



1st HALESOWEN SCOUT GROUP

**Annual Accounts & Report
2019 - 2020**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0 1 0 4 1 9

to end date

3 1 0 3 2 0

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

1st Halesowen Scout c Group

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

5 2 4 6 2 5

HQ registration number

0 7 8 9 5

Charity's principal address

1st Halesowen Scout Centre

Elizabeth Road

Halesowen

Postcode

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mark Timmins	Chair	From May 2019
2	John Carter	Treasurer	
3	Alison Wood	Secretary	
4	Margaret McCann	Subs Secretary	From May 2019
5	Sarah Reynolds	Group Scout Leader	
6	Peter Case		
7	Caroline Betteridge		
8	Samantha Grinham		
9	John Sankey		
10	Claire Timmins		
11	Danielle Baptiste		
12	Gail White		
13	Ian Dale		
14			
15			

Custodian Trustees	Name	Address
	Sandra Smith	
	Roger White	
	Cliford Shackleton	
	Anthony Alcock	

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The Group's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Policies and procedures adopted for:

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of 4 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Subscription Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual Section Leaders, parent's and supporters representatives and meets every month.

Members of the Executive Committee complete '*Essential Information for Executive Committee*' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

The maintenance of Group property;

The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;

The insurance of persons, property and equipment;

Group public occasions;

Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;

Appointing any sub committees that may be required;

Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control

The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal. Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others. Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live. Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	
Contribution made by volunteers	<p>The Scout Group is indebted to a significant number of adult volunteers who give their time freely and at no cost to the Group. These include Leaders in the Sections, members of the Group Executive and a number of Supporters who assist the Group on as as required basis.</p>
Public benefit statement	<p>The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>

Section D**Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Once again all the Sections in the Group delivered a varied, adventurous and fun programme of weekly meetings, activities and camps throughout the year. This resulted in our Young People earning a large number of badges and awards including for many the top award in each Section. Following a financial review, a series of cost savings were made which collectively totalled more than £2200. These were in areas such as insurance, security, cleaning & hygiene and utilities. There were no large, unplanned, maintenance issues during the year. Net fundraising income was around £3500 for the second year running but below the £5000+ target. The £5771 excess of income / expenditure recovers almost 80% of the deficit of the previous year.

Section E**Financial Review****Reserves Policy**

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 3 months running costs, circa £4K.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is required for day to day operations and as a consequence the Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

The Group Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

The COVID-19 outbreak has meant all activities and income is suspended. This is likely to have a significant effect of income from subscriptions, fundraising and rental income in the next financial year. Our reserves are sufficient to survive the current difficulties.

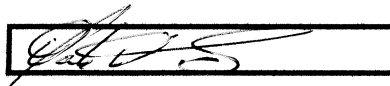
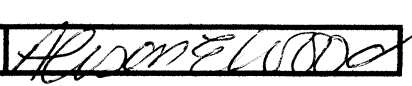
Section G

Declaration

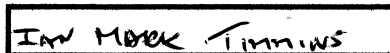
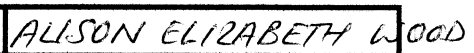
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

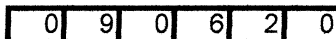
Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Date



1st Halesowen Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01.04.2019	To	31.03.2020
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Receipts and payments

	2019/20			2018/19
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	14,114.00	-	-	12,067.75
Less: Membership subscriptions paid	5,148.00	-	-	4,850.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	8,966.00	-	-	7,217.75
Donations	622.51	-	-	505.50
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid		-	-	3,240.430
Other similar income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,588.51	-	-	10,963.68
Fundraising (gross)				
Social Events	3,911.90	-	-	1,908.00
Other Events	3,189.25	-	-	3,699.48
Sub total	7,101.15	-	-	5,607.48
Activities				
Weekly programmes & activities	2,541.00	-	-	3,478.50
Camps	5,694.00	-	-	2,473.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award		1,680.00	-	2,069.00
Minibus & Equipment	440.00			945.01
Uniforms & Training	178.50	-	-	203.50
Sub total	8,853.50	1,680.00	-	9,169.01
Investment income				
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Building Society interest	11.02	-	-	23.74
Property Rent income	11,120	-	-	7,562.50
Other income	594.00	-	-	51.42
Sub total	11,725.02	-	-	7,637.66
Total Gross Income	37,268.18	1,680.00	-	33,377.83
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,268.18	1,680.00	-	33,377.83

