

Registered charity number 1019814



1st Bramhall Scout Group

Annual Review

For the year ending 31 December 2023

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2023

I am writing this introduction to our annual review just after our annual St George's Day celebration when all members of Ladybrook Valley District came together. St George is not only the patron saint of England but also of Scouting. Scouting is a values-based organisation and St George represented many of our values.

The members and leaders from 1st Bramhall who attended were a real credit to their Section, the Group and themselves and were great ambassadors for us, on what is an important event in the Scouting year. Thank you to everyone who was there. I look forward to next year's parade when I hope that there will be a bigger turnout, reflecting our position as the largest Scout Group in the district.

As you read through the Annual Report, you can't fail to be impressed by the terrific programmes of exciting, challenging, fun and adventurous activities and events that are provided week-in, week-out, by truly phenomenal teams of volunteers who so willingly and selflessly give of their time, talents, energy and enthusiasm. We are indeed very fortunate and are indebted to each and every one of them, as well as to all our other volunteers who support us behind the scenes. This year we are very excited to be able to welcome several new leaders to the Group who will doubtless bring new ideas and talents to their sections.

Congratulations to Brian Gordon (Keego), Kate Vincent (Teddy), Adam Wozencroft (Kwasim), Chris Bowen (Kinder) and Liz Taylor (Nutkin) on completing their Adult Leader Training award and being presented with the coveted Wood Badge beads.

The Group was sorry to learn of the passing of Jane Taylor who was our first ever Beaver Scout leader. Our two fantastic Beaver colonies are a fine and fitting tribute to her legacy.

Amanda Hudghton (Suds), Peter Boxall (Whittle) and Paul Winterburn (Pedal) have stepped down from their roles as Beaver Scout Leader, Scout Leader and Explorer Scout Leader respectively. They have given fantastic service over many years for which we thank them, but I'm glad to say they will not be lost to the Group as they will be continuing in other roles. We are delighted that Kate Vincent, Chris Bowen and David Reynolds have taken over these roles and we wish them well as they lead their teams.

I want to pay particular tribute to all our Young Leaders who help out at Section meetings. They are all Explorer Scouts who, having already got so much out of Scouting, now willingly volunteer to put back into Scouts. They are a fantastic group of young people who are great role models and add so much to the sections where they help. They are deservedly well on their way to become King's Scouts - the highest award in Scouting.

There is so much going on in each section that it is difficult to find time for extra group activities - but we have managed it. Most notably the 26-hour sponsored games marathon which involved every section of the Group and raised £1,340 for the British Heart Foundation. The scout pantomime raised £116 for Cancer Research UK. We have also been involved supporting, amongst others, Guide Dogs, Age Concern and Macmillan. Our annual Scoutpost Christmas card delivery service raised £120 for St Ann's Hospice and the Group's involvement in the Rotary Club Christmas float generated £550 for Group funds. Our annual Christmas card competition was won by Emma Salden (Fir Pack) and the runner up was Oliver Morton (Colts Beavers).



Our newest section, Squirrels, is proving a huge success and several of our Squirrels have now moved up to Beavers. Congratulations to them. They have become the first ever to complete the Chief Scout's Acorn award, which is a great first step on their scouting journey.

We had a good turnout for the Remembrance Day Parade. Our numbers for this have increased year on year recently, including good representation from Explorers, Scouts and Cubs. Meanwhile, our younger sections did a range of Remembrance related activities, including making a poppy collage and visiting the War Memorial.

It has been another action packed year which we can look back on with satisfaction. Great achievements and many happy memories, as the following section reports illustrate. We look forward to our upcoming programme, particularly the Group Camp on 20-22 September when all of our sections will camp together. Sorry parents- it's not a Family camp so you will have to wait until 2026 for your opportunity to join in the fun.

But the final thanks go to our Young People themselves, whose enthusiasm, sense of fun and adventure never cease to amaze us. Long may that be the case.

Andrew Corrie ("Skip")

Group Scout Leader

CHAIR'S REPORT 2023

Another year, another report... I don't know about you but the years seem to fly by nowadays – maybe it's just because I'm getting old!

As Andrew and the Section Leaders have covered elsewhere in this report it's been another fantastic year at 1st Bramhall, lots of activities, including loads of additional activities away from the hut across all sections and lots of making of memories.

In this report I wanted to address what you may have seen in the national press re the tragic death of an Explorer Scout, from another district, during a trip to North Wales in 2018. I won't go into the details here (they are a matter of public record). I do however want to address this and also let you know what we have done, and continue to do, at 1st Bramhall around the safety of our Young People.

Several recommendations came out of the Coroner's report to help prevent future incidents, and I can assure you that of those aimed at group level, they were either already in place at 1st Bramhall, or have now been implemented.

Indeed, the reason for the temporary pause in overnight trips and adventurous activities earlier this year was to allow the group to wait for new guidance from Scout Headquarters. This is not only to ensure that all our Young People and Volunteers are safe whilst carrying out activities, but also to ensure that our volunteers are protected from any possible criticism in the running of events by ensuring that all necessary procedures are not only understood but consistently followed. To that end we have now run our own safety training sessions in addition to the standard scout training modules.

I don't apologise for getting into a level of detail in this area, as I believe it's important for everyone connected to our Group to understand that we take the safety of everyone at 1st Bramhall seriously. May I take this opportunity to remind you that if you ever have any concerns over safety to raise it with any of our Leaders or Adult Volunteers, including myself.

Having been associated with the scout movement from the age of eight, I wholeheartedly believe in the "Skills for Life" slogan embraced by Scouts UK and believe that being in the movement has certainly helped me with important life skills. I therefore continue to believe that Scouting offers a huge amount to all of our young people - and I thank you for your ongoing support to 1st Bramhall.

