

Registered charity number 1019814



1st Bramhall Scout Group

Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December 2022

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2022

Throughout the following pages you'll see the review of an impressive range of activities, events, and experiences for all our members - all with the over-riding aim of developing their skills for life.

The balanced programme we deliver every week is, by any measure, phenomenal and that is due to our wonderful team of volunteer Adult Leaders whose commitment, dedication, energy, skill, enthusiasm, and creativity are beyond measure.

And they are joined by our fabulous Young Leaders - all from XBU, our Explorer Unit - who give so willingly of their time, putting back into their Scouting for the benefit of others much of what they have learnt.

We have had a significant and very welcome increase in the number of Adult Leaders this year; we are nearly running out of wall space in the entrance hall for our "Meet the Team" photos - but that's a great problem to have and I'm not complaining!

The year was special in so many ways:

First was the introduction of Squirrels in May - the first (and only) drey in the District, and one of the first in the County - and indeed the Country. And what a fantastic section they are - 1st Bramhall without Squirrels would now be unthinkable. A warm welcome to them all. And already some of our Squirrels have moved up to the next section, Beavers.

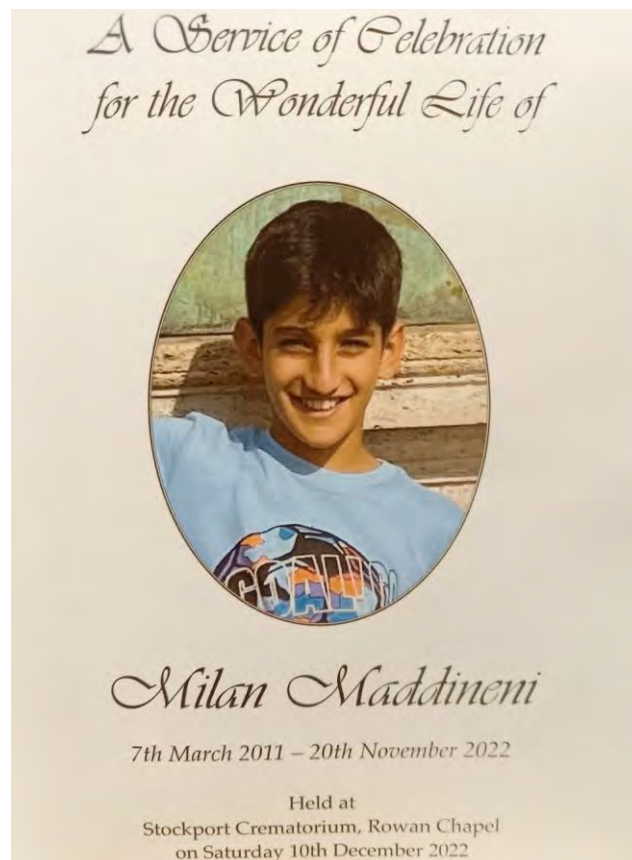
We also gave a huge 1st Bramhall welcome to our Ukrainian friends who had come to stay in the area. We hosted a regular drop-in for Ukrainian guests and their hosts every Sunday afternoon, and organised welcome packs of essential toiletries etc, as well as clothes and games. This was featured on national BBC TV news and locally on the Stockport Council volunteering website. We are delighted that several Ukrainian youngsters have joined us as Cubs and Scouts, with our flagbreaks each week now including the Ukrainian flag.



This year also saw the the fruition of our long-anticipated Active Support Unit - launched at Family Camp. Our thanks to Iain Lavelle for taking the lead on this for us. The Unit organised our Scoutpost, the installation of our Christmas Tree, our involvement with the Round Table Santa Christmas float, stewarding at the St Georges Day Parade, and they are currently working on the improvement of our grassed area. The Unit is open to anyone at all who would like to be involved in helping with the myriad of things that need to be done to support the Group, freeing up Leaders to do what they do best - delivering fantastic programmes for our young people.

No review of the year would be complete without mentioning Family Camp in September where over 200 of us spent a fun-packed weekend at Kibblestone Scout Camp in Staffordshire. We are already planning the next one (but not for 2023!)

But this year also saw the terribly sad passing of one of our members Milan Maddineni. Milan joined the Group as a Beaver and went all the way through to Scouts; he was touched by Scouting and he gave so much to everyone in the Colony, the Pack, and the Troop. He was always enthusiastic, helpful, considerate, and was never seen without a huge, infectious smile. He epitomised Scouting's values. It was a very humbling privilege to join literally hundreds of people attending the service celebrating his life, and hear the awe-inspiring tributes to him. In Scouting parlance, Milan had "gone home".



