

Scouts

1st HALESOWEN SCOUT GROUP

**Annual Accounts & Report
2018 -2019**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0 1 0 4 1 8

to end date

3 1 0 3 1 9

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	Gail White		
13	Ian Dale		
14	Danielle Baptiste		
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: - 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>

Section D**Achievements and performance**

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. The Scout Troop has increased its numbers significantly during the year and overall Group numbers are up after a dip in the mid-year period leading to a decline in year on year revenues from membership subscriptions. Costs have remained largely under control and some savings have been made. Repairs and maintenance costs of nearly £9000 in the year were higher than expected largely due to the need to resurface the driveway from the road. Fundraising income was down on the previous year to just over £3500 net and this must be addressed in the coming year if further membership fee increases are to be avoided.

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)

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.

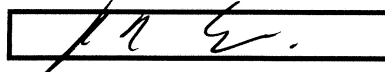

Section G

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)

PETER CASH ALISON WOOD

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair Secretary

Date

0 7 0 5 1 9

1st Halesowen Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01.04.18	To	31.03.19
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Receipts and payments

	2018/19			2017/18
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	12,067.75	-	-	12,067.75
Less: Membership subscriptions paid	4,850.00	-	-	4,850.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	7,217.75	-	-	7,217.75
Donations	505.50	-	-	505.50
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	3,240.43	-	-	3,240.43
Other similar income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10,963.68	-	-	10,963.68
Fundraising (gross)				
Social Events	1,908.00	-	-	1,908.00
Other Events	3,699.48	-	-	3,699.48
Sub total	5,607.48	-	-	5,607.48
Activities				
Weekly programmes & activities	3,478.50	-	-	3,478.50
Camps	2,473.00	-	-	2,473.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award		2,069.00	-	2,069.00
Minibus & Equipment	945.01	-	-	945.01
Uniforms & Training	203.50	-	-	203.50
Sub total	7,100.01	2,069.00	-	9,169.01
Investment income				
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Building Society interest	23.74	-	-	23.74
Property Rent income	7,563	-	-	7,562.50
Other income	51.42	-	-	51.42
Sub total	7,637.66	-	-	7,637.66
Total Gross Income	31,308.83	2,069.00	-	33,377.83
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,308.83	2,069.00	-	33,377.83

1st Halesowen Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

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Receipts and payments

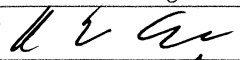
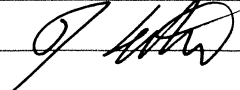
	2018/19			2017/18
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Payments				
Charitable Payments				
Youth programme and activities	4,176.96	-	-	5,522.07
Uniforms and training	655.70	-	-	1,275.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award	-	3,551.75	-	3,090.07
Camps	4,683.40	-	-	19,112.79
Electricity and Gas	2,071.49	-	-	2,100.66
Insurance	2,996.59	-	-	2,853.85
Repairs and Maintenance	8,969.15	-	-	1,145.08
Water and Sewerage	375.39	-	-	306.87
Equipment	841.62	-	-	2,514.42
Minibus	2,599.91	-	-	2,292.28
Cleaning and Sanitary	5,258.09	-	-	5,616.57
Security	1,471.37	-	-	860.55
Telephone and Internet	607.19	-	-	1,830.99
Administration	344.11	-	-	378.79
Donations	170.00	-	-	60.00
Sub total	35,220.97	3,551.75	-	48,959.99
Fundraising expenses				
Social Events	752.06	-	-	650.16
Other Events	1,328.40	-	-	1,685.18
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,080.46	-	-	2,335.34
Total Gross Expenditure	37,301.43	3,551.75	-	51,295.33
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total payments	37,301.43	3,551.75	-	51,295.33
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,992.60	- 1,482.75	-	3,603.85
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 5,992.60	- 1,482.75	-	3,603.85

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	4,089.07	1,367.73	-	5,456.80	7,533.61
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-	-
Building society account	7,476.20	-	-	7,476.20	12,179.04
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Cash/Floats	527.40	-	-	527.40	1,223.10
Total cash funds	12,092.67	1,367.73	-	13,460.40	20,935.75
Other monetary assets					
Gift Aid outstanding	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00	7,000.00
Hire charges outstanding from Non - Group users of the Scout Centre	3,300.00	-	-	3,300.00	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total				9,300.00	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	200.00	-	-	200.00	250.00
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	735,145.00	-	-	735,145.00	707,000.00
Motor vehicles	17,000.00	-	-	17,000.00	20,000.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	40,099.00	-	-	40,099.00	38,600.00
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	792,694.00	-	-	792,694.00	766,100.00
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	204.80	-	-	204.80	144.80
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	204.80	-	-	204.80	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 7th May 2019 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name	
	PUTEN CRO	Chair
	JOHN CARTER	Treasurer

SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018 – 2019

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Membership Fees	12067.75	4850.00
Tax Refund	3240.43	
Grants / Donations	505.50	170.00
Loan		
Rental Income	7562.50	
Interest	23.74	
	23399.92	5020.00
Fundraising:		
Raffle	831.30	100.00
Clothes Collections	460.00	
200 Club	1319.00	732.00
Xmas Meals	799.40	496.40
Social Events	1908.00	752.06
Other Fund Raising	289.78	
	5607.48	2080.46
Overheads:		
Insurances		2996.59
Water Rates		375.39
Electricity		1088.61
Gas		982.88
Secretarial/AGM/Audit/Printing		344.11
Telephone & Internet	51.42	607.19
Security		1471.37
Cleaning & Sanitary		5258.09
Repairs & Maintenance		8969.15
	51.42	22093.38
Section Operating Costs:		
Weekly Programmes & Activities	3478.50	4176.96
Camps	2473.00	4683.40
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	2069.00	3551.75
Equipment	185.01	841.62
Uniforms & Training	203.50	655.70
Minibus	760.00	2599.91
	9169.01	16509.34
TOTALS	38227.83	45703.18

Balance as at 31.3.18		20935.75
Excess income / expenditure 2018 – 2019		(7475.35)
Balance as at 31.3.19		13460.40
Funds as at 31.3.19	Building Society	7476.20
	Bank	5456.80
	Cash	527.40
Total		13460.40
Restricted Funds (Duke of Edinburgh Award)		1367.73

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 2019.

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:

J. Moseley J. MOSELEY

Address:

15 Leebank Road, Halesowen S63 1AF

Date:

23/4/19

Group Chairman's Report May 2019

It is difficult to believe that a year has passed since I was writing my last report. Once again, we have seen tremendous commitment from all the Leaders who dedicate so much of their time to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in the Group. Our Group Leader, Sarah Reynolds, has been a rock for 1st Halesowen over the last 12 months, and for many years before that. We all owe her our thanks. The Executive Team has supported well. I thank them for their time and resolve, and for the work they carry out to assist with the smooth running of the Group. We must also not forget those who don't have a specific role, but who help with maintenance, finance and the unsung jobs that are critical to the functioning of the Group. It is therefore with a certain amount of sadness, but with much gratitude for their commitment that we say au revoir, if not good bye, to Michele Dimmock and Sally Sinclair. Michele has given many years of service to the group, and I hope that she will retain her links. Sally is beginning a career as a nurse in the Army, and I hope that scouting will help her on her way. Good luck to both of you.

Last year had some memorable highlights. Who can forget the moving formalities at the Remembrance Parade? Those who took part in the Endurance 40 in The Chilterns will certainly not forget their experience in a hurry. Neither will the Scouts and Leaders who found themselves in difficult circumstances in the Lake District last summer – they proved themselves to be resourceful, capable and a credit to themselves and to 1st Halesowen. On a less dramatic note, Tromans Pack were joint winners of the District Cub Scout 6-a-side football competition. There were cinema visits, trips to the Safari Park, tree planting, a fun quiz night and centre clean-ups. And that's before we consider the camps, and away days. I hope that those who are going to America for the Scout Jamboree this summer a wonderful time, and save some memories that will last a lifetime.

Group finances are always a concern. We have tried to keep subscriptions as low as possible and it is still cheaper for someone to be in scouts than to go swimming on a like for like basis. We have had a number of fundraising events including the raffle last year, which went well, but more tickets could have been sold. The quiz a few weeks ago was a great success, but the down side again was that it was supported by many of the same faces who support so many of the other fundraising events. In short, we need as much parental input as possible in order make the Group successful and financially buoyant for the young people of Halesowen. We also need active involvement in the Group activities, so that we don't take the goodwill of Leaders for granted, and can give them both support and flexibility with their family lives. Please try to support our fundraising events, such as the 200 Club, the Afternoon Tea in June, the Cheese and Wine in July or the band in September. If you have a few hours to spare each month, speak to the Leaders and see if you can help in a very practical way.

2019/20 looks as if it will be as exciting as last year. So well done in 2018/19, and very best wishes for the coming year.

Peter Case

Group Chairman

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2019

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. This is approximately 30 members down on last year. I don't think that this is due to poor programming but down to outside influences (football, rugby, etc)

Our Leadership numbers have taken a dip this year with younger leaders choosing not to return as often (due to their university courses) and it is with regret that I have to inform you Michele Dimmock has chosen to leave Beavers for personal reasons. We wish her well and hope that one day she may return. 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.

Some sections are 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 myself 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 do not succeed in recruiting more leaders then we will have no alternative but to enforce a parents rota.

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 in July and a live music evening in September. 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. In the past twelve months we have had the following fund raising events, Afternoon tea, Cheese and Wine evening, a quiz night, a Senior Citizens Christmas meal, clothes collections to name just a few.

I know that I say this every year but my thanks go to all the Leaders, young and old, to the supporters/helpers of the group. To the Executive Committee, Peter Case (our Chairman), Alison Wood (Group Secretary), Elaine Eustace (Subscriptions Secretary) John Carter (Treasurer), Gail Jukes, Sam Grinham (data collection), John Sankey (200 Club, still number available only £1 per month per number), Claire Timmins, Danielle Baptiste, Guy Carsons, Pete Stevens, Sue Paddock, Mandy James, and Pauline Mutimer 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 be made to Ian Dale, who as always works tirelessly within the group looking after the repairs and

maintenance . Hiring of the centre is a really 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 Peter Case and Pete Stevens who are both stepping down from their roles within the Executive Committee. They have both worked tirelessly over a number of years and I wish them well.

I look forward to another exciting twelve months.

Yours in Scouting

Sarah Reynolds

BEAVER SCOUT REPORT 2019

At Beavers we have had a productive year completing various badges including the Camp Craft, Creative, Disability Awareness (learning sign language as well as looking at Braille), Explore, Faith, Sports, International and Photography Activity badges, Teamwork, Personal and Adventure Challenge badges. Staged activity badges including Community Impact, Hikes, Nautical Skills, Swimmer and Time on The Water have also been given out. Five Beaver Scouts have also been granted the highest badge award, The Chief Scouts Bronze. To gain this they must hold all the Challenge Badges and at least four Activity Badges.

We have had a Pirates Sleepover with the District (thank you to all the Leaders that took our Beavers, I was unable to go due to an operation). The sleepover managed to cover Camp Crafts and a visit to the Walled Garden at Leasowes. I am told that a lot of fun was had by all. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to have another sleepover due to illnesses sustained by the Beaver Leaders. We started a bug hotel this year and will continue to add to it. Beavers took part in the maintenance and planting of the trugs and this year they have recycled a canoe into a planter. If you have any extra plants (flowers, fruit or vegetables) we will always gratefully receive them.

We have been out and about visiting various locations. As a District we went to the Safari Park to see Father Christmas, although quite cold we had a fantastic day. Some of the Beavers joined Tromans and Shackleton Cubs at their camp at Beaudesert Campsite. Most of the Beavers that have reached Cub age have moved into Tromans or Shackleton Cub Packs. We have had various visitors including Mike Randle with his Guide Dog Crumble. I am always really pleased with the Beavers and the way in which they behave with visitors. We visited the Food Bank in Blackheath where the Beavers learnt what they are and who uses them. We continued to support them throughout the year sending items for Christmas.

I have to say a big thank you to Michele, Niki, Hannah, Jess, Liam and Liz (who now helps regularly at Shackleton Cubs), to Poppy and Lydia who continue with their Young Leaders training and to Rose-Marie who came each week to support the activities. Will has now started university so will visit as and when he is able to. Without the support of all of these people we would not have such successful colony meetings each week. During the winter Rose-Marie decided to take a rest from scouting, we wish her well. We have recently been joined by Liz Morgan who initially took up the Scouting 4 week challenge (this enabled her to try out being a Leader, seeing what is involved before taking out a warrant to become a full leader). We have recently had to say goodbye to Michele, who for personal reasons has decided to hang up her woggle and beads and retire from Scouting. We wish her well, she is sorely missed.

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

What another busy year we have had at Shackleton Cubs. We have achieved lots of badges: Scientist activity badge, Pioneer Activity badge DIY activity badge and the Home Help Activity badge, which involved the Cubs learning to cook, clean, vacuum and even iron so hopefully they are now giving their parents a hand at home.

We have been out and about as much as possible; some of the trips have included earning our Swimming badges at the Crystal Leisure Centre and a very hot day trip to the West Midlands Safari Park. Some Thursday evenings, we have hiked and played games over Clent and Walton Hills. We had a Christmas Pyjama party which was a great way to celebrate the end of 2018. We have marked important dates in the calendar with activities, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and making poppies around Remembrance Sunday.

Summer 2018 was a warm one, so we spent many sessions outside completing Teamwork Challenge, Physical recreation Activity badge, Athletic Activity badge, our Adventure Challenge and the Backwards Cooking Activity badge. Activities included water games, fires outside and orienteering over the Wasely Hills. Within in this we were able to run a parent's night, playing a big game of rounders in the park, which was a success and we hope to repeat in the future.

Shackleton Cubs have participated in District Events over the year which included Remembrance Day Parade, Cinema visit to see Mary Poppins, 6 a Side Football and a St Georges Day hike to Four Stones Clent, where we meet up with other Scout groups and renewed our Cub Scout Promise.

On our camp last year, we joined Tromans Cubs at Beaudesert Camp Site. Whilst on camp, the Cubs experienced corraling, climbing, archery, axe throwing and den building with plenty of wide games. We think the cubs enjoyed themselves.

We would like to thank parent 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, Lewis, Jack, Phil, 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 and discuss how to get involved.

Yours in Scouting,

Andy

Akela Shackleton Cub Pack

Tromans Pack Report 2019

Once again, another fun filled year for Tromans pack, the year started with camp at Beaudesert with cubs doing shelter building, fire lighting, rifle shooting, archery, climbing, and corralling (small round boats). There was also a trip to the Safari park in July.

On Friday nights our programmes included , backwoods cooking on fires at the scout centre, compass and tracking trails over Clent Hills, and around the local parks, a visit from Kreepy Kritters, pioneering , Art and crafts , laser quest , sign language, and map reading, enabling the cubs to gain numerous activity and challenge badges

We supported Halesowen Scout district by taking part in all the cub district events, fun day at the park , seeing Mary Poppins at the cinema , WINNING the Six a side football again , and walking over Clent for St Georges day,

We have two young leaders who regularly turn out on a Friday night to help run the programmes , their help is much appreciated, (thank you Reece and James), especially as our leadership team has shrunk a little this year, with some of our adult help moving away to study or concentrate on other commitments .

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, Thank you Paul, Sarah, Hannah , Ellen , Zack and Josh all who give up what time they can between work and study commitments

Yours in Scouting

Tim

TROOP REPORT 2018 – 2019

Yet another busy year for the Troop as our numbers reached 40 Scouts which is challenging for so many lively 11 to 14 year olds in the main hall at the Scout Centre.

The Scouts completed many badges and awards including the Air Researcher Badge following a trip to Cosford and a STEM activity day with the RAF, the Chef badge, Communicator, Pnternational, physical Recreation, Hikes Away, Nights Away and Musician activity badges.

A project to identify WW1 war graves in Halesowen and Cradley cemeteries and to document the stories of those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice enabled the Troop to complete the Local Knowledge activity badge. We cleaned and tidied-up the graves just before Remembrance and produced some poster boards which were displayed in the churchyard during the parade and service. We even made a recording of a couple of WW1 songs – definitely not available at any good music stores!

We also completed a number of activities around inclusivity and the highlight was the Scouts receiving some training and becoming Dementia Friends. Following on from this the Scout Centre is now officially a Dementia Friends Information Point and we will be undertaking more activities around this subject as part of our continuing Community Impact programme.

More recently the Scouts have also completed work on survival skills and this culminated in a recent survival camp where the Scouts built and slept in their own shelters and cooked entirely on open fires using foil trays and minimal utensils.

Three Scouts completed their Gold Chief Scouts Awards – well done to Ross, Emily and Milly. They, together with several other Scouts have recently ‘moved on’ to Explorers and we wish them well in their future Scouting careers.

Four Scouts and two Explorers also completed the Endurance 40 Challenge which requires them to navigate a 25 mile (40 kilometre) route in the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire within 14 hours. Our team completed the route in just over 8 hours – very impressive and it throws down a real challenge to our team for next year.

Because of time pressures and conflicting commitments on our Leaders we did not manage a Summer Camp in 2018 but we did have a very successful weekend sailing in Leicestershire, a weekend completing the Expedition Challenge, a night hike and sleepover, several activity days and a very enjoyable day out at a Jamboree On The Air / Jamboree On The Internet day event in Oxfordshire.

As always, none of this happens without the continued commitment and enthusiasm of our team of adult volunteers. Special mention this year must go to Sarah Jane and Steven who joined us towards the end of 2017 and who have taken on a growing role in the life of the Troop. It is great to have some ‘younger blood’ on-board to keep us more mature Leaders on our toes!

Thanks to all the Leaders and other adults who have supported us in any way – in this context a special mention (and thanks) to Pete Merrill for all his work and support with the WW1 project.

Roger P