1st Halesowen Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01.04.2019	To	31.03.2020
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Receipts and payments


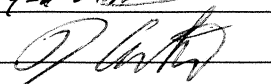
	2019/20			2018/19
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Payments				
Charitable Payments				
Youth programme and activities	4,519.27	-	-	4,519.27
Uniforms and training	796.20	-	-	796.20
Duke of Edinburgh Award	-	899.57	-	899.57
Camps	5,232.76	-	-	5,232.76
Electricity and Gas	1,905.72	-	-	1,905.72
Insurance	1,912.98	-	-	1,912.98
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000.78	-	-	3,000.78
Water and Sewerage	316.74	-	-	316.74
Equipment	1,434.20	-	-	1,434.20
Minibus	2,803.43	-	-	2,803.43
Cleaning and Sanitary	4,632.36	-	-	4,632.36
Security	1,259.64	-	-	1,259.64
Telephone and Internet	423.82	-	-	423.82
Administration	417.91	-	-	417.91
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sub total	28,655.81	899.57	-	29,555.38
Fundraising expenses				
Social Events	2,673.16	-	-	2,673.16
Other Events	948.39	-	-	948.39
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,621.55	-	-	3,621.55
Total Gross Expenditure	32,277.36	899.57	-	33,176.93
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total payments	32,277.36	899.57	-	33,176.93
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,990.82	780.43	-	5,771.25
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	4,990.82	780.43	-	5,771.25

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31-Mar-20			31-Mar-19	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Bank current account	9,657.02	1,348.16	-	11,005.18	5,456.80
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-	-
Building society account	7,487.22	-	-	7,487.22	7,476.20
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Cash/Floats	739.25	-	-	739.25	527.40
Total cash funds	17,883.49	1,348.16	-	19,231.65	13,460.40
Other monetary assets					
Gift Aid outstanding	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00	6,000.00
Hire charges outstanding from Non - Group users of the Scout Centre	140.00	-	-	140.00	3,300
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total				9,140.00	9,300.00
Investment assets					
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total					
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Badge stock	1,563.00	-	-	1,563.00	250.00
Uniforms	100.00	-	-	100.00	200.00
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	760,000.00	-	-	760,000.00	735,145.00
Motor vehicles	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	17,000.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	50,000.00	-	-	50,000.00	40,099.00
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	826,663.00	-	-	826,663.00	792,694.00
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	20.00	-	-	20.00	204.80
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	20.00	-	-	20.00	204.80

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 9th June 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name	
	IAN MARK TINNINGS	Chair
	JOHN CARTER	Treasurer

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Halesowen Scout group

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer


As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages 1 to 3

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Signed.....  Name..... I. M. DALE

Address: 34 Birley Grove, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1EP

Date: 7th May 2020

SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019 – 2020

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Membership Fees	14114.00	5148.00
Tax Refund		
Grants / Donations	622.51	
Loan		
Rental Income	11120.00	
Interest	11.02	
	25867.53	5148.00
Fundraising:		
Autumn Fayre	788.85	319.39
Clothes Collections	426.40	
200 Club	1292.00	629.00
Xmas Meals	1409.40	1282.62
Social Events	2502.50	1390.54
Other Fund Raising	682.00	
	7101.15	3621.55
Overheads:		
Insurances	594.00	1912.98
Water Rates		316.74
Electricity		1014.78
Gas		890.94
Secretarial/AGM/Audit/Printing		417.91
Telephone & Internet		423.82
Security		1259.64
Cleaning & Sanitary		4632.36
Repairs & Maintenance		3000.78
	594.00	13869.95
Section Operating Costs:		
Weekly Programmes & Activities	2541.00	4519.27
Camps	5694.00	5232.76
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	1680.00	899.57
Equipment		1434.20
Uniforms & Training	178.50	796.20
Minibus	440.00	2803.43
	10533.50	15685.43
TOTALS	44096.18	38324.93