And finally we congratulate one of our Leaders, Sam Rogers ("Rudder"), on completing his Queens Scout Award and becoming a Queens Scout (one of the very last). The highest achievement in Scouting, and one we hope many of our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers will achieve in due course; we will do all we can to make that a reality



Andrew Corrie ("Skip")

Group Scout Leader

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022

Before attempting to write some words from "The Chair", I always read the rest of the report, and in reality what more is there to add?

Can there be a better place for young people to learn "Skills for Life"?

I'm no fan of sales slogans, but "Skills for Life" really does sum up Scouting, things our members learn will stay with them for life – I know that from personal experience.

It is becoming slightly traditional, but no less sincere than the first time, for me to thank all our adult volunteers; whether they be front of house delivering programme or behind the scenes fixing toilets! (it all needs doing!); the hours people are happy to give to support the Group is heart-warming.

It was great to see so many of the 1st Bramhall Family on Family Camp – a superb weekend, which provided a fantastic opportunity for families to experience some of our programme and glimpse in to what happens on our Camps.

In his GSL's report, Andrew mentions the Active Support Unit, which is a great way for adults to give a few hours to support the group. Whether it's laying turf, marshalling at an event, or cooking burgers at the JOTT BBQ, all help is appreciated and allows our Leaders to concentrate on delivering an exciting programme for our young people.

One of the duties of the Executive Committee is to ensure that we have a safe and fit-for-purpose environment to deliver activities. We have embarked on a significant programme of work on the building and surrounding land, with emphasis on making the outside space more inviting and secure for our younger sections.

Our dedicated Treasurer has provided a detailed report on the Group's financial position later in this report. Through careful management of funds and investments, we are on a sound financial footing, which enables us to provide exciting and adventurous activities for our young people.

As we approach the summer months, I am looking forward to a great programme of Scouting events across all sections; at 1st Bramhall our leaders put on fantastic activities all year round, but things are that extra bit special in the Summer.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Regards

Richard Buckley

Group Chair

ANNUAL CENSUS

The annual census, taken at 31 January 2023, showed 175 (prior year:149) young people in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with a further 22 (prior year:32) in the Explorer Unit, which is a District Section. All sections operate waiting lists.

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

Leader/Sectional assistants	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Squirrels	8									
Beavers: Colts	5	4	2	4	3	4	3	8	6	2
Kits	6	4	2	4	3	3	3	6		
Cubs: Pine	7	5	3	6	5	3	4	4	8	5
Fir	4	6	3	3	9	7	5	10		
Scouts	17	16	13	15	11	14	10	9	11	9
Total	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- 2022



We opened our Squirrel Drey in May 2022 with 18 children aged 4-5. All of our sessions have a game, a story and a related main activity. We began by working on our Be Active and Feel Good badges. This included learning about feelings, building blanket forts and having a fun yoga session.



Blanket Forts

We held our first investiture on 20th June. This included investing all of our Squirrels and our new leaders. The children were really proud to be the first Squirrel Drey in the area.



Mass Investiture

We finished the term with our first trip outside the hut to Bramhall Park for a Scavenger hunt.



When we returned in September, 6 new Squirrels joined the group. We enjoyed building our own model campfires, toasting marshmallows and learning campfire songs.

This was great preparation for Family Camp. 8 of our Squirrels joined us on camp with their families. They had great fun joining in with the activities and meeting other leaders and sections. They enjoyed standing at the front of the flag break with Skip to be introduced to the Group. Favourite activities included the Blindfold Trail and whizzing downhill on the carts.

In the winter we started to learn about different celebrations for our Let's Celebrate badge. We learned about Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas. We also made use of our free Lego from IET to build some bridges and animal homes. We finished the term with a visit from Reverend Calum Piper from St Michael's church. We also held our first 'nut run' as our first Squirrels moved on to Beavers.

We look forward to many more adventures together!

Thanks to the 2022 team Little Beaver, Nutella, Kit, Jay, Paddle, Hawkeye and Nutkin for all of their invaluable help. Thanks also to our parent helpers.

Louise Eagle "Nala"

Colts Beaver Colony - 2022

The annual report gives a chance to reflect on how much we do in the Beaver Section. It is amazing how much we can cram into a year, and how keen our Turquoise Ninjas are to push themselves outside their comfort zones.