Richard Buckley

Group Chair

ANNUAL CENSUS

The annual census, taken in January 2024, showed 154 (prior year:175) young people in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with a further 41 (prior year:22) in the Explorer Unit, which is a District Section. All sections operate waiting lists.

Young people	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Squirrels	20	20									
Beavers: Colts	19	22	19	21	24	23	23	24	22	42	24
Kits	19	21	21	21	25	23	25	24	25		
Cubs: Pine	34	27	28	32	33	34	24	33	24	54	36
Fir	22	20	25	27	28	27	24	27	29		
Scouts	40	65	56	56	65	41	59	41	44	50	50
Total	154	175	149	157	175	148	155	149	144	146	110
Explorers	41	22	32	29	22	23	27	39	47	41	35

Leader/Sectional assistants	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Squirrels	7	8									
Beavers: Colts	5	5	4	2	4	3	4	3	8	6	2
Kits	5	6	4	2	4	3	3	3	6		
Cubs: Pine	6	7	5	3	6	5	3	4	4	8	5
Fir	7	4	6	3	3	9	7	5	10		
Scouts	12	17	16	13	15	11	14	10	9	11	9
Total	42	47	35	23	32	31	31	27	37	25	16

These numbers don't include all the Occasional Helpers and Young Explorer Leaders who are so valuable in assisting on section nights and other activities.

SECTION REPORTS

Squirrels Drey- 2023

2023 has been a very exciting year for our Squirrel section as it has continued to grow and develop. We are still the only drey in the district and the high number of children on the waiting list reflects how keen parents are to start their child's scouting journey from a young age. Over the last year several Squirrels have moved up into our two Beaver colonies and both Beaver leaders have commented on how quickly they have settled in. In May we celebrated our first birthday and at the end of the summer term we awarded our first Chief Scout's Acorn Awards – the highest badge available to Squirrels

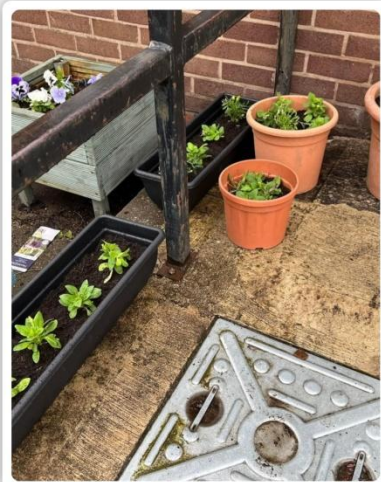
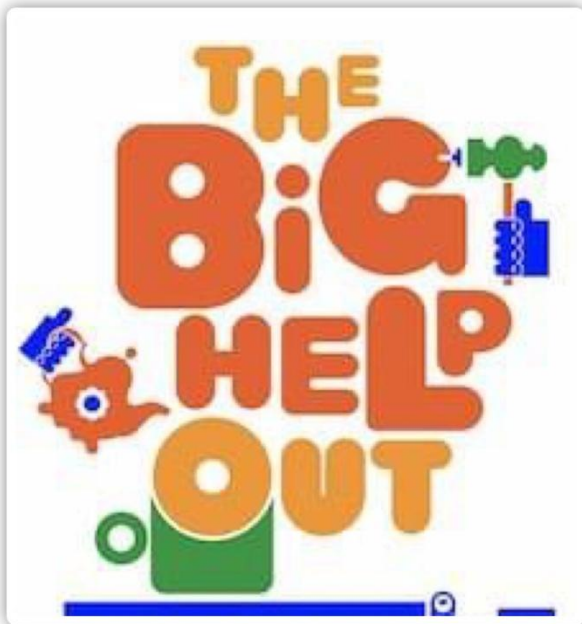


There have been so many highlights this year (almost too many to mention!) We are so proud of the Squirrels who have joined in whole group activities such as the St. George's Day parade, JOTT, 26-hour challenge and our group bonfire. We are looking forward to joining in with more group activities in 2024.

The Squirrels started off the 26-hour challenge with an alphabet scavenger hunt challenge.



As part of the King's coronation celebrations the Squirrels took part in "The Big Help Out". Squirrels and their parents helped to improve our local environment by litter picking and planting fruit and flowers around the entrance to our building. We also planted sunflower seeds as part of our "Let it grow" badge.



In June we were joined by Guz and Lisa Davenport and their Guide Dog Puppy Garth. The Squirrels learned all about the important work of Guide Dogs and how they are trained – this has formed part of their “Local superhero” badge. We all enjoyed a cuddle with Garth and we raised an amazing £127.50 by purchasing items from their pop-up fundraising shop. We are continuing to support The Guide Dogs in 2024 along with two other charities, Chelwood Food Bank and Save the Children. (Picked by the Squirrels)

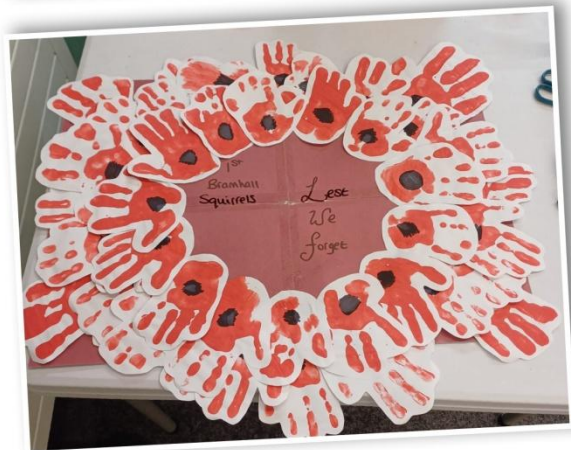


In October we had an amazing visit to The Avro Heritage Centre in Woodford. The squirrels enjoyed a tour around the museum which included looking inside (and touching all the buttons/controls) of the 3 main aircraft on display plus they took part in a radar activity. The following week we made our own paper airplanes and had a competition to see who could fly theirs the furthest. Most Squirrels have been able to complete their "Stage one - Air Activities" badge



A huge THANK YOU and BRAVO to "Haweye" (Keith), all the Avro volunteers and parents who joined us for the trip.