Balance as at 31.3.19		13460.40
Excess income / expenditure 2019 – 2020		5771.25
Balance as at 31.3.20		19231.65
Funds as at 31.3.19	Building Society	7487.22
	Bank	11005.18
	Cash	739.25
Total		19231.65
Restricted Funds (Duke of Edinburgh Award)		1348.16

Well what a year!

We were very honoured to be asked to be the Chair of the Executive Committee for 1st Halesowen Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and would like to again say a big thanks to Peter Case who remains an active member of the Executive Committee.

We would also like to say thank you to all the leaders and helpers of all sections, including those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and all members of the Executive committee, in particular Sarah Reynolds as GSL, and Ian Dale who both work tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

During the year Cub Leader Sarah Mills (nee Dale) and Scout leaders Sarah Jane and Steven got married and congratulations and best wishes to them all. We would like to welcome James Timmins, Adam Jones, Jack Eustace and Lewis Grinham from Young Leaders to full Leaders.

A special mention to Sarah Reynolds and John Sankey who were awarded Bar to Medal of Merit and Ian Dale who was given a Bar to the Silver Acorn for their Long and distinguished service to the Scouting family.

All leaders and members of the Executive Committee are volunteers, and give their time willingly. The saying many hands make light work, is very pertinent, and if you can help in any way, even just in one of the tidy up sessions at the Centre, please do come along. Everything we do is for the benefit of the young people who are members of 1st Halesowen.

The year started off well in April 2019, and we had planned and organised a number of fundraising events to help cover the cost of running the Group, including the Pop Doctors concert which was a great night and sadly was not as well supported as we hoped. Another event was the Autumn Fayre which was the first such event organised for many years and was a success.

Other events include a Cheese and Wine night plus a Quiz night with a fish and chip supper. All great events and many thanks to everyone who supported us and also most importantly organised the event. Very often it is the same faces supporting these events. If you have never been to one, please do support us. Many are designed for the complete family, so do come and then tell your friends what a fantastic time you have had. The purpose of these and all the other events is to help cover the costs of the Centre and raise funds for new and replacing equipment. As a Group we have many facilities available for the children, but it costs to keep everything in a good and safe condition and replace as and when required.

Much of the equipment is hidden away and used as required. For example all of the camping equipment which in addition to the tents to sleep-in include cook/mess tents, marque as well as cooking equipment. Annual camps were carried out by the Cubs

and Scouts. The Scout camp at the end of July had to be cut short due to the horrific rains.

Again a group took part in the Endurance 40, and we must congratulate our team of Scouts for setting one of the quickest times in their age group. Other events include visits to Laser Quest, Bowling, visits to the Fire and Police Stations and RAF Cosford. We also attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and helped the Rotary Santa's Sleigh collection. In fact all of the events organised for the benefit of the young people are too numerous to list.

Sadly, in March face to face meetings had to cease due to the covid outbreak and where possible meetings have continued using electronic systems, and as soon as it is safe to return to proper meetings we will do so.

So a big thank you and well done to everyone and all the best for the coming year.

Stay safe,

Claire & Mark Timmins
Joint Chair of Executive Committee

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2020

All sections have been working hard to provide a variety of programmes, so that badges can be gained and the youngsters given knowledge of scouting and skills to last them a lifetime. Yet again the Beavers have taken part in sleepovers, the Cubs and Scouts camps. We currently have a strong membership with around 120 youngsters enjoying a variety of activities.

Our Leadership numbers have taken a dip this year with younger leaders choosing not to return as often (due to their university courses). I would like to say a huge thanks to all the Leaders for their hard work and dedication to our youngsters and scouting. They give up an enormous amount of time to ensure that we are able to provide a varied programme of events.