2022 started in January with a trip to the Panto. The annual trip organised by the District had been paused during Covid, so Teddy stepped in and organised a 1st Bramhall Beavers trip to see Dick Whittington at the Plaza. It was loud and funny, and the Beavers loved it.

Our programme in January included a night on Birdwatch, where we made bird feeders and learnt about the different garden birds. In February we completed our Health & Fitness badge with a programme built around Winter Olympics. We took part in speed skating, the luge and curling, and we all won medals!



In March we had a special guest, as Doctor Vinten came and talked about her job as a family doctor and the Beavers got to use some of the equipment in her doctor's bag! We also had a sleepover at the hut, where we cooked our own tea to earn the Cooks badge, had a night hike to Bramhall Park and a terrific indoor camp fire led by Tigger, where we learnt some great new campfire songs. Thank you Tigger!



In April, we paraded smartly through Bramhall for St George's Day and had an evening on friendship and learning and understanding our differences.



May was a fun packed month. It saw us making seed pots and planting seeds. We had a joint meeting in Bruntwood Park with Kits where we climbed trees and enjoyed the playground. We joined the rest of the Group for JOTT, walking on a glorious afternoon, earning a hikes badge and enjoying a great BBQ back at the hut. We completed our Safety badge and had an amazing afternoon at Sale Water Park earning our Time on the Water badge in Katakanoes! We celebrated the Jubilee with a tea party and games.

June saw us making Coasters for Father Day, completing our Cycling badge, and learning how to light fires with flint and steel.

In July we practised navigation in Bramhall Park, learning how to read maps, and we had a terrific outdoor session involving lots of water and rockets! We went to the Cinema to see Lightyear and ate lots of popcorn!

In September we went on Family Camp and had adventures trying new challenging activities and trying to beat Suds at Rock, Paper, Scissors.



October saw us completing our Global Issues badge, making water filters and seeing who could produce the cleanest water. We learnt about endangered animals and fair trade, and Digger ran a session on Saving Energy. We all dressed up for our annual Halloween party and had fun playing spooky games and crafts, and eating quite a few sweets! We also attended the District Chief Scout Bronze Award Ceremony where 9 Colts Beavers were awarded this very special achievement.

November saw us collecting Junk and earning our Builders badge by building a crazy golf course. We had lots of parents come and join in and help and it was a really great night, building our course and then playing on it. We then moved onto our Space badge, where we learnt about the planets and made constellation biscuits. We finished the month with a Sleepover at Catalyst Science Museum in Widnes with our friends from Kits. We had an amazing time playing on all the interactive exhibits, watching a Night at the Museum and sleeping in the glass observatory. We also had a science show and made soap, although I am not sure how clean it would have got us!



December saw us celebrate Christmas with seasonal crafts and games, topped off with a traditional Christmas party.

And so for this years stats! We awarded 285 badges in 2022, including 8 Chief Scout Bronze awards, 47 Challenge badges and 221 activity badges across 16 different badge types. 2022 was definitely a year to celebrate achievement.

I must end as always by thanking all the leadership team whose different skills and interests make it possible to deliver such a fun and varied programme for our young people, it really is a team effort.

Thank you, Keego, Silva, Skater, Tigger & Digger. Thank you also to our Young Leaders who provided such a valuable source of help throughout the year whilst juggling the increasing demand of school and college; thank you, Sprinter, Coffee and Edge.

Thank you to all of our parents who have stepped forward to support us when we needed additional help or to just join in our sessions, I particularly enjoyed seeing how involved and competitive you got during our Junk golf evening, some of the Beavers didn't get a look in! Thank you to the Exec who support us behind the scenes ensuring we have whatever we need to run the Colony and a special thank you to Richard Baker for being our Treasurer and never saying no to our requests!

However, the biggest thank you of all goes to the Beavers. Their enthusiasm, inquisitiveness, desire to try new things and most of all have fun is the reason we as leaders turn up every week. 2023 is already proving to be an exciting, fun packed year and I look forward to us all continuing to have adventures, building skills and making memories together.

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

Kits Beaver Colony - 2022

We started 2022 with the annual panto trip to Stockport Plaza. Unfortunately, not as part of a district event this time, but still a great joint experience for Kits and Colts Beavers.



During our first term, we made fruit kebabs and sandwiches as part of the Cook Badge. We celebrated Chinese New Year by making tiger masks. We explored space and the night sky using a cool planet app and made constellations out of cocktail sticks and raisins.