Although the Squirrels did not join in with the Remembrance parade or service, we did visit the Cenotaph in Bramhall and were joined by Revd. Calum Piper who spoke to the Squirrels about the significance of the Cenotaph and why we have Remembrance Day/Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to Calum for answering all the questions the Squirrels had (and there were lots!). We also created our own Remembrance wreath using our handprints. Thanks to "Little Beaver" (Mikaela) for cutting them out and displaying them for us. The Squirrels were able to complete parts of their "All around us" and "All together" challenge badges.



We finished off 2023 with our first real Squirrel campfire. The Squirrels were sensible and listened carefully to our fire safety talk – they all remembered to stay behind the rope. “Kwasin” (Adam) set up the campfire and lead us in song with some classic scouting campfire tunes. At the end we all enjoyed toasting marshmallows and making smores. Joining in with a campfire is part of our “All about Adventure” challenge badge. A big BRAVO to Kwasin for your energy and enthusiasm on a cold December night!



A few words from our Squirrels/Parents...

"He would come to Squirrels every night if it was on"

"He loves everything about squirrels! His favourite activities were the Avro museum, campfire and making cards- he said because he liked seeing all the planes, enjoyed singing songs and eating marshmallows and liked making something nice"

"Monday is his favourite night of the week because of Squirrels"

"We do lots of things like discovering things that I don't already know about."

"I enjoyed going to the cenotaph because I learnt lots of things about the cenotaph and the soldiers. I also enjoyed the campfire because I got to eat lots of marshmallows. I love playing games too like tiggy scarecrow and duck duck goose."

And finally...

A BIG THANK YOU and BRAVO to all our leaders, parents and of course our amazing Squirrels. Without your support none of these activities would have been possible.

"Nutkin" (Liz) "Little Beaver" (Mikaela) "Nutella" (Jo) "Hawkeye" (Keith) "Acorn" (Chelsea)
 "Nympa"(Aycan) "Wren" (Elaine) "Tiggy" (Michelle) and our Scout helper (Sophie) and Explorer young leader (Charlotte).

Liz Taylor - "Nutkin" & Mikaela Wozencroft - "Little Beaver" - Squirrel Scout Leaders

Colts Beaver Colony - 2023

I cannot believe it is only 12 months since I last wrote an annual report. Time really seems to fly by as we cram so much into our Beaver year, motivated by the enthusiasm and energy of our Turquoise Ninjas.

January 2023 started with the annual Panto trip organised by the District team. A fun afternoon was had at the beautiful Plaza watching Cinderella meet her Prince. In meetings we made bird feeders as part of our animals theme, and had fun completing our Communicator badge where we learnt about different types of communication and put it all into practise as we turned the Scout hut into a giant escape room. It might have been touch and go but I am pleased to say – we escaped!



In February we had a wonderful night on Chinese New year where Cathy from RE on Demand brought her Chinese Dragon to meet us and we celebrated with traditional dance and music.



In March we celebrated St Davids Day by making and planting daffodils; we attended the District Fun Day in Hazel Grove where we made swords, shields and castles as part of our Knights and Castles theme. We completed the Faith badge and learnt about kindness through George, the Smartest Giant in Town. We laughed as we completed the Digital maker badge when the leaders followed the instructions the Beavers had written on how to make a jam sandwich to the letter.....it was absolutely priceless!



In April we paraded through Bramhall for St Georges Day and renewed our Promise with the other Beavers in the District; and we learnt about Flight as we completed our Air Activities badge and learnt who could make and fly the best paper aeroplane.



May saw us celebrate the Coronation with royal fun and games, before getting out and about in Bramhall, exploring Bramhall village whilst completing a challenge in groups; and in Happy Valley, pond dipping and collecting bugs!

Our bug theme continued into June as we made Bug hotels - yes I am sure all the parents loved us! We had a night themed around bubbles where we made bubble wands and bubble snakes and challenged each other to make the biggest bubble. We ran skills sessions and learnt firelighting with a flint and steel.

July took us to Bramhall Park where we completed an Alphabet Challenge and faced a torrential hail storm. We ended our Summer term with a joint visit to Gauntlet Birds of Prey centre with Kits Beavers, and then had an overnight in the Scout hut where we made our tea as part of the cooks badge, and took part in archery and climbing. Huge thanks to the leaders from the other Sections who helped support us with these activities.



The Autumn term got off to a great start with another Sleepover. This time at Abney Scout & Guide Centre. Abney features on our programme every few years as it provides a great local venue with amazing secure grounds where we can learn and practise traditional scout skills and more adventurous activities than we can do in a regular meeting.



We continued into October with activities for our Creative activity badge, the Beavers were given a piece of cardboard tube and challenged to use their imagination to turn it into something. They did amazingly well and kept Keego and his drill very busy!



In November we celebrated Remembrance Day by making poppies for our poppy display that was draped across the Scout hut fence. The Beavers worked incredibly hard and I was so proud of what they produced. We had some wonderful feedback from other users of the scout hut.



We completed our Money Skills badge and learnt the concept of saving and interest with chocolate bars, and then shopped for the ingredients to make Spaghetti Bolognese at Suds' shop, successfully working out which coins we would need and making sure the wily shopkeeper gave us the correct change!

Keego arranged for two Community Police officers to visit us and we had a great evening learning about their jobs.