We have welcomed Darren Betteridge to our Leadership team. Lewis Grinham, Jack Eustace and Adam Jones, who have progressed from being at least a Cub (one having joined as a Beaver) through the sections to a Young Leader and have now chosen to take on a full leadership role. Sections are still struggling to run due to the shortage of leaders and are having to close more often than they would like. We now require more section leaders, assistants or occasional helpers. Are you able to help, are you interested or know someone who is? Please talk to any of the leaders or me and we will happily inform you of what is/is not involved. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to be an occasional helper. If we fail in recruiting more leaders then we will have no alternative but to enforce a parent's rota.

From March onwards we have been unable to meet Face to Face due to Covid 19. I have to thank all Leaders for their support and engaging in meetings online via either Zoom or GoggleMeets. Thanks to all members and their parents for helping to facilitate these meetings and joining in whilst still engaging in completing badges at home.

Thank you for all your support, especially those that attend or help with our fundraising. I have to say that, as usual, I am very disappointed with the uptake of parents who attend our fund-raising events. For any scout group to run efficiently it relies on support at fundraising events, without it we will at, sometime in the future, have to increase subscriptions substantially! With this in mind I would point out that

we currently have a Cheese and Wine event and a live music evening in June. Please support these, it is very demoralising when the events are not supported.

Most fund raising is organised by a dedicated Executive team who are always looking for more help. If you feel that you could help with the Executive committee (the team that keeps the Scout Group above water), even on an ad hoc basis please either see me or our Chairperson.

I know that I say this ever year but my thanks go to all the Leaders, young and old, to the supporters/helpers of the group. To the Executive Committee, Mark and Claire Timmins (our Chairs), Alison Wood (Group Secretary), Margaret McCann (Subscriptions Secretary) John Carter (Treasurer), Gail Jukes, Sam Grinham, John Sankey (200 Club, still numbers available only £1 per month per number), Elaine Eustace, Danielle Baptiste, Peter Case, and Caroline Betteridge for all their help and support and to their partners for allowing them to give their time, they are the back bone to the group, without them we would not be so successful. A mention must also be made to Ian Dale, who as always works tirelessly within the group looking after the repairs and maintenance. Hiring of the centre is an important part of our group income as it provides a large portion so if you know of anyone looking for somewhere to hire please put them in touch with me.

Thanks to the Young Leaders who give up their valuable GCSE and A Level time helping to look after our young people and run and design a variety of programmes. We are very grateful for all they do and have a successful rate of Young Leaders choosing to take out a full warrant once they reach the grand old age of 18.

1st Halesowen is always looking for New Leaders and members of the Executive committee, again, if is anyone interested in helping Alison or John with their roles of Secretary and Treasurer or any other role, please see me, give me a call on 0121 602 0701 or see your section leader.

On a personal note I would like to thank Tim and my family for all their support in what has been a difficult twelve months, Onwards and upwards as they say.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Sue Paddock and Pauline Mutimer, who are retiring from the Executive Committee, for all their help over several years. I wish them well.

I look forward to another exciting twelve months.

Yours in Scouting

Sarah Reynolds

Beaver Scout Report 2020

We have had a fantastic year and we have invested 26 new Beavers. We have been awarding lots of badges including 1 Chief Scout Challenge (the highest Beaver award), 5 Adventure Challenges, 3 Outdoor Challenges, 5 Personal Challenges, 5 Skills Challenges, 9 Teamwork Challenges, 5 World Challenges, 2 Book Readers, 5 Collectors, 1 Creative, 1 Cyclist, 13 Disability Awareness, 1 Experiment, 1 Explore, 4 Faith, 1 Gardeners, 1 Photography, 1 Safety, 17 Space, 3 Sports, 9 Air Activity, 13 Hikes, 2 Musician, 10 Nights Away and 7 Joining In Badges. These have all been achieved with a lot of hard work from the Beavers and the Leaders.