For the first time in a while, we were able to celebrate St George's Day, with a parade through Bramhall followed by a group service at St Michaels Church. This was a fabulous, greatly missed and well supported event.



The late spring and early summer term brought warmer weather and lighter nights which meant we could get outdoors!

We had great fun climbing trees in Bruntwood Park, (another joint event with Colts Beavers.) We went bug hunting in Carrwood. We planted flowers and vegetable seeds as part of our Gardener Badge and collected leaves and twigs to make natural works of art.



We also had a fantastic afternoon 'messaging about in boats' with Peak Sports at Trafford Water Park, learning about water safety, canoeing, and kayaking followed by an impromptu 'dip' in the lake.



We finished off the summer term with wide games and badge presentation in Bramhall Park and invested Rainbow as an 'Assistant Leader.'



We started the Autumn term with a hike and pond dipping adventure in Happy Valley, which was great fun although a little soggy for some!



At the end of September, we hosted a fabulous Family camp weekend where a record number of families from all sections joined us at Kibblestone Scout Camp in Staffordshire for a fun packed weekend of scouting activities including a traditional campfire!



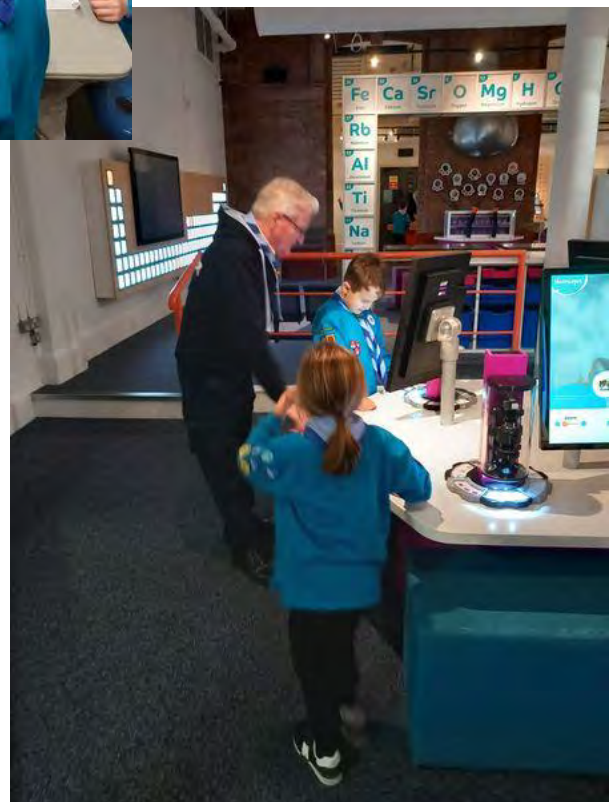
As the dark nights set in, our meetings were back in the Bramley Centre, where we enjoyed den building and junk modelling as part of the Builder Badge. We had a visit from Dr Glen who taught us all about the heart and basic first aid skills and we had our much-loved Halloween fancy dress party.



ur next Beaver sleepover event took place in November, where Kits and Colts came together to experience a 'Night at the Museum' sleeping in the observatory at Catalyst Science Museum in Widnes. The Beavers enjoyed carrying out science experiments, making soap and watching a live science show. This fabulous event was excellent fun for Beavers and Leaders alike.



For the remaining months the Beavers recognised Remembrance Day, made (and ate) bonfire biscuits, celebrated St Andrew's Day, and learned about the patron saints, and made Xmas Crackers! It's certainly been another jam-packed year for Kits Beavers!





We've awarded over 200 badges, including 6 Chief scout Bronze Awards, and have seen our colony grow to 21 regular attendees.

I'd like to thank the amazing leaders who support our activities week in week out, Rikki, Rainbow, Luna, Willow, and Beefy and special thanks for the ad-hoc support to Pogo, Harrier and Keego.

Finally, I'd like to recognise 3 fantastic young people, Alfie, Jack, and James. All of whom joined 1st Bramhall as Beavers and now form part of the Young Leaders Team. You are outstanding role models for our Beavers, and I'd like to thank you for the energy and enthusiasm you bring to each meeting.

Teddy

Kate Vincent
Beaver Scout Leader 1st Bramhall Kits Beavers



Fir Cub Pack - 2022

It has been a packed-full 12 months with the Cubs doing an amazing job as always.