In December we went to Hilbrook Grange, taking the residents Christmas cards, and singing carols for them before holding our party on the last night of term.

And just like that, another year was over, a year in which we awarded a massive 339 badges, including 11 Chief Scout Bronze awards, 75 Challenge badges and 17 different types of activity badges. Your children have worked incredibly hard and they deserve to be proud of themselves.

A huge thank you to the incredible leadership team we have for Colts that make it all possible. Thank you to Keego, Silva, and Digger for your continued support. We sadly said goodbye to Skater and Tigger during the year but welcomed Tiger in October. We are fortunate to have such a committed team. We continue to be supported by an amazing group of young Leaders who set such a great example for the Beavers. They really are assets to the Group. Thank you Sprinter, Edge and Argo for the time you gave us in 2023. Thank you also to the parents who have stepped forward and helped out on trips and evenings where we have needed more adult help, I hope you enjoyed yourself too. Thank you to the Trustees that work so tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure we can run our evenings seamlessly and to the other leaders in the Group who support us with their additional skills.

I sign off every year by saying thank you to the Beavers. This age group are wonderful. Their enthusiasm, inquisitiveness, and noisy desire to get stuck in and push their boundaries is why we enjoy being their leaders.

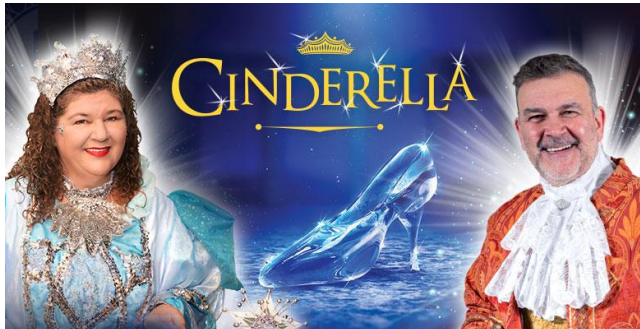
I look forward to 2024 continuing to offer fun and adventure for us all.

Amanda Hudghton – Beaver Scout Leader (BSL): Colts Beavers

Kits Beaver Colony - 2023

2023 marked my 5th year as a Leader with 1st Bramhall Kits Beavers, and what a journey it has been... as I reflect over the last 12 months in scouting and beyond, I'm reminded of the incredible young people who have passed through Beavers on to Cubs and some now starting in Scouts. Gosh that makes me feel old.

Jan '23 started with our annual trip to the Plaza for the District Beavers panto, it is always fab to see a sea of blue jumpers filling the theatre.



Back at the hut we celebrated national LEGO day by building towers as big as us! We promoted safety in the kitchen by designing informative posters and looked around for potential hazards. We made healthy fruit kebabs and decorated not so healthy biscuits as part of the cook badge. We learned all about different forms of communication from letter writing and a trip to the Post Office, to coding.





We joined the wider Beaver community for a Beaver fun day which was a huge success with over 60 Beavers from across the District taking part in a wide range of activities.



As part of our global awareness badge, we learned about recycling, endangered animals and how we can play our part to protect the planet, and we ended the Spring term with a visit from the Easter Bunny, although there was a series of scouting challenges to complete before the Beavers got their eggs...



In the Summer term we welcomed our very first Squirrels into Beavers.

We had lots of fun making aeroplanes and learning about air travel, and the countries we could travel to as part of the Air Activities and International Badges. We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with a very special Tea party (which obviously involved making crowns for the occasion.)



The better weather meant we could get out and about, so we put on our HI-Vis jackets and headed to Happy Valley for a hike to collect Pooh sticks and invested our newest Beavers while we were there. We learned about bike and scooter safety with a trip to South Park and played wide games in Bramhall Park. We (well mainly me) also got soaking wet outside the hut during a water balloon fight.





We had some super visitors this year too, a dance teacher who taught us how to Zumba and a very cute support dog called Zara and a lady who taught us all about Diwali.



Our Summer term ended with pizza making followed by a sleepover at the Hut and a great day out to Gauntlet, birds of prey centre.



Autumn term started with indoor caving, followed by our joint sleepover event with Colts Beavers to Abney Camp, the Beavers loved all the incredible activities which ranged from making flapjacks, putting up tents, hiking in the woods (day and night) and archery and the end camp was marked with a super campfire hosted by Kwasin.





As Christmas approached, we visited Hillbrook Grange to sing carols for the residents and handed out Christmas cards and decorations that we had made. We also had lots of indoor snowball fights!



Another fab year of Scouting that wouldn't have been possible without the amazing support of the Kits Leadership team and parent helpers (past and present) together with our super young leaders, Jack (Scooby) and James (Blaze) who energise our group with new ideas and lots of fun! Thank you all.

This year we have awarded over 300 badges, including 6 Chief scout bronze awards, and as an added bonus I completed my wood badge!

Teddy

Kate Vincent

Beaver Scout Leader 1st Bramhall Kits Beavers

Fir Cub Pack - 2023

At present our team consists of Akela (Caroline), Kwasim (Adam), Little Beever (Kae), Baloo (Angela), Badger (David), Jacala (Des) and Swift (Andrew)

2023 was a fun year for the pack. We started the year with a fun evening doing team building games and then for Comic Relief we sold cakes in the hut and made tea and coffee for the parents.



May was the start of the camping season for Fir pack. We did "Picnic in the Park" where Fir pack walked from Poynton to Lyme Park followed by a lovely picnic in the sunshine and then back to the hut for a 2 night sleep-over. We also spent time den building and enjoying the park's facilities. We invested our newest members in a stream and had the traditional campfire with marshmallows and songs, led by Kwasim.