The Leaders provide a varied, exciting group of activities, dedicating a lot of their time, outside of the normal meeting time, to ensure that the programmes meet with the requirements of the badges and the rules set by the Scouting organisation. We have had sleepovers, visited parks, RAF Cosford, joined in District events, worked on our Camp Crafts (just a visit to a Cub camp to go) and had a Santa craft activity day. We have had several visitors Kreepy Critters, who brought along a variety of creepy animals, spiders, snakes, lizards and frogs, the Police, who spoke to the Beavers about Safe Strangers and allowed the Beavers to dress up in their gear.

We have had a consistent leadership and my thanks go to Cathy, Sarah, Liz, Hannah, and Young Leaders Poppy, Lydia and Millie. They all work tirelessly and without them Beavers wouldn't work as well as it does. Due to not being able to do Face to Face Scouting since March (Covid 19), we are all working harder than ever now trying to juggle home schooling, working from home and manage Beavers Online. We have had a consistent number of Beavers Online via Zoom or Googlemeets. Beavers and their parents have continued to engage with badge work. I would like to thank the Leaders and Young Leaders for all you do and for all the help you have given me in making our colony one of the most successful.

Unfortunately for Beavers, Niki decided that she needed to take a sabbatical from Beavers but wouldn't be relinquishing her leadership role as, when she felt the time was right would be moving to Shackleton Cubs to help out her husband Andy, We wish her well.

Finally, we need your continued support. We are now short of Leaders on a Wednesday and need more Adult help. This could take the form of an Occasional Helper (someone who takes out a DBS with the group but doesn't progress to a full leaders warrant and only helps occasionally) or, you could opt to become a Full Leader with a progressive training programme. If we don't get any new Leaders we will have to start operating a parents rota.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Reynolds, Beaver Scout Leader.

Shackleton Cub Pack Year's Report – 2019/20

What another busy year we have had at Shackleton Cubs. We have had a number of new cubs move up from Beavers, new Cubs enter Scouting movement with some moving onto new adventures in Scouts.

We have been busy on various activities throughout the year, completing the following badges, Backwoods cooking, Hikes away, My Faith, DIY, Disability, Digital Citizen, Time on Water, Paddle sports & Nautical skills.

When the weather has been good to us on Thursday evening, we have ventured outside, visiting Huntingtree Park for a classic game of rounders, hiked around Clent & Haden Hill Park. We have also visited Baitul Ghafoor Mosque, where we learnt about the Muslim culture in Halesowen. Pizza and drinks were provided by the Mosque, which was a nice surprise and enjoyed by all.

One Thursday evening we had a visit from Creepy Critters. At first, the cubs were a little apprehensive but soon overcame their fears, looking and touching Geckos, hissing cockroaches, snakes and spiders. Thoroughly enjoyable night, sorry if you now have any additional pets.

Cubs completed the DIY badge by learning about different tools, how to use properly, look after and store safely, finishing off with making a bird feeder. Which we hope has brought new wildlife into your gardens.

Shackleton Cubs have participated in District Events over the year, which included Remembrance Day Parade, Cinema visit to see Shaun the Sheep – Farmageddon and RAF Cosford Museum. Unfortunately the 6 a Side Football had to be cancelled for 2020.

At our camp last year, we joined Tromans Cubs at Blackwell Camp Site. Whilst on camp, the Cubs experienced canoeing, climbing, archery and axe throwing with plenty of wide games.

With recent world issues with Covid19, Face to Face Scouting had to be suspended for a time to ensure we all kept safe and well. This, hopefully, is coming to an end and we can return to Cubs, continue having fun and learning new skills.

We would like to thank parents for your support with organising and transporting your children to our section night and extra activities.

I would like to give a huge thank you to Liz, Derren, Darren, Lewis, Jack, Phil, Adam, Lauren and Ed, who give up their Thursday night and weekends to help run Shackleton Cub Scouts and provide a balanced programme for your children.