Massive thanks to the leadership team of Kwasim (Adam), Little Beaver (Kae) and Baloo (Angela), together with Kinder (Chris), Bueno (Bethan), and Barry, together with Suds (Amanda) for her support at Camp. We also have two amazing Explorer helpers: Coffee (Jacob) and Shaw Shaw (Alex).

Our Year started with Chinese New Year at the amazing restaurant Rainbow 88 with the wonderful Linda being an amazing host. The Cubs had a great time with great food



Beginning of March, we had our winter camp indoors at the Bramley Centre. After gathering, we took a minibus trip to Linnet Clough where we went on a Hike and Hunt around Marple and Strines and then we returned to the hut for more fun-filled activities.



April took us away again to Ashworth Valley for the weekend - outdoor and indoor camping. We crammed in so many activities from popcorn making to rocket building and raft racing down the river. Then on the Sunday, we joined in with the District for the St George's Day Parade and the weather held out for us all.



July took us away on summer camp with Kwasim taking charge and running an amazing camp. The matching Tie Dye t-shirts were a big hit with the Cubs, as was the massive water fight in the lovely sunny weather. We made rafts going out on the river and sang as loud as we could, even teaching a new song to a cub pack from Stockport that we met.





Fir Pack ended the year with a Christmas party at Chill Factor and we invested Baloo and our new Cubs at the top of the slide. The Cubs had an amazing time as always, doing all the different activities and racing each other down the snow.



2023 has started well with the Cubs working hard to complete their badges and taking the annual walk from Bramhall to Poynton to get our Chippy reward. Well worth the 2 hours in the dark and the question "are we there yet".

Akela (Caroline Noone)

Pine Cub Pack – 2022



2022 was a great year for Pine Pack

One of our most important achievements in 2022 was to welcome Martin (Ikki), Glyn (Baloo), and Adam (Bagheera) as new leaders. This brings our total of leaders up to six which in turn means we have been able to keep the numbers of cubs in the pack as high as 32 all year.

They have been a great bunch this year and have kept us on our toes throughout:



1. Tuesday night fun and games

Like all the sections, we have a balanced programme which means we have a variety of activities, all with different aims, but overall providing the chance for all cubs to push themselves to their limits, learn new skills, and most importantly have some fun in a safe and supportive environment.

As an example, we had a trip to Chill Factor with the simple rule to try a new sport; for those cubs who have skied previously they had to try boarding or vice versa. It was also a great chance to invest some of our new cubs. We love to invest cubs in different places, this was a new one for us.



We also tried other adventures including climbing at Awesome Walls which was another chance to push their own limits and try new things.



However, not all our Tuesday nights are big adventurous activities, this year most of our cubs completed their Scientist badge...



...and did craft activities such as making these Snowmen showing the diversity of the activities that we get up to on Tuesday evenings.



2. *Camp*

Summer Camp is always a highlight and we had a great weekend at Hesley Wood near Sheffield this year.

Camp is a great way to let the cubs develop their independence, enjoy communal living, spend time together developing friendships and of course, just have fun.

This year they had a chance to take part in canoeing, archery, and grass sledding, as well as just chilling round the campfire with marshmallows – nothing better!



3. *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.

This might be in the form of one of our Group activities such as the 24 hour games marathon where the cubs took part in “The Chase” and “Would I lie to you” displaying a slightly worrying ability to lie very convincingly. Dodgy outfits from the leaders were considered de rigeur.



We also make sure we directly help the community with litter picks...



...and provide a proud representation of the youth of Bramhall on Remembrance Sunday



4. **Badges and Awards**

All of this leads to lots of badges and culminates, for some, in the award of the Silver Chief Scouts Award. 2022 was a record year for us with eight cubs gaining this award, the highest that a cub can achieve.



5. **And Finally**

I just wanted to end this year's report with a personal thank you to the whole family that is 1st Bramhall for their support of all our Ukrainian guests this year. We started 2022 with no idea that we would soon be welcoming refugees into our community and homes. However, when it became clear in March that several families would be arriving, everyone in 1st Bramhall stepped up to help with donations of clothing, toys, bikes and beautiful donations of toiletries which I know were really appreciated.

A special thank you however needs to go to the Group Exec who supported the idea of having get togethers on Sunday afternoons, and most importantly Barry, Dawn, Doreen, Brian, Richard B and Ollie who did the leg work of putting them on week after week. These were a real lifeline for all those who attended and it is a measure of their success that they were only needed for six months, by which time the Ukrainian families had built their own support networks.