July was our next nights away where we went to Hesleywood and enjoyed a lovely couple of days and one extremely wet evening. It was an adventure! We did leader and scout led activities, including archery and kayaking on the lake. Then we joined in a campfire with the other scout groups and learnt some new songs before the campfire was stormed out. But the cubs all huddled in their tents and rode out the storm until the morning saw sunshine and pancakes.



The trip to Happy Valley was to help us complete the Naturalist Badge. It was a lot of fun although the orienteering was challenging. But it got us ready for our November camp. We looked at how the season's changes affected the different areas of the valley. And we got to learn the Countryside Code in the process.

Millies's Trust were invited to come back and aid the Cubs in their Level 1 and 2 badges. It is always a privilege to have them back and the Cubs get so much out of these evenings.



There are so many nights that take place over the year that we cannot mention them all. But the Cubs have learnt about Camp Bases and how to set up and take down their tents and beds. We have completed our passport multiple times showing the cubs how to strip their beds, re-make them as well as iron and change a fuse.

The last camp for 2023 was our Aviator weekend. This was a day spent at RAF Cosford where we completed our Aviator 1 and 2 badge. We looked around this amazing museum and read about all the different aircraft and their history. We then returned to the Bramley Centre for a DVD evening. The following day, we joined the rest of 1st Bramhall on the Remembrance Parade and prepared lovely cakes for the parents and Group to enjoy.



Led by Kwasin and Badger, and with the other leaders helping, the DIY badge was achieved over a few weeks by building bird houses which will be placed near the Bramley Centre, ready for the nesting season. The Cubs had so much fun with sawing and drilling.

The plans for 2024 are just as exciting. I would like to say thanks to Shaw Shaw (Alex) for his support in 2023 and wish him every success after signing off for his Duke of Edinburgh award. Thanks also to Kwasim - 2024 will bring his journey with Fir pack to an end and we wish him all the best when he joins the Beaver colony. And many thanks from myself to all the parents that help us out on the evenings. Without everyone's support, we could not make our evenings so enjoyable.

Akela (Caroline Noone)

Pine Cub Pack – 2023

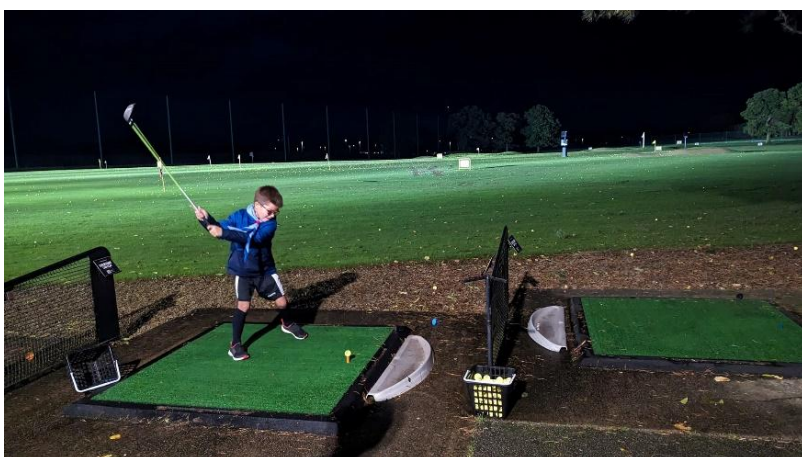


2023 was another great year for Pine Pack

We managed three trips away, had loads of great Tuesday nights, earned lots of badges and generally had lot of fun. The cubs have been a great bunch this year and have kept us on our toes throughout:

Tuesday night fun and games

Like all the sections, we have a balanced programme which means we have a variety of activities. We love trying new things as well as doing some of the old favourites.



Trying out golf at the driving range



Cycling the Middlewood way – always popular



Visting the fire station and trying out the hoses



Learning life skills - safely



And learning how the railways work

Other events

We visited the University of Manchester to put scientists and engineers through their paces. We learnt lots about the nuclear industry



Like all the other sections we took part in group activities including JOTT and the 26 hour alphabet marathon. One of our sessions was "U". A great chance to try Ukrainian cooking (and eating)



Camps and nights away

Our nights away trips are always highlights. This year we managed three:

Our winter expedition saw us on the Sandstone Trail (maybe better called the mudstone trail!)



For summer camp we went to Kibblestone Camp, visited the monkey park, built bridges and best of all, slept out under the stars (even though the Group had generously provided us with brand new tents this year!)



Then in the Autumn we had a sneaky trip to York to visit the Railway museum and the Jorvik museum



Being part of the community

A really important part of being part of the Scouting family is to make an active contribution to our community. We took part as always in the St Georges Parade and the Remembrance Parade



Badges and Awards

All of this leads to lots of badges and culminates, for some, in the award of the Silver Chief Scouts Award. 2023 was a great year for us with seven cubs gaining this award, the highest that a Cub can achieve.

And Finally

We aim to raise a smile, cope with adversity and tire out the cubs. I think we succeeded:



**Richard Edmondson
Akela**

Scout Troop Section Report 2023

In January we returned to chilly Ennerdale Water for our regular Winter Expedition. 27 scouts braved the weather and enjoyed a fabulous weekend walking in the Lake District and staying at Ennerdale Scout Centre.



1st Bramhall's Got Talent showcased our incredible scouts. Who could forget the amazing musical talents of George, Rohan, Ciaran, Max and Isaac or the showjumping from Aiden. Special mention also goes to Noah who proved he's a great comedian and Sasha, whose Ukrainian dancing was fantastic.



In March we took part in our regular March for Macmillan, walking 10,000 steps a day to raise money for this worthy charity. Also in March our PLs and APLs had a special training weekend, preparing them for leading their patrols on camp. They got to test these skills at one of our most popular camps, the return of “I’m a Scout – Get me Out!” over the early May bank holiday. A weekend of fun, challenges, and key skills learning, based on the TV show. The scouts competed for luxury meals for the winners but for the losers, don’t ask!