If you are interested in helping, please come and discuss how to get involved.

Yours in Scouting,

Andy

Akela Shackleton Cub Pack

Tromans Pack Report 2019-2020

Hi All

Well what can I say about this year, lots of ups and downs and big changes with the world in general, let alone Scouting.

It started off well with Cub camp in May at Blackwell court scout camp with lots of activities including kayaking, archery ,climbing, campfires, swimming and wide games.

We took part as usual in all the district events, a trip to RAF Cosford in October and the cinema in January

Our programmes for 2019 ran fine on a Friday night with activities including tracking over Clent, fire building, backwoods cooking and tent pitching, in the summer months, then as the nights started to draw in we moved on to science, a visit to the fire station, (where all the cubs had a go at using the fire hose with the help of a firefighter to keep their feet on the ground) and then to each six cooking for family members on the lead up to Christmas to complete the cooking badge and with other craft and scouting projects thrown in we gave out 186 badges up to February from air activities to paddle sports and allsorts in-between.

Things since February have drastically changed with the onset of Covid 19 and face to face Scouting being suspended we had to learn very quickly about previously unheard of ways of meeting with each other and continuing on with scouting, but we have managed to still meet every 2 weeks via google meets or zoom with cubs stepping up to the mark and still working for badges and at Scouting challenges from home while on lockdown.

I would like to say a big thank you to the team of leaders who volunteer to turn out week on week and bring their skills and ideas to make Cubs so much fun throughout the year and still give their support in these difficult times. Thank you Paul, Sarah M, Sarah R, Hannah, Ellen, Josh, James and Reece.

Hopefully things will start to get back to some sort of normal in the near future until then stay safe, keep well, and keep scouting

Tim

TROOP REPORT 2019-2020

Another busy year for the Troop with our numbers increasing to more than 40 Scouts chiefly as a result of many Cubs coming up from the Packs.

The most memorable part of the year must be our Summer Camp in the MUD at Charnwood International Camp 2019. Those with more than 30 or 40 years camping experience had never endured such persistent bad weather, never-the-less everybody had a fabulous time and a big thank you to all leaders who made it all possible.

The Troop has participated in all the District events during the year including the Jacquiss Shield camping competition, the District Athletic Sports, the District Activity Camp and the District Air Rifle Shooting competition. The latter was a first for the Troop and we came a very credible second place by only the smallest margin.

We had a fantastic day sailing at Burton Sailing Club in Leicestershire thanks to Sarah Jane and Steven's contacts in their home County.

We went to Rock Up indoor climbing wall in Birmingham in December, ran a Craft Camp Sleepover in February where the Scouts in sewing, craft work and cooking. Another first!

We have completed numerous activity badges over the year including Digital Citizen, Digital Maker, Emergency Aid, Hikes Away, Chef, Photographer, Creative Challenge Award, Personal Challenge Award, Skills Challenge Award..... to name but a few.

Several Scouts took part in the Dudley Trail Walk completing the 12mile or the 20mile course and an intrepid team took part in the Halesowen Fun Run in June carrying a Tent on a frame with a Scout sitting inside.

Five Scouts completed their Chief Scout Gold Award during the year. Congratulations to Milly Baptiste, Iestyn Grice, Eddie Merrill, Emily Sluter and Ross Timmins. A great effort.

Before COVID -19 and lockdown we had planned to focus on camping and outdoor skills this year and to re-introduce a Camping Standard for the Scouts to aspire to achieve. However we finished the year to 31 March with online (virtual) Troop meetings on Zoom and many Scouts completing badges at home – a concept that many have adopted with enthusiasm covering subjects such as Craft, Hobbies, Personal Challenge, Chef, Artist, Adventure Challenge, Scientist, Creative Challenge, Digital Maker, Digital Citizen, Meteorologist, Equestrian, Naturalist and Model Maker.

Thank you to all our Troop Leaders for their continued enthusiasm and commitment.

Yours in Scouting
Roger P