by watching Tranmere Rovers being defeated – which was a real shame! But despite that we still had a memorable day out!

In the run up to Easter we made Easter cards and chocolate cornflake cakes –Carrick took to the kitchen to melt the chocolate and have everything ready for the Beavers to make their cakes! Great work Carrick! The Easter cards looked great and the Beavers wrote their promise inside too.

We have introduced Lodge Leaders and Lodge Seconds to our colony – these are positions within each lodge – a lodge leader is overall in charge of the lodge and the second is second in charge! We thought it would be a great addition to our structure and hope it prepares the Beavers for the structure of Cub and Scouts. As lodge leaders and seconds move on to Cubs we will be replacing them with Beavers who are next to be promoted!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Caroline McBain to the leader team at 1st Thurstaston – Caroline is going to be an assistant Beaver Scout leader on a Tuesday night at Ismay Beaver Colony. Caroline is a senior school teacher and has experience leading in the Army Cadets! We are very pleased that she has volunteered her time and I know she is enjoying every single minute of it! Caroline's Beaver leader name is River – the name has been chosen by the Beavers! Well done Beavers it is a great name!

During April we discussed our Code of Conduct with the Beaver Scouts and between us all agreed a set of guidelines that we would try and stick to!

A District event in April saw hundreds of West Wirral Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and explorers hiking to Hilbre Island and taking part in the St Georges Day parade and service! Well done to everyone who took part in this!

We had our annual Group Camp in May and experienced the wettest, muddiest camp ever! We invested 2 of our newest Beaver Scouts at the camp fire. Despite the weather it was great camp, the children didn't mind the weather but I think some of the leaders did! I think we all had dried out by Tuesday!

Our annual West Wirral District day out was in May and the Beavers enjoyed a fun packed day out to Gulliver's World. Many thanks to the parents who helped out on the day – we really appreciated your help.

During this term we have been looking at how to pack a rucksack for camp and Scouting from around the world. We made bird feeders with lard and bird seed and some lovely decorative birds to hang in the hut.

Over the past 2 weeks we have been working towards our Safety Activity badge and had a visit from WPC Sue Fowles from Upton police station who talked to the Beaver Scouts about stranger danger.

The past weekend nearly 100 of us from 1st Thurstaston went to Sandiways Campsite in Northwich to take part in a fantastic all sections district camp. It was an amazing experience and we all had a wonderful time. Making great memories and having lots of fun! I cannot recommend enough the fabulous times we have at camp! The children have a great time and if you are ever in doubt about sending your child to camp please do speak to one of the leaders, we look after your children as if they are our own. Camps are part of growing up in the scouting movement – and it you ask anyone what they remember about their time in Scouting it will be the camps they went on!

We devise a balanced programme throughout the year and during the 2 years that your child is a Beaver Scout our aim is for them to achieve the prestigious Chief Scout Bronze award amongst other badges of achievement. We hope your child enjoys Beaver Scouts as much as we enjoy it!

We would like to welcome Beth Dalby as a section assistant and also Dan Fieldhouse as a young leader to our group, many thanks for your time and hard work.

I would like to thank the dedication and hard work of the leader team. I, Caroline McBain, Lucy Churchill and Beth Dalby would like to pass our thanks to Carrick Hurley and Dan Fieldhouse for their support and dedication to 1st Thurstaston, they are fantastic young leaders and their commitment to our group is wonderful to see in such young people.

We would personally like to thank all the parents that are on the parent rota and thank you for encouraging your children to attend.

We are still in need of helpers for our Tuesday night Beaver colony, even if you can commit to helping on 1 Tuesday every month that would be a great help. If you think this is something that you might be able to do please please speak to one of the leader team at 1st Thurstaston.

Bev Ashton – Tic Tac

Ismay Beaver Colony

1st THURSTASTON SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report Fletcher & Reed Cub Packs 2014-2015

September saw us start back with a charity fun night to raise money for blind people by "going spotty". We also did a First Aid refresher night, and spent some weeks looking at Fire Safety, having a visit and talk from the dad of a Cub who is a Fire Officer and gaining our activity badge. Both packs then moved on to gain their Backwoods Cooking award, learning how to cook over the altar fires- French bread pizzas & s'mores anyone? As always in November we went to Europa Pools in Birkenhead to take part in the Children In Need Splash event were all the cubs had fun in the pool & then ate yummy cup-cakes made by the Callaghan family, and had a visit from Pudsey Bear himself! Akela Matty arranged for the British Red Cross to visit in November with their mobile communication vehicle to help us gain our Communicators Badge- we learned how to use walkie-talkies, send and receive emails & text messages, and stay safe on the internet. Both packs also went to MOSI in Manchester on the District day out- a really fun museum to visit.

December saw us going along to the District Carol Service at the United Reformed Church in Heswall, and getting busy selling Christmas Post stamps to our friends and relatives, and in Irby Village. Our last meeting before Christmas was a night hike along the Wirral Way to West Kirby, where we were rewarded with chips! We also said goodbye to Akela Matthew Jones, who joined the West Wirral District leader team- this was sad because Matty had been a member of our group since he joined as a Beaver!

2015 and January saw Liz Hughes taking over as Akela of Fletcher Pack. We reviewed our rules and renewed our Code of Conduct, as well as holding a Pack Forum. The rest of January saw us working hard towards our Astronomer Badge- we learned lots about the Solar System and space, and the difference between planets and stars. We even had a really interesting visit from a real Professor of Astronomy, Chris Collins (a dad of an ex-Cub & Scout) - he spoke to us about his day job hunting for unknown galaxies and answered lots of interesting questions we had about space! January also saw us taking part in the District 5-a-side football tournament- Fletcher Pack came third overall and Reed Pack won, becoming District Champions!! Proud Akelas at our scout hut!!

As well as sampling cheer leading as a new sport in February, lots of us went to the dry ski slope at The Oval, Bebington to try our hand (or is that feet?) at skiing-lots of fun on a cold night. Both packs sent a strong squad of swimmers to the District Swimming Gala at Leasowe Pool. After a tension filled afternoon we emerged as District Champions and runners-up- 2 very proud (and hoarse from cheering) Akelas!! February also saw us creating our entries for the District Safety Poster Competition- this year's theme was Water Safety. The final was held at our HQ, and involved the RNLI from Hoylake demonstrating their skills and equipment, judging the entries from 6 groups and eating yummy pizza. The competition was won by….. Fletcher Pack with Reed Pack coming third! Another trophy for the cabinet Akela!!!

March began with us donning our lab coats and spending time in scientific investigation in order to achieve our Scientist Badge. We made compasses when looking at magnetism, inside out eggs when finding out about centrifugal force and made our own erupting volcanoes, amongst other things. Both packs also spent a fab weekend at Deiniolen, Snowdonia staying at The Old School Lodge and watched the birds at RSPB Conway, gaining our Naturalists Badge, and visiting Conway Castle where

we invested some Cubs on the walls! We also went to the slate caverns at Llanberis before leaving for home. We ended the spring term with a hill walk from Caldy Hill through Royden Park.

The summer term began with us looking at different faiths for our World Faiths badge- we had a very peaceful and restful visit to the Kailash Buddhist Centre in Oxton- probably our quietest pack meeting yet! We also found out where our food comes from on the Farm To Fork tour at Tesco, Heswall- I'm not sure tasting stinky cheese went down well with some Cubs! We have refreshed our knowledge of tracking signs and looked at camp planning. May also saw us going to Greenwood Forest Park in Snowdonia on the District outing- and it didn't rain this year!! May also saw us holding our group camp with an overnight camp at our HQ-we all had fun despite the rain and who knew how much fun an inflatable assault course could be in the wet??? Our whole group took part in the District All-Sections camp at Sandiways campsite having lots of fun doing things like zorbing, clay-pigeon shooting, kayaking, climbing and backwoods cooking. We have just completed our Road Safety badge, having the local PCSO visiting us to find out if we knew our Green Cross Code. The rest of the term will see us working towards our Fitness Challenge Award, a water games night (where both Akelas will attempt not to get their hair wet!), a visit to Leasowe Lighthouse and our last meeting crabbing at West Kirby.

A fun filled, hectic and enjoyable year of scouting for 1st Thurstaston Cubs!

1st Thurstaston Scouts 2014/2015 Annual Review

In October 19 Scouts from our Group took part in the Beavan Challenge. This was the largest ever entry from our Group.

They took part in a variety of activies including Biking, Shooting, Hiking, Orienteering, First Aid and 2 different camp challenges.

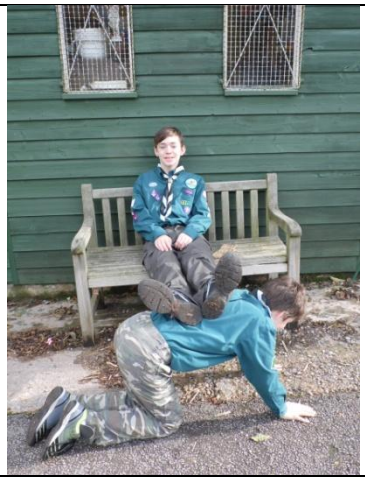
Also in October both Scout Troops took part in the JOTI weekend. JOTI stands for Jamboree on the Internet.

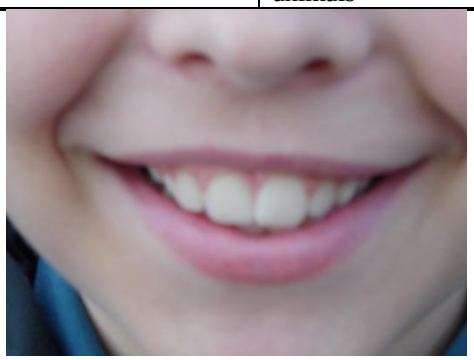
The Scouts took part in several challenges that had to be posted onto the internet. They also had the opportunity to speak to other Scouts around the world. We managed to speak to Scouts in Portugal and also contact Scouts from Pakistan, Ukraine, and the USA.

One of the sugar art drawings done by the Scouts as part of the JOTI challenge

Another of the JOTI challenges was to recreate the Traditional Scout Law in pictorial form which can be seen below

Traditional Scout Law in Photos

			
Scout is Trusted	A Scout is Loyal	A Scout is Courteous	A Scout is helpful to others
cout is Friendly	A Scout is a friend to animals	A Scout is thrifty	A Scout obeys orders

	
A Scout smiles & whistles	A Scout is clean of thought

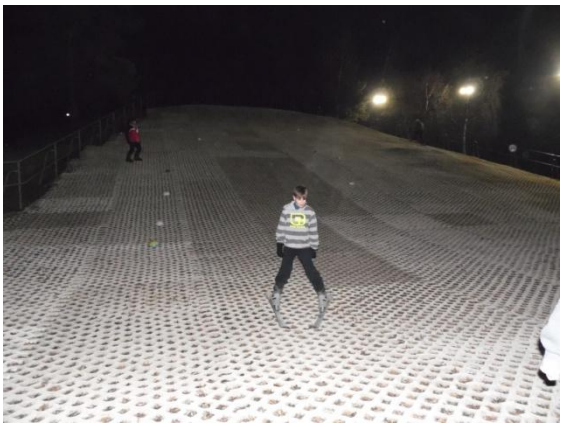
In November the Scouts had a Halloween themed night with traditional games and pumpkin carving.

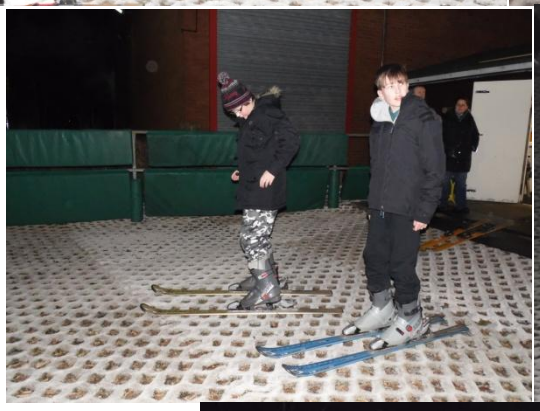
The Annual District Camp Fire was held 1st Frankby Greasby this month. 14 of the Scouts from both Troops at the end of the camp fire hiked to the Dungeon for a game of spotlight. As we knew it would be a late night the Scouts had a sleepover at the hut

One of the Badges we have been looking at this year is the Camper Activity Badge. As well as learning about different stoves to cook with, the Scouts have tried their hand at making camp gadgets.

The Group has also this year purchased 3 second hand bell tents. These heavy canvas round bell shaped tents have been used at the Group camp in May and the All Sections Camp in June.

Both Troops enjoyed a taster session at The Bebington Oval Dry Ski slope. It was pretty clear which Scouts had skied before but even the nervous first timers were able to slide down the slope by the end of the session.





Some of our Scouts who were at the point of becoming Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders, attended the County Patrol Leaders Training Day. They learnt extreme fire lighting and had a go at Tomahawk Throwing.

The Great Escape in March turned out to be The Great Mud Bath! Even so the Scouts showed great spirit in not letting the poor weather get them down.

In April the weather was a lot kinder for the Scouts, as they stayed the weekend at The Old School Lodge in Deinoillen.

On the Saturday the Scouts had a nine mile hike followed by a fish and chip supper in Barmouth. On Sunday they spent the day at Greenwood Forest Park.

Dan, one of the Young leaders who helps out with Martin Troop, is shortly off to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. On the Saturday night he had some Japanese themed activities for the Scouts to participate in.

In May and June the Scouts attended a further 2 camps. Our Group Camp in May at the hut and also the All Sections District Camp at Forest Camp, Sandiways.

Left: A terrified scout on the ducking stool...if I remember right he did go in and that water was really cold!

Below: One of the Group's new acquisitions this year was a parachute under which we can stay nice and dry around the fire. This was used for the first time at Group Camp.

At the All Sections District Camp, one of the activities available to the children was zorbing which can be seen in foreground of the picture on the right. The tents in the background are the ones for our Group. 16 sleeping tents (including the 3 bell tents), the party tent (for eating) and the garage tent (for cooking) are out of shot. The Scout Leaders slept in hammocks in the trees. 11 of the Scouts slept the second night of the weekend in shelters they made themselves from tarpaulins and rope.