In May we enjoyed Jamboree on The Trail before our annual Watersports Camp in late June. Once again we waterskied, sailed, kayaked and paddleboarded in the stunning beauty of Lake Windermere. A fantastic weekend.

The highlight of the year is our **Summer Camp**, and this year didn’t disappoint. We were joined by our Danish scouting friends from Toftlund and spent a breezy and bright 9 days camping and exploring North Wales. Coastering proved a huge hit and many of the scouts showed real courage in taking on the challenge. They all really enjoyed themselves.









A night hike around Macclesfield in September tested our PLs navigation skills and was enjoyed by all.

In October our latest 24 hour event was extended into the 26 hour alphabet challenge. It not only raised funds for charity but also showed how creative our scouts and leaders are in dreaming up these amazing events.



In November we took the PLs and APLs to Nantmor, deep in Snowdonia to learn about route planning, leading groups and teamworking. The weekend was spent in stunning scenery away from technology, roads and everyday life.

Friday night activities continued to be full of fun, challenge and learning. We don't have room to list all the amazing nights we had but it is incredible how much we can pack into our program week in, week out.

All of these fantastic activities count towards earning badges. The top award in the scout section is **the Chief Scouts Gold Award** and takes hard work, determination and great leadership skills. We are delighted that the following scouts achieved their Chief Scouts Gold Award in 2023.

Luke Hannah

Ben Hannah

Will Gibbons

Bea Gibbons

Ella Higginbottom

Will O'Neill

Jack Souter

Will Murray

We were so pleased that in 2023 one of our leaders gained the top award in Scouting. Paddle was awarded the Kings' Scout Award. Well done Paddle, a great achievement.

These incredible experiences take a lot of organising and running and we are so grateful for our amazing leadership team. In 2023 we had a strong leadership team and had great regular support from young leaders Ross and Hannah.

In 2023 Chris (Kinder) took over the role of Scout Section Leader. Chris becomes only the 17th Scout Section Leader in 1st Bramhall's 115 year history. All the leaders welcome him into this role and love his enthusiasm, dedication and leadership. 1st Bramhall is in good hands as it starts a new chapter.

It's been my pleasure to be the Scout Section Leader for the last 12 years. I've enjoyed my time immensely and I will continue to support 1st Bramhall Scouts as an Assistant Scout Leader.

Peter Boxall – "Whittle" – Scout Troop Section Leader

The XBU Explorer Section - 2023

Our Explorer programme is always targeting communication, leadership, listening skills, negotiation and practical life skills, all aimed at helping with the Explorer's own development, whilst maintaining the advised scouting Development Zones of **Beliefs** and **Attitudes**, **Community**, **Fitness**, **Creative**, **Global & Outdoor** and **Adventure**.

This year we enjoyed a varied and traditional year of activities.

In May 2023 we completed a 16km Peak District JOTT Night hike from Pym Chair to Gradbach, managing to invest 10 Explorers on the top of Shutlingsloe



We also managed to complete a rigorous year of Silver DofE with 8 completing the qualifying expedition and 4 so far completing the award, with another group of 5 silvers coming through in 2024.

Our summer camp was in North Norfolk near Wells-next-the-Sea. It proved to be quite wet but also great fun. Anna managed to run a weeklong game of Traitors, pretty much better than the popular TV show, and we also managed to cook a fairly large piece of pig in a hole in the ground



During camp we invested 4 Explorers at a Go Cart track, spent loads of time on the coastline, completed the most amazing night hike, cycled around Norfolk, played mini golf, went swimming, enjoyed several beach BBQ's and played beach games. We completed the "shopping list" game from the Apprentice. And who can't fail to enjoy fish and chips on the seafront?



We also had a great Winter camp at the unusually warm Nantmor Mountain hut in Snowdonia.



We are proud to be able to provide a significant amount of volunteer help for the other sections, which continues to ensure a positive representation of the Explorer section within all the 1st Bramhall sections, showing Beavers, Cubs and Scouts where their scouting adventure can lead them.

DofE also provides an excellent basis for the program where there is a heavy mix of "Out and about" activities involving navigation, survival, cooking and communication skills. DofE without doubt provides young people with the tools to tackle the challenges of their future lives. Because it is led by the individual, it demonstrates a high level of personal commitment which breathes life into any CV.

We also had some new leaders joining us in 2023 to complement our existing team, **Anna** "Oo" is back from down south and **George** "Tumble", has also joined us. We also have an Explorer who left

3 years ago showing interest in returning as a leader. **Martin** “Butterfly” has been a great leader for over ten years & **Dave** “Puddles” keeps control of finances and is the second nights away permit holder for camps. Plus we have regular help from **Liam** “Snowflake” & **Josh** “munchkin”. We could not deliver our great program without every one of these volunteers.

Here’s to an equally successful 2024!

Paul Winterburn – “Pedal” – Explorer Scout Leader

1st Bramhall Scout Group

Reference and Administration Details

For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Charity Name	1 st Bramhall Scout Group
Principal Address	The Bramley Centre, Bramley Close Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2DT
Registered Charity Number	1019814
HQ Registration Number	4861
Scout District	Ladybrook Valley
Scout County	Greater Manchester East

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Dates acted if not for whole year</u>
Julie Bottomley	President *	
Sir Peter Fahy	Vice President	
Doreen Wyld	Vice President	
Richard Buckley	Group Chair *	
Tim Taylor	Group Secretary *	
Richard Baker	Group Treasurer and Chair of Operations sub-committee	
Andrew Corrie	Group Scout Leader *	
Barry Aitken	Deputy Group Scout Leader	

* also members of the Operations sub-committee

Bankers:

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Ave
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Royal Bank of Scotland
1 Redheughs Ave
Edinburgh
EH12 9JN

The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

External Examiner:

GJ Wood and Co Ltd.
Hub 11Pepper House
Pepper Road
Hazel Grove
Stockport
SK7 5DP

1st Bramhall Scout Group. – Trustees Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Introduction

Tracing our origins back to 1909, only two years after the founding of the Scout Movement, we are one of the oldest Scout Groups in the country. The Group is part of the Ladybrook Valley Scout District, which itself is part of Greater Manchester East Scout County. The Group is registered with The Scout Association under Registration Number 4861

The Group is constituted as a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Groups. The Group's governing documents are those of 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 (POR).

