



1st HALESOWEN SCOUT GROUP

**Annual Accounts & Report
2017 - 2018**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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 to end date

3	1	0	3	1	8
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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

1st Halesowen Scout g 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 B 6 3 1 E P

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Peter Case	Chair	
2	John Carter	Treasurer	
3	Alison Wood	Secretary	
4	Elaine Eustace	Subs Secretary	From Jan 2018
5	Sarah Reynolds	Group Scout Leader	
6	Susan Paddock		
7	Mandy James		
8	Samantha Grinham		
9	John Sankey		
10	Claire Timmins		
11	Guy Carson		
12	Pauline Mutimer		
13	Ian Dale		
14	Danielle Baptiste		
15	Peter Stevens		

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.

Risk and Internal Control (Specimen 2)

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 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: - 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.</p>
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>

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

All Sections of the Scout Group have delivered a varied, adventurous and fun programme of weekly meetings, activities and camps throughout the year. Youth member numbers have increased towards the year-end and adult volunteer numbers have remained stable. There has also been a significant increase in the number of Young Leaders (14 - 18 year olds) working with the various Sections. The Scout Troop enjoyed it's first international camp in many years visiting Denmark for the Danish Jamboree (Spejdernes Lejr 2017). Overhead costs were helped by renewing gas and electricity supply contracts but other costs continue to rise and actions to reduce security, BT and cleaning costs are underway.

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)

A full financial review has been carried out by the Group Executive and investigations are underway in an attempt to find overhead cost savings to avoid or mitigate further membership subscription increases.

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	01.04.17	To	31.03.18
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Receipts and payments

	2017/18			2016/17
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	14,546.00	-	-	14,546.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid	- 4,669.00	-	-	- 4,669.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	9,877.00	-	-	9,877.00
Donations	1,031.00	-	-	1,031.00
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	3,408.58	-	-	3,408.58
Other similar income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	14,316.58	-	-	14,316.58
Fundraising (gross)				
Bag Packing	1,863.00	-	-	1,863.00
Other Events	4,657.10	-	-	4,657.10
Sub total	6,520.10	-	-	6,520.10
Activities				
Weekly programmes & activities	2,769.00	-	-	2,769.00
Camps	18,063.24	-	-	18,063.24
Duke of Edinburgh Award		4,220.00	-	4,220.00
Uniform sales	248.50	-	-	248.50
Sub total	21,080.74	4,220.00	-	25,300.74
Investment income				
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Building Society interest	9.76	-	-	9.76
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-
Property Rent income	8,752.00	-	-	8,752.00
Other income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,761.76	-	-	8,761.76
Total Gross Income	50,679.18	4,220.00	-	54,899.18
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	50,679.18	4,220.00	-	54,899.18

1st Halesowen Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01.04.17	To	31.03.18
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Receipts and payments

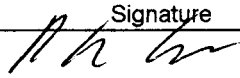
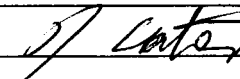
	2017/18			2016/17
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Payments				
Charitable Payments				
Youth programme and activities	5,522.07	-	-	2,949.23
Uniforms and training	1,275.00	-	-	343.60
Duke of Edinburgh Award	-	3,090.07	-	1,885.52
Camps	19,112.79	-	-	7,541.36
Electricity and Gas	2,100.66	-	-	2,952.32
Insurance	2,853.85	-	-	2,748.12
Repairs and Maintenance	1,145.08	-	-	16,825.05
Water and Sewerage	306.87	-	-	643.69
Equipment	2,514.42	-	-	913.72
Minibus	2,292.28	-	-	2,119.49
Cleaning and Sanitary	5,616.57	-	-	5,575.00
Security	860.55	-	-	990.58
Telephone and Internet	1,830.99	-	-	1,660.74
Administration	378.79	-	-	169.23
Donations	60.00	-	-	105.00
Sub total	45,870	3,090.07	-	47,422.65
Fundraising expenses				
Bag Packing	-	-	-	-
Other Events	2,335.34	-	-	2,415.94
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,335	-	-	2,415.94
Total Gross Expenditure	48,205.26	3,090.07	-	51,295.33
Asset and investment purchases, etc.				
	-	-	-	-
Total payments	48,205.26	3,090.07	-	49,838.59
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,473.92	1,129.93	-	6,687.85
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	2,473.92	1,129.93	-	6,687.85

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31-Mar-18			31-Mar-17	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Bank current account	4,683.13	2,850.48	-	7,533.61	5,096.32
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-	-
Building society account	12,179.04	-	-	12,179.04	9,899.28
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Cash/Floats	1,223.10	-	-	1,223.10	2,336.3000
Total cash funds	18,085.27	2,850.48	-	20,935.75	17,331.90
Other monetary assets					
Tax claim	7,000.00	-	-	7,000.00	7,000.00
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total				7,000.00	7,000.00
Investment assets					
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total					
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Badge stock	250.00	-	-	250.00	250.00
Uniforms	250.00	-	-	250.00	175.00
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	707,000.00	-	-	707,000.00	683,000.00
Motor vehicles	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00	22,000.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	38,600.00	-	-	38,600.00	37,300.00
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	766,100.00	-	-	766,100.00	742,725.00
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	144.80	-	-	144.80	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	144.80	-	-	144.80	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 8th May 2018 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	PETER CARTER 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 2018.

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.



Name:

Address: 32 BIRLEY GROVE

HALESOWEN

B63 1EP

Date: 2nd MAY 2018

SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017 – 2018

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Membership Fees	14546.00	4669.00
Tax Refund	3408.58	
Grants / Donations	1031.00	60.00
Loan		
Rental Income	8752.00	
Interest	9.76	
	27747.34	4729.00
Fundraising:		
Bag Packing	1863.00	
Clothes Collections	564.00	
200 Club	1241.00	706.00
Xmas Meals	782.00	666.15
Social Events	1703.10	650.16
Other Fund Raising	367.00	313.03
	6520.10	2335.34
Overheads:		
Insurances		2853.85
Water Rates		306.87
Electricity		1069.82
Gas		1030.84
Secretarial/AGM/Audit/Printing		378.79
Telephone & Internet		1830.99
Security		860.55
Cleaning & Sanitary		5616.57
Repairs & Maintenance		1145.08
		15093.36
Section Operating Costs:		
Weekly Programmes & Activities	2769.00	5522.07
Camps	18063.24	19112.79
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	4220.00	3090.07
Equipment		2514.42
Uniforms & Training	248.50	1275.00
Minibus		2292.28
	25300.74	33806.63
TOTALS	59568.18	55964.33

Balance as at 31.3.17		17331.90
Excess income / expenditure 2017 – 2018		3603.85
Balance as at 31.3.18		20935.75
Funds as at 31.3.18	Building Society	12179.04
	Bank	7533.61
	Cash	1223.10
Total		20935.75
Restricted Funds (Duke of Edinburgh Award)		2850.48

Group Chairman's Report May 2018

1st Halesowen Scouts

After only a year as Chairman of 1st Halesowen Scouts, it is with considerable admiration that I have seen the enormous commitment in time and effort made by the all the Leaders to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in the Group. The Adult Leaders dedicate many hours each week, in the evenings and at weekends, for no financial reward, whilst maintaining their family and work commitments. Our Young Leaders are following this example by giving their time to scouting, while simultaneously studying for exams. 1st Halesowen is indeed lucky.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Sarah Reynolds as Group Scout Leader, whose enthusiasm for 1st Halesowen is unwavering. The Executive Team has seen some new faces this year, Elaine Eustace, Danielle Baptiste, Claire Timmins and Guy Carson. The support of all the Executive is invaluable. Sue Paddock has handed on the role of Subscription Secretary to Elaine Eustace, and it is appropriate here to thank Sue for her efficiency, tact and accuracy in the past, and to welcome Elaine for the future. It is very sincere thanks that I give to those within the Group who look after the mundane tasks, which, although low profile, are critical to the running of the Group, such as maintenance of the building and of kit, making sure that bills are paid on time, and our legal commitments are met.

The last year has been an eventful one. Congratulations to those scouts lucky enough to go to the Jamboree in Denmark, and also to Poppy Jones, Lydia White, Connor Shephard and Phillip Wood, who will be going to the next Jamboree in America in 2019. The Development Day in January, when all Leaders and the Executive met to consider the next five years for 1st Halesowen was full of ideas and a sense of purpose. Particular thanks should go to the Young Leaders for their fresh enthusiasm and contribution to the day. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are taking place over the summer, and camps have been organised for Cubs in May and July, (with the Beavers coming to visit for a day), and for Scouts in the summer.

Fundraising has struggled, and whilst the Group has raised money at a number of events, participation from parents has been low, and so the Group has repeatedly had to rely on the generosity and commitment of a small number of people for financial support. Some of our established ways of raising valuable funds are proving more difficult, for example our twice yearly bag packing at local supermarkets are proving harder to book as we move to a plastic free world. As a result, subscriptions will almost certainly have to rise.

However, this could still be mitigated if numbers of scouts increases significantly, or if future events are well supported. Please tell us which events you feel able to support. On a sad note, we recognise the contribution that Paddy Lennon made to the Race Night fundraising events, and are very sad at his passing earlier this year.

The next season, 2018/19, promises to be exciting and fulfilling. So congratulations to you all for a fantastic 2017/18, and very best wishes for the coming year.

Peter Case

Group Chairman

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT

APRIL 2018

What a year we have had with all sections taking part in a wide variety of activities and programmes. Badges have been gained across all sections. Camps and sleepovers have been varied from Denmark to Beaudesert to our headquarters and a church hall.

We have managed to maintain our numbers but still need to find more Leaders to enable us to grow within the movement. With a Beaver waiting list of 40 I would like to look to opening another colony. If you are or know of anyone interested in helping with any of the Sections please either talk to me or any of the other Leaders.

Explorers had a change of Leadership during the last twelve months. Welcome to Rachel Grice, who with the help of Hannah Reynolds, Liam Dimmock and the continual support of David Jacobs, took on the role of an Explorer Leader. There has also been a change of venue, to Cradley St Peters with all Explorer units from across the district, running together and at one place. Thank you to Andrew Poutney who decided that he wanted a rest from his Explorer and Scout roles, he still maintains his interest in scouting through his role with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Our fund raising remains an issues with the same parents supporting our events. If you have any ideas of fundraising opportunities that would appeal to more people then please let a leader or member of the executive committee know. Could I ask that as many people as possible support any fund raising that we organise, otherwise we will have no alternative but to substantially increase subscriptions to compensate for any shortages.

The Executive Committee do a wonderful job but could always do with 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 Peter Case (Chairman). Thank you to them all for all their hard work especially Sue Paddock who has handed over the reins of Subscriptions Secretary to Elaine Eustace.

My thanks go to all the Leaders, young and old, to the supporters/helpers of the group (particularly wives and husbands of all the Leaders who allow their

'other half's to go scouting) and the Executive Committee, without whom we would not be solvent. I would like to mention Peter (our Chairman) for his smooth running of the Exec, thank you also to Alison (the Group Secretary), Elaine (Subscriptions Secretary) John Carter (Treasurer), Sue, Pauline, Gail, Ian, Sam, Mandy, Danielle, Guy and Pete for all their help and support and 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. Thanks also go to Chris Sheppard for his time and help with the maintenance of the exterior area and for the PAC testing. Thanks to the Young Leaders, 3 of whom have been chosen to be part of the World Scout Jamboree in North America next year, who give up their valuable GCSE time helping to look after our young people and run and design a variety of programmes.

I am always actively looking for New Leaders and members of the Executive committee if you wish to join us please see me or give me a call on 0121 602 0701. Thank you for allowing us to 'borrow' your children. I look forward to the next twelve months.

Yours in Scouting

Sarah Reynolds

BEAVER SCOUT REPORT 2018

At Beavers we have had a productive year completing various badges including the Cooks, Air Activity, Creativity badges and My World. Skills, Outdoor, Adventure Challenge badges. We have completed the new stage Air Activities badge Level 2 by joining with the District beavers on a day out at RAF Cosford.

We have had a Vikings Sleepover and a sleepover that incorporated a hike back from Clent and the Camp Craft (this isn't completed yet as Beavers need to visit a camp, which we are hoping Beavers will join us on Sunday 27th May on a visit to the Cub camp at Beaudesert). For a lot of the Beavers sleepovers are often the first time that they have slept away from family and gives them the opportunity to experience a night away without being too far from home.

We have been out and about visiting various locations including Leasowes Park, Clent, RAF Cosford and Haden Hill, making the most of our local attractions. Most of the Beavers that have reached Cub age have moved into Tromans or Shackleton Cub Packs. We have had various visitors including a lady who came and did pottery with the Beavers resulting in lots of Christmas tree decorations. I am always really pleased with the Beavers and the way in which they behave with visitors.

I have to say a big thank you to Michele, Niki, Hannah, Liam and Liz (when her Liz's shifts allow), Will who has now progressed from a Young Leader to a adult leader and to Poppy and Lydia who have joined the section as Young Leaders (part of the Explorer unit), without whom we would not have such successful colony meeting each week. Jess also needs a mention as she always pops back to us when her semester from university allow.

Finally can I thank you for your continued support and I look forward to another successful year.

Sarah Reynolds
Beaver Scout Leader.

Shackleton Cub Pack Year's Report – 2017 to 2018

What another busy year we have had at Shackleton Cubs.

Cubs have participated in all the District Events over the year which included, Treasure Hunt at Clent, Funday at Huntingtree Park, Dudley Zoo and a sleepover at Headquarters, 10 Pin Bowling Competition, Remembrance Day Parade, Christmas Carol Service, Cinema, 6 a Side Football and a St Georges Day hike to Four Stones Clent where we meet up with other Cub packs and renewed our Cub Scout Promise.

Over the last year the cubs have been visiting Haden Hill Fire Station to learn about the important role of The Fire Service, St Johns Halesowen Church to learn about the history of the church, producing brass rubbing of the stone work and brass plaques.

Our trips have been to Ice Skating, Crystal Leisure Centre for Swimming Staged Badge and Lutley Community Centre for a taster session on Pilates.

One evening, we hiked from Walton Hill back to Headquarters, the route that we took certainly ended up being muddy. Especially for one explorer scout, don't worry Lewis, I won't say anything!

Over the year, we have been lucky to have visitors attend our Thursday night pack, these being Roxy Music Academy, Bikers against Bullying and a taster session in pottery which wasn't too messy and produced a mushroom and plaque.

On our camp last year, we joined Tromans Cubs at Beaudsert Camp Site. Whilst on camp, the Cubs experienced corraccling, climbing, archery, den building with plenty of wide games. We think the cubs enjoyed themselves and have booked for 2018.

Badges that we have achieved over the year: Swimming, My Faith, International Activity, Astronomer, Artist, Nights Away and Year awards.

I would like to give a huge thank you to Liz, Derren, Lewis, Jack, Philip, Adam 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 a talk to us, we don't bite.

Yours in Scouting

Andy

Tromans Pack Report 2017-2018

Once again another fun filled year for Tromans pack, the year started with camp at Beaudesert with cubs doing activities based on being stranded on a desert island including shelter building, fire lighting, archery, climbing, and caracoling(small round boats).

On Friday nights our programmes included a father's day activity night at Blackwell court scout camp, backwoods cooking on fires at the scout centre, compass and tracking trails over Clent Hills, and around the local parks, rocks academy teaching us about rhythm, art and crafts , bikers talking about bullying, ten pin bowling, laser quest, map reading and making, and each six cooking and serving a two course meal for their parents, enabling the cubs to gain numerous activity and challenge badges

Once again we supported Halesowen Scout district by taking part in all the cub district events, fun day at the park, a visit to Dudley Zoo (incorporating a sleep over for our cubs at the Scout Centre), not winning the Ten pin Bowling competition, seeing Paddington 2 at the cinema , WINNING the Six a side football, and walking over and picnicking on Clent for St Georges day

I am proud to say that we have a fantastic group of young leaders (explorer Scouts) who turn out on a Friday night giving up their time to pass on their knowledge of the organisation (which I'm sure is more relevant than mine)to the cub scouts

I'm doubly proud to say that some of the young leaders on reaching 18 have now taken on a full leadership role and continue to turn out on a Friday night fitting it in around studying, work and travelling to and from university

I would like to finish by saying thank you to the team of leaders who volunteer on a regular basis not just giving up Friday nights but weekends for camps and activities and days for planning and other meetings, you know who they are so I won't list names (as supposedly I sometimes get this wrong) but if you see them tonight add your thanks too

Yours in Scouting

Tim

TROOP REPORT 2017-2018

Another busy year for the Troop with numbers around 28 Scouts as a result of many Cubs coming up from the Packs.

The highlight of the year was our summer camp in Denmark. As was evidenced by all the social media posts everybody had a fabulous time and a big thank you to all leaders who made it all possible.

The Troop has participated in most of the District events during the year including the Jacquiss Shield competition and the District athletics. Several of the older Scouts took part in the Expedition Challenge weekends, one on The Malvern Hills in September and one over the Clee Hills a few weeks ago. Despite some questionable map reading skills they all did very well and achieved their Challenge Awards.

Many scouts also completed the Dudley Trail hike in 2017 – we had members on both the 12 and 20 mile courses. In February this year we held a night hike and sleepover thankfully avoiding the terrible winter weather.

We have completed numerous badges over the year including Digital Citizen, Digital Maker, Emergency Aid, Hikes Away, Creative Challenge Award, Personal Challenge Award, Skills Challenge Award and lots more. Special congratulations must go to those Scouts that have achieved their Chief Scouts Gold Award – the top award for the Scout Section. They will now have the opportunity to attend a special County Awards event in June as further recognition of their achievement.

Several Scouts took part in the Dudley Trail Walk completing the 12mile or the 20mile course on one of the warmest days we have had this year. Well done to them all.

Finally, a big Thank You to all our Troop Leaders and Young Leaders for their continued commitment and enthusiasm.

Yours in Scouting,

Roger P

Explorer Scout Report 2018

It's been a year of changes for the Explorer Scouts at 1st Halesowen. Firstly, it was a change of leadership with Andrew Poutney stepping down and Hannah, Liam & myself coming on board, to join David, to ensure the continuation of the group. We hit the ground running; working on our International badge, beginning our Creative Arts badge and organising a Winter Water Camp.

A number of our Explorers joined the Scouts at the international Jamboree in Denmark over the summer, accompanied by Andrew & David.

We finished off 2017 with our Christmas sleepover at 1st Halesowen. This marked the end of 1st Halesowen Explorers and the start of HDX – Halesowen District Explorers.

As of January 2018 the Explorers have moved to Cradley Scout Centre – just up the road. We still meet on a Wednesday 7:30-9pm but are now completely district based. This has widened the leadership team and with that greatly increased what we can offer to all our young people.

We've had a really varied programme so far; building rocket stoves, tie dying, cooking, air activities and we've competed in an international bowling event.

A small group attended our Winter Water Sports Camp organised by Hannah during February half-term, where despite the freezing temperatures and muddy conditions we had a fabulous time – We were all so impressed by the youngsters resilience and their confidence on the water. Special thanks to Tim for stepping in to join us at the last minute.

Ten of the Explorers completed the Monopoly Run in London, joining 1000s of Scouts & Explorers running around the city.

Hannah has taken on the role of Young Leader Trainer and so far has put 37 young people from the district through their first module of Young Leader training, which is fantastic.

We have some exciting things on our programme for the next couple of months, including Gilwell 24, fire-lighting and Game prep. We are looking forward to welcoming more and more of the district's young people to our section.

Rachel Grice
Assistant Explorer Scout Leader