As a result of all this work we were able to welcome Ukrainian children into the group, and for at least some of them, this was their first chance to develop friendships with English children. I think we all saw how much they enjoyed family camp and how scouting has provided a solid base for them to start to integrate into the community.

To me, this has shown scouting at it's best and I am extremely proud to be a member of such a wonderful group as 1st Bramhall.



**Richard Edmondson
Akela**

Scout Troop Section Report 2022

2022 in numbers

Started with 56 Scouts - Ended with 65 Scouts
Maximum Overnights available per person: 20
Total overnights earned: 513

Our winter expedition was a great way to start the new year. 26 scouts braved the chilly weather and enjoyed a fabulous weekend walking in the Lake District and staying at Ennerdale Scout Centre.

2022 was jam packed with activities. In January the scouts put on a fantastic panto, specially written by Kite. Then we had a 24hr game show raising money for McMillan.

The scouts took on the Million Hands Project in March. The patrols were tasked with creating and delivering a project for positive change. We were blown away by the creativity and enthusiasm of the scouts. Craft sales, cake sales, a charity car wash, even a website that encourages people to turn off their engines at traffic lights. It was a great example of what the scouts can do by themselves when given the opportunity. In March we also took on the 310,000 steps challenge and raised money for the Samaritans.

As the weather started to warm we did a spring night hike, a PLs training day and then a Scoutcraft Camp. The scouts spent a great weekend at Barnswood campsite learning all the skills that they would need on our summer camp.

At the start of July, the Watersports Camp was attended by 41 Scouts who enjoyed sailing, waterskiing, kayaking, paddle boarding and raft building on the beautiful Lake Windermere.





Summer Camp 2022 was at Loch Tummel in Scotland. A fabulous field on the Loch side was home to 28 scouts and 14 leaders for 9 glorious summer days. The scouts camped, cooked, played, and sang. We also waterskied, sailed, paddle boarded and kayaked. This was topped off with a trip to the Edinburgh Tattoo.





Our local bases activities included caving, swimming, candle making and yoga and we had a 1st Bramhall Masterchef with the winning Patrol going through to the District final.

We did even more fundraising with another amazing 24 hour event, this time 24 x one hour events back to back, raising money for the group and for New Mills Community project and at Christmas we made gift boxes for Age UK.

All these fantastic activities count towards earning badges and we awarded an incredible 228 badges in total. 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 2022.

Seb Holmes	Charlotte Taylor	Jasper Prince	Martha Shelton
Felix Prince	Ross Hallinan	Austin King	

These incredible experiences take a lot of organising and running and we are so grateful for our amazing leadership team. In 2022 we said (a temporary) goodbye to Owen, Jess, Holly, Henry and Mae as they went off to Uni, travelling or starting work. We miss you and hope to see you all soon.

We were very lucky to say hello to Sam Rogers (Rudder) and Jess Watson (Crag) who joined us late 2021 and have both been invaluable in 2022. We were so pleased that in 2022 Sam was presented with his Queen's Scout Award. Well done Sam.

Peter Boxall – “Whittle” – Scout Troop Section Leader

The XBU Explorer Section - 2022

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 much more traditional year of activities.

In August 2022 we completed a 26km long Peak District hike taking in the plane wrecks at Bleaklow



Our summer camp was in North Devon where we found a wealth of things to do at one of the best campsites to date



During camp we managed to invest 8 Explorers on a moving steam train and spent loads of time on the coastline completing the most amazing night hike, cycling the Tarka Trail, sailing in cardboard boats, going to an aqua park, playing frisbee golf, going on a high ropes course, enjoying beach BBQ's, paddle boarding, coasteering and exploring the local coastline as well as Exmoor.



Here is a picture of possibly the best beach in Devon



In November we also managed to do a Remembrance Day hike to take part in the annual service at the top of Great Gable in the Lakes. This is such a poignant way to mark the occasion.



DofE also provides an excellent basis for the programme 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 and because it’s led by the individual, it demonstrates high levels of personal commitment which breathes life into any CV.

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. We show Beavers, Cubs and Scouts where their scouting adventure can lead them.

One last thing is to thank all the leaders and support people at 1st Bramhall, because without the help and support of so many people we would not have been able to provide the programme we deliver. For example one leader on summer camp chose to attend rather than let everyone down, despite his business completing a merger halfway through camp which put himself under immense pressure. But this shows the huge and valued commitment of our leadership team.

Here’s to an equally successful 2023

Paul Winterburn – “Pedal” – Explorer Scout Leader