The Group Management

The Group is managed by a Trustee Board, assisted by an Operations sub-committee which manages the non-Section related activities of the Group. This structure complies with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (2023 edition).

The Scout Group is an educational charity. The Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as Charity Trustees, to make sure that the Group is well managed and safe. They are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (POR). At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run high quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life.

The Trustee Board consists of:

- “Ex-Officio” Members, appointed by virtue of their role. These are the Group Chair, Group Secretary, Group Treasurer, Group Scout Leader (GSL) and Deputy Group Scout Leader (DGSL).
- The President and Vice-Presidents are nominated by the Group Scout Leader in consultation with the Group Chair and then approved by the Scout Council at the AGM. The President also takes the lead on Risk.
- The Chair of the Operations sub-committee, who is also the Group Treasurer.

The Operations sub-committee is responsible for the Group's physical assets in accordance with formal Terms of Reference. It manages the Buildings, Equipment, Transport and Trailers, Hirings, Fire Safety, Finance and Insurance.

The sub-committee also works closely with the Scout Active Support Unit. This unit comprises parents of Young People and is responsible for engaging with other parents and external parties as well as organising Group Events, public occasions and Fund raising. The aim is to have more parents involved in the Group, so that the Group can be more successful in achieving its aims.

The members of the Operations sub-committee during 2023 were Richard Baker – Chair of Operations sub-committee, Finance, Insurance and Buildings; Julie Bottomley – Health & Safety, Buildings and Hiring; Tim Taylor – secretary; Graeme Weatherall - Fire Safety; Paul Rawcliffe – Communications and Website; Steven Vinten – Transport and Trailers; Lynne Ormiston – Hirings and Iain Lavelle – Scout Active Support Manager. David Reynolds also served on the Operations

sub-committee during the year and we thank him for his invaluable contribution. Richard Buckley as Group Chair is also a member of the Operations sub-Committee. The Group thanks them all for their hard work during the year.

The Trustee Board acts in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and takes steps to be confident that the charity is well managed, carries out its purposes for the public benefit, complies with the charity's governing document and the law and manages the charity's resources responsibly. The Trustee Board also needs to be confident that the operations of the Group are compliant with the Scout Association's rules and policies as laid down in POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules).

The Trustee Board are required to ensure that there are sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group, including the delivery of a high quality programme and the training programme.

The Trustee Board are also required to take steps to be confident that young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels and that Scouts have a positive image in the local community.

The Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

- develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
- ensure that the charity's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the charity, the raising of funds, the setting of subscription rates and the payment of the Capitation Fee;
- maintain and manage:
 - a reserves policy for the charity (including a plan for use of reserves outside the 'minimum')
 - an investment policy for the charity
 - a public benefit statement for the charity
- ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the charity is properly protected and maintained
- promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area
- ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-committee
- ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board
- appoint any Administrators, Advisers and co-opted members of the Trustee Board
- ensure transparency of operation, including:
 - prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an independent examiner as appointed by the Scout Council at their Annual General Meeting
 - prepare and approve the Trustees' Annual Report (which must include the Annual Accounts)
 - present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
 - following the AGM, ensure that a copy of the Trustee Annual Report and Accounts is sent to the District Trustee Board and filed with the Charity Commission,
 - take responsibility for adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it will at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor

- individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate Trustee Board business
- Ensure that safety and safeguarding procedures are implemented and operating effectively
- Assist in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support

Risks and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the following major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These are reviewed regularly and systems established to mitigate them.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. Through payment of the Capitation Fee to the District and County, the Group contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Through a separate policy with Unity Insurance, any helpers who are not members of the Scout Association are also covered for injury. Risk assessments are prepared for all activities, communicated to all adults taking part and reviewed regularly. Training and the correct qualifications are integral to our safety management process. All adult members are required to undertake First Aid training and all activities have a nominated trained First Aider. The Group has a Fire Safety Officer who undertakes Fire Safety Assessments, provides Fire Training to Adult Volunteers and Hirers and conducts practice evacuations. The Operations sub-committee reviews and updates the Buildings Risk Assessment. All adult leaders and volunteers in the Group are required to complete the appropriate safety and activity training courses and are expected to be familiar with the Purple Card 'Safe Scouting and Emergency Procedures' and to understand that Safety is a joint responsibility of all adults in the Group, irrespective of their role.

Safeguarding. Keeping young people safe is the paramount responsibility for all adults in Scouting. The Deputy GSL, together with the District Appointments Advisory Committee, ensures that adults are checked through the DBS and the Scout Association's systems before appointment, and that renewal takes place prior to expiry. All adults in the Group are required to complete the Scout Association Safeguarding Awareness Course. The Yellow Card which contains essential information on safeguarding is given to all adults. Young people are encouraged to raise any concerns affecting them or another member of the Group with a trusted adult and/or with their own parents.

Leader Competence In order to underpin safe quality Scouting for young people, it is very important that all adults holding Scout appointments receive training that is appropriate to their roles. Undergoing training within a stated period is a requirement of all appointments. The Scout Association's module-based training scheme for adult volunteers is managed at County level in Greater Manchester East Scout County. In the District, a nominated Assistant District Commissioner working with line managers and the Appointments Advisory Committee support and assist adults to fulfil their training commitment within the time required. The DGSL works with the District personnel to ensure that all training is up to date. Furthermore, as all appointments are for a limited period, a system is in place for reviewing appointments and identifying any further training needs.

Damage to buildings, property and equipment. In the event of such damage, the Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from other Scout Groups and/or other neighbouring organisations like churches or community centres. The Group has sufficient insurance cover in place with Unity Insurance for the buildings, contents, public liability, vehicles, trailers, canoes, boats and equipment. Appropriate training is given to all users. Certain items of equipment have been identified for regular checking, testing or maintenance.

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. A similar risk exists from a reduction or loss of young people.

Reduced income. The Group is reliant upon income from both subscriptions and the hiring of the Bramley Centre to third party organisations. Hiring income could fall due to reduced demand or due to reduced availability as a result of more section activities. The amounts charged for subscriptions and hiring the premises are reviewed by the Trustee Board annually. Further fund-raising activities could be undertaken for specific purposes.

The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income.

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR). The Group is fully aware of its responsibilities and obligations under GDPR and uses the system for electronic storage and communication managed by Greater Manchester East Scout County. Procedures for the secure storage of information in paper form are also in place. GDPR training has been undertaken by all persons with data handling responsibilities. The Deputy Group Scout Leader and Communications Manager advise the Trustee Board and the Leadership team on GDPR issues with responsibility resting with the Trustee Board.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the group are as a unit of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we give young people in our local area the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed.

The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 4 and 25. The Squirrels section covers the ages from 4 to 6. The Beaver Section covers the ages from 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10½, Scouts cover 10½ to 14. 14 to 18 year olds are in the Explorer Unit which is administered by the District. 18 to 25 year olds are in the Scout Network section which is administered by the County. At 1st Bramhall, we operate all the sections between Squirrels and Explorers.

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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

2023 saw the implementation of two projects that had been planned for some time. With the increase in the number of younger members as a result of the successful introduction of the Squirrels section, the need for a versatile and secure outdoor space became apparent. Therefore the front grass area was extended and enclosed by metal railings. This project cost £6,085. The second project involved the replacement of the failed original gutter system by a new gutter system. This has proved to be effective and will be easier to maintain in the future. This project cost £17,435.

In the year, the overall cash balance fell by £20,685 as a result of these two projects, but the Group had budgeted for this expenditure and possessed the cash reserves to finance it. Consequently, our finances still remain sound.

Excluding the expenditure on the above two projects, which have been capitalised, the operating surplus (before depreciation) from our Group and Section activities was £3,649 (2022: 4,252). which is considered acceptable by the Trustees.

Subscription income in the year grew by £1,226 (5%) mainly as a result of a full year of Squirrels and an increase in the monthly subs amount for new starters to £16. The subs increase of £1 per month was regrettable during a period of cost of living anxiety, but the Trustees have to take a long term view. As an increase only applies to new starters, with an individual's rate remaining the same throughout their time at 1st Bramhall, the benefit of an increase takes quite a while to come through.

Income from hiring the Bramley Centre to community groups increased by £2,318 to £22,034, which is the highest it has ever been. However, in December 2023 we lost our oldest and biggest hirer because they wanted longer hours which would have impacted our Section meetings. This will create a shortfall of some £4,850 per annum. We are actively seeking new hirers to make up this shortfall.

Gift Aid income received was £6,084, an increase of £797 over the prior year. This continues to be a valuable source of income for the Group.

Throughout the year, our young people undertook a range of activities to help the community, both local and nationally. The previous section reports and the GSL report illustrate some of those activities, like the 26 Hour Marathon which raised £1,340 for the British Heart Foundation.

In 2023, we continued our programme of investment in Scouting activities by purchasing a variety of equipment. This included replacing the Cub tents with 10 new ones and purchasing an additional 2 Stormhaven tents and 4 toilet tents for the Scout Troop. We also continued to maintain and upgrade our Headquarters building, including replacing the small kitchen fire door at a cost of £1,790 and replacing fluorescent lights and floodlights with LED's at a cost of £2,300.

Despite inflationary rises, we managed to keep the cost of running the Bramley Centre Headquarters building (cleaning, utilities, rates, insurance etc) at last year's level.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIOD

We intend to continue our programme of improving the Bramley Centre and purchasing equipment to support the Scouting programme. We will also be investing in the training of our adult volunteers, in safety and first aid as well as in obtaining activity permits. This is so that we can continue to expand the range of safe programme activities that we can offer. There are plans to install a

specialist play surface in the courtyard and now that the gutters are fixed, we can address the damage cause to the brickwork by water ingress. We will also improve our minibus provision.

Reserves Policy

The group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income fall short or large amounts of expenditure are required on, for example, repairs and maintenance on the Bramley Centre building or on transport. Each year, £3,000 is transferred from Reserves to a Designated Fund for Minibus replacement. The Board of Trustees considers that the current level of reserves is sufficient.

Investment Policy

The Group has adopted a risk averse strategy to the management of its liquid funds which are held in cash using a mainstream bank. Cash not required immediately is held in an interest bearing account. The Trustee Board 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.

The Trustee Board regularly considers the cash flow requirements and longer term investments are split between a 60 day notice account and an Invesco Managed Fund. The National Savings Investment Account was closed during the year and funds moved to the Notice Account in order to improve the interest rate. The Invesco Managed Fund was chosen to give a diversified range of investments following a discussion with an Independent Financial Adviser.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Richard Buckley

Chairman

Date:

Timothy Taylor

Secretary

Date:

Andrew Corrie

Group Scout Leader

Date: