

4TH ASHBY SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1125053

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2008-07-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Donisthorpe Scout Centre 3 Church Street Donisthorpe DE12 7PX
Phone	01530888579
Email	jon@4thashby.org.uk
Website	www.4thashby.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: Scout Group providing access to activities for scouting members, in line with Scout Organisation

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£32,244	£36,570	-	-
2024-08-31	£81,310	£106,344	-	-
2023-02-28	£35,410	£30,200	-	-
2022-02-28	£16,499	£15,978	-	-
2021-02-28	£8,549	£9,890	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Leake		2017-02-09
Jessica Kirsten Rebecca Southwart		2024-11-07
Madeline Ellen Warren		2025-01-15
Mark Randall		2023-11-23
Mark Timson		2020-12-05
Nikki Davies		2023-11-23
PHILIP JONATHAN BLOOR		
Paul Wright		2023-11-23

4TH ASHBY SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1125053

Accounts

4th Ashby Scout Group

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



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Reference and Administration Details

Charity name:	4th Ashby Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1125053
Scouts Association Registration Number:	32054
Charity's principal address:	Donisthorpe Scout Centre 3 Church Street, Donisthorpe Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 7PX

Trustee Name	Office	Date in position	To be revoted in
Philip Jonathan Bloor	Group Lead Volunteer and Trustee	Reset April 24	Ex-officio
Andrew Leake	Cub Scout Lead Volunteer and Trustee	Reset April 24	April 27
Alice Bush	Group Volunteer and Trustee	Reset April 24	April 27
Nikki Davies	Trustee and Chair	EGM 23rd Nov 2023	April 27
Jess Southwart	Treasurer	Aug 2024	Aug 27
Mark Timson	Trustee	Reset April 24	April 27
Mark Randall	Trustee	EGM 23rd Nov 2023	April 27
Paul Wright	Trustee	EGM 23rd Nov 2023	April 27
Madeline Warren	Trustee	AGM 7 th Nov 2024	Nov 27

Notes:

- Trustee term dates reset from April 24 when Scout Association moved to Group Trustee Boards, anyone in position before this has their term reset from this date.
- Error on previous report stating EGM in Nov 24 – corrected to Nov 23

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. In line with the recommendation from The Scout Association, we adopt the model constitution for a Scout Group from [Chapter 5c of Policy, Organisation and Rules](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-districts-and-counties-except-scotland/). This can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-districts-and-counties-except-scotland/>

How the charity is constituted:

4th Ashby Scout Group is an educational charity, with The Group Scout Council whose membership consists of Lead Volunteers, Section Volunteers, all Members and Associate Members of The Scout Association registered to the Group; all parents/carers of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts; the Group Board of Trustees; with the District Commissioner and District Chair as ex-officio members.

Additional governance information:

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

Our financial year is September 1st to August 31st.

Group Trustee Board

The Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity trustees, to make sure Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. Effective Trustee Board governance helps our volunteers deliver fantastic programmes that give young people skills for life.

Who's in the team

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Trustees

Note - The Group Lead Volunteer is automatically a Trustees because of their roles in Scouts.

Our Scout Council has agreed that our Trustee Board should have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 members. Appointed Trustees are appointed by the Group Scout Council for up to three years and can be re-appointed by the Scout Council at the AGM. Trustees may only be on the same Trustee Board for a maximum of nine years, before taking a break of at least three years. This applies to any role, but not ex officio Trustees (Lead Volunteers or Youth Leads).

All Trustees must complete:

- The learning everyone needs
- Being a Scouts Trustee

We currently have 9 trustees, with one resignation and 4 incoming. 25/26 will see us have 12 trustees in total, with 3 trustees expressing their wish to retire at the 25/26 AGM.

Because of changes made by the Scout Association last year, the terms of trustees in position before this date were reset as of April 2024. No current board members need re-voting in as yet.

Trustee Recruitment and Selection Methods:

The Trustees are appointed following the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. **We have adopted an open selection process which has meant our vacant board positions have been advertised internally as well as externally on our Facebook & LinkedIn pages as well as local community group's facebook pages.**

Trustees work together to make sure that we:

Manage money well

- Have enough money for now and in the future. This means having a reserves policy and making sure fundraising takes place, if it's needed.
- Have a budget in place. Trustees then agree how to manage the budget with other volunteer teams.

Follow Scouts policies and relevant legislation

- Follow [POR, key policies](#) (including [safety, safeguarding, data protection](#), and equality, diversity and inclusion), and charity regulations.
- Follow employment law if staff are employed, and act as a responsible employer in line with relevant legislation and Scout values. Make sure effective line management is in place for each staff member, which can be delegated to others.
- [Create Trustees Annual Report and Statement of Accounts](#)
- Have Statement of Accounts audited by an appropriate person before the Annual General Meeting. If they're a registered charity, they'll need to share it with the charity regulator.

- Hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Look after buildings, insurance and property

- Look after records of ownership of property and equipment.
- Have the right insurance for people, buildings, and equipment.
- Make sure buildings and equipment are working well.

Manage risks

- Maintain a risk register and put the right risk mitigations in place.

Help the charity to operate well, today and in the future

- Work with Lead Volunteers to meet their charity aims.
- Champion [Our Volunteering Culture](#), and make sure volunteers are aware of it, reflect on it, commit to it, and apply it in their teams.

In carrying out the above, Trustees also:

- Make sure effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board.
- Make sure records of Trustee Board meetings are kept, and complete any actions that are agreed.
- Run [open selection processes for appointing Trustees](#).
- Co-opt Trustees onto the Board if they need people with particular skills or knowledge.
- Get expert advice, if needed. This could be on health and safety, managing money, buildings, equipment, or employment.
- Network with other Scouts Trustees to share knowledge and experience.

What are AGMs?

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an opportunity for members, that's every young person's parents or guardians and all our adult leaders and helpers, to meet with the Trustees and hear their report on the charity, review of the accounts, and other administrative business.

It's a compulsory yearly meeting that happens within 6 months of the end of the charity's financial year, and where the Scout Council appoints their Trustees.

There's a formal part to the AGM, but it doesn't mean it has to be a lengthy or tedious meeting. This is an opportunity to celebrate the things you've done in the past year, show what the young people have achieved, thank volunteers and connect with the local community.

You can find more information here:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/trustee-boards/annual-general-meetings/>

Scouting Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to contribute positively to society.

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 cooperate with others and make friends.

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.

4th Ashby Scouts

Vision

We want to deliver first class scouting to as many children in our local area as possible, to give all involved inspiring opportunities to do and be our best and develop life skills to make our world better.

Mission

We want to continue to grow our successful scouting offer to our full capabilities without compromise on the quality of experience, by enabling flexible volunteering and keeping scouting fun.

Public benefit statement:

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.

Risk Assessment

- **Safety and Safeguarding:** We are constantly updating and reviewing our processes to ensure our members are as safe as possible
- **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members** - Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. We also have additional insurance for occasional volunteers. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- **Volunteer team:** Risk of leaders overwhelm and losing volunteers, which is a potential risk to the Scout group. If Scout team members leave, sections are at risk of closing due to numbers, or worst case, the group is at risk of closure. We are actively reaching out to parents and the local community to recruit more volunteers for both GTB and Scout Team. We will be looking at other ways to recruit. We are also working hard to ensure our leaders are effectively supported.
- **Facilities risk** - security of tenure is a risk that we are actively working with the District to improve
- **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. Similar reciprocal arrangements could exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- **Reduced income from fundraising** - 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 significant reduction in income. The Board 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 members** - The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership 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. We currently have a waiting list for all sections so are reasonably confident that this is a slight risk.

Financial Overview

This year was our first full year after our 18 month move over to our new financial year of Sept - Aug to align us with the scouting year and our usual largest intake. This 18 month period obviously meant a longer period of time for donations and income, which makes 24/25 seem smaller, but is in fact as expected. We received £16,800 over the 23/24 18 month period, including a large one-off personal donation of £10,000, as well as £5,000 from the Rotary Club towards specific building projects. In 2024/25 we received £2,471.

This year has also seen far less income and outcome focused on hall improvements than 23/24. We would describe 24/25 as a business as usual year. 23/24 saw £19k of grants for specific project expenditure, versus this year's grants of £600. General running expenses are broadly the same across accounting periods and inline with budgets.

As you may know, we are able to claim Gift Aid back from HMRC as a registered charity. I know that we do send reminders often to ask our members to update your gift aid permission, but the reason for this is obvious when you see the £9k that we were able to claim back for the 23/24 period. At the moment we have an average of 82% of people signed up for this and we expect our claim to be about £4.5k for this year, but if more people signed up then we could claim back more. Please do check that you have ticked the Gift Aid button on Online Scout Manager if you are a UK tax payer. If you are unsure if you can claim, here's a great link for you to explain more about it <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/gift-aid/>. We see no personal information about income or finances at all, we simply make the claim through HMRC.

Next year's budget is also expected to be "Scout Business As Usual", although we are planning to upgrade some of our equipment, possibly with the surplus in reserves. We also need to understand the next steps with the building so costs may be incurred here. 2026 is also our 50th Anniversary year so we are planning a celebration of some sort, where a cost may be incurred but we are still in the early stages of planning this.

In January we put our subs up to £13 to ensure budgeted costs were covered and we will continue to monitor this to ensure the budgets balance.

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 6 months of running costs, circa £13,000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £17k against this at year-end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. Leaders have highlighted that a significant investment in our Scouting equipment will be needed during the camping season due to many items reaching the end of their useful life.

Reserves Policy:

to cover any Event commitments	5,000
to cover any utilities or building costs	950
to cover 3 months rent	1,050
to cover any unforeseen loss of income/emergency running costs	5,000
to cover any cashflow issues with pre-paid cards	1,000
	13,000

Investment Policy:

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4th Ashby Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 4th Ashby Scout Group for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 4th Ashby Scout Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 4th Ashby Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 4th Ashby Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Name: Sarah-Jane Statham

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACMA,CTA, TEP

Address: 2 Cotswold Way Ashby de la Zouch LE65 1ET

Date: 1st November 2025

Receipts & Payments Report: Year Ended 31/08/25

Receipts	01/09/24 - 31/08/25 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/23 - 31/08/24 Unrestricted Funds £
Membership Subscriptions	21,333.00	29,564.00
Less membership fees paid on (To district, county, and national)	(9,193.80)	(16,020.70)
Net Membership Subscriptions Retained	12,139.20	13,543.30
Bank Interest	314.17	736.28
Donations	2,471.41	16,800.00
Events (Activities/Camp)	16,366.25	27,139.26
Events (Group e.g AGM, etc)	37.20	113.41
Fundraising (Easy Fundraising/Amazon and any others)	325.15	283.57
Gift Aid (received after year end)	0.00	3,627.32
Grant Income	550.00	18,982.75
Member/Other Payment Refund	0.00	0.00
Other Income (e.g. Badge sales)	40.84	84.00
Total Receipts	32,244.22	81,309.89

Payments	01/09/24 - 31/08/25 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/23 - 31/08/24 Unrestricted Funds £
Admin (Sundries/Website/Training)	483.08	993.94
Badges & Uniform	1,587.42	3,168.12
Bank Fees (Go Cardless, OSM, CAF)	1,038.37	1,406.84
Equipment	2,337.88	1,894.65
Events (Activites/Camp)	15,770.54	27,758.91
Events (Group e.g AGM, etc)	569.35	754.77
Grant Expenditure	0.00	17,374.21
Insurance/Minibus Permits	271.73	552.34
Meeting Costs	1,775.89	2,301.19
Member/Other Payment Error	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00
Project Expenditure	0.00	37,687.39
Sub Total	23,834.26	93,892.36
Building Expenses		
Phone/Broadband	319.37	271.99
Cleaning	1,817.12	2,834.41
Building Maintenance - Minor Works	6,399.52	3,045.32
Rent (inc Elec/Gas)	4,200.00	6,300.00
Sub Total	12,736.01	12,451.72
Total Payments	36,570.27	106,344.08

Net receipts/payments	(4,326.05)	(25,034.19)
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds	24/25	23/24
Bank Current Account	3,280.81	6,339.01
Bank Deposit Account	13,031.97	13,954.12
Pre-Paid Card Balance	547.09	892.79
Cash/Floats	6.00	6.00
Sub Total	16,865.87	21,191.92

Sub Total	0.00	0.00
Net Cash Funds	16,865.87	21,191.92

Note

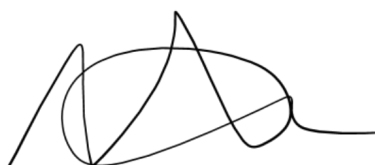
Gift Aid Claim 2023-24 - received Sept 2025	9,073.52	0.00
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Non-Monetary assets for own use	24/25	23/24
Badge Stock	1,108.08	1,186.79
Scouting Equipment/Furniture	12,000.00	10,000.00
Total	13,108.08	11,186.79

The above Receipts and Payments report and Statement of Assets and liabilities were approved document were approved by the trustees on 29/10/25



J Southwart
Group Treasurer



N Davies
Group Chair

Review of 2024 - 2025

Trustee's Report

In Scouts our main priority is enabling young people to develop life skills and confidence whilst having fun and adventures – as safely as possible. Safety and safeguarding updates have continued from the national Scout Association, and we continue to follow their guidance and requirements and ensure we are fully compliant on all training requirements, with ALL members revisiting the Safety training this year.

We are continuing to work together to set group standards that will ensure, as we continue to develop our scouting offer, we are delivering the safest and most accessible scouting possible.

We have improved the facilities further in line with our fire and safety audits– safety and security are top of the agenda with door upgrades now in place.

Security of tenure still remains a risk we are acutely aware of and we continue to work with the District to try to be as secure as possible.

From a trustee perspective, we still need to bring on board a new treasurer this year – our current treasurer Jess is very happy to have a chat to anyone willing to support this role and full training will be given before any handover, so please get in touch if you can help. You do NOT need to be an accountant or have bookkeeping qualifications, any record keeping experience is fine.

Many, many thanks to our amazing scouting team, my fellow trustees and support team for their continuing efforts and help.

We did a large recruitment push this year and some parents did come forward – so thank you and welcome to the team. However, we do still need more people to join the scout team and more helpers to get involved. We do not want our volunteers to be at risk of overload. If you can spare any time please get involved – even if you've never done it before. We will help you every step of the way.

We also need help with the “operative” tasks, in other words the day-to-day tasks that need doing. If you can help in any way – social media, admin, fundraising and grant applications – the list goes on – we need you. Please email gtb@4thashby.org.uk and get involved.

We are a really friendly team and we need you.

A final note about financial pressures – In January we put our subs up to £13 to ensure costs were covered and we will continue to monitor this to ensure the budgets balance. As always, we do not want monetary restrictions to stop any child from accessing Scouts, so please do have a chat with a leader, or Jon or myself if we can help in any way. Many thanks for your understanding and continued support.

Nikki Davies

Trustee and Group Chair

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

The continued support from our Executive Committee, parents, and volunteers has once again made a huge difference to me and all of the young people. Our leaders and I are especially grateful for everyone's help in improving and maintaining Donisthorpe Scout Centre which is now a thriving base for meetings, training, and events thanks to the hard work of our volunteers.

Parents have been fantastic in assisting before and after meetings, preparing for camps, and helping to pack away at the end of busy trips. Having extra hands available in most sections when needed makes an enormous impact and helps ensure our young people get the most from their time in Scouting.

At the January 2025 census, our membership showed a small further growth amongst Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, although our adult volunteer numbers dropped from 33 to 26. **All sections continue to need additional leaders, especially at Scout age, where demand is highest.** Even so, our section teams have performed brilliantly — delivering strong, consistent weekly programmes packed with adventure, learning, and fun. Every section has camped, hiked, sang around fires, and achieved badges in a huge range of skills from navigation to teamwork.

4th Ashby continues to thrive as one of the largest and most active Scout Groups in Leicestershire — the biggest in our District and currently one of the largest in the entire County. This is an incredible achievement and a reflection of the energy, commitment, and teamwork shown by our leaders and supporters.

Our waiting list has continued to grow, with more than **100** children ready to start if places become available. We're proud that new members have been welcomed each term, but it's clear there's still strong demand for Scouting in Ashby.

A growing number of volunteers have completed or refreshed their modules this year, helping ensure we maintain safe, high-quality programmes. All adults also completed the new mandatory safety training, keeping our standards consistently high.

My sincere thanks go to every adult who gives their time, not only on meeting nights but also in the planning, preparation, and delivery of camps and special activities. Each section's leadership team deserves real credit for their dedication and creativity, and our Young Leaders continue to impress with their enthusiasm, reliability, and growing skills.

Jon Bloor

Group Lead Volunteer

Seeonnee Cub Pack

September 24	We welcomed some new members to the group. We also undertook some personal challenges that everyone enjoyed. Additionally, we completed a pack forum and engaged in activities focused on healthy eating.
October 24	The Cubs worked hard towards their teamwork challenge and artist badge. We also had a fantastic fancy-dress Halloween party that everyone enjoyed!
November 24	We had a wonderful time at the group AGM and fireworks evening. The Cubs completed their DIY badge by building wooden planters for outside the building, which they were

quite proud of. They also joined hundreds of others in Ashby's Remembrance Sunday, showing great respect.

December 24	The Cubs completed their Artist badge, and we celebrated with a lovely Christmas party at the Scout centre. It was a wonderful way to end the year!
January 25	We welcomed some new members to the group and undertook various skills challenges. The Cubs also completed the problem-solving section of the teamwork challenge badge, which was a great achievement!
February 25	The Cubs completed their disability awareness badge. They conducted a survey of the hut to identify areas for improvement. Additionally, they adapted games to suit a disabled person and explored various types of equipment that can assist those with disabilities. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.
March 25	The Cubs continued their journey by completing their gardener's badge! They learned about different gardening equipment, including the associated dangers. They also planted four different types of plants, herbs, and vegetables in the planters they made before Christmas.
April 25	The Cubs had an enjoyable time at an Easter egg hunt at Willesley Campsite. We also held an enjoyable camp at Ullesthorpe campsite with Waingunga Cubs. The Cubs had the opportunity to try backwoods cooking, tomahawk throwing, and even sang some songs around a campfire. It was a memorable experience for everyone!
May 25	The Cubs took part in a community litter pick around Donisthorpe memorial gardens. They also built different types of shelters at Willesley and enjoyed a visit from WaterAid. It was great to see them engaging in supporting the community.
June 25	We held our annual Father's Day backwoods cooking evening, which was a delightful experience for everyone. The Cubs also enjoyed bug hunting at Willesley. Additionally, we had a fantastic camp at John's Lee Wood campsite with Waingunga Cubs, where they tried their hand at archery and rubber band gun shooting and went on a walk around Bradgate park.
July 25	The Cubs had a fantastic time at our final meeting in July. They enjoyed mountain boarding and go-karting at Willesley. It was a thrilling way to wrap up the term!
Summer Holidays	During the summer, the leaders focused on planning for next year's summer camp at Birch Hall near Scarborough. We're looking forward to all the experiences this camp will bring!

I'd like to extend a big thank you to Angie, Sean, Kirsty, and Harmony for their invaluable help during this period. We have also greatly benefited from regular support from Roz, one of the Beaver leaders. Additionally, I'm very grateful to all the parents who have helped with sessions or supported their Cubs. Your contributions are truly appreciated!

We have welcomed many Beavers into Cubs, along with a few new members from other Cub packs. While we've lost a few along the way, we're pleased with our current numbers. As of now, we have 29 Cubs, 4 adults, and 2 young leaders.

We continue to support the Cubs in working towards their Silver Award. I'm delighted to share that Darcey Simpson, James Wright, Ollie Cleobury, and Noah Wall have successfully completed their award. Well done to them!

Next year, we have our biennial summer camp booked at Birch Hall Scout campsite near Scarborough. The plan is for the Cubs to visit several exciting locations including the North Yorkshire Water Park, Dalby Forest,

Scarborough, Alpamare swimming baths, and Sky Trail adventure. It promises to be an action-packed experience. Spaces are filling up fast so if you are interested, please talk to me or book a space through OSM.

We're also exploring the opportunity to attend the County Cub trip next year, which will take place at Whipsnade Zoo on the 7th of March.

Thank you again for all the help I received.

Andrew Leake (Akela)
Lead volunteer

Waingunga Cub Pack

The Waingunga cub pack has had another great year in 2024/2025. The section volunteering team of Chris (Bagheera), Kathryn (Hathi), Dan (Baloo) and Carrie (Chil) have continued through the year. We have additionally welcomed Beth (Raksha), David (Mowgli) and Carrick (Mang) to the section team. We have been supported by our amazing Young Leaders: Jake (Ikki), Oscar (Oo) and Caitlyn (Nag). We sadly said goodbye to Alice from the section team (but not the group) after four years of volunteering.

Having joined the section team in 2023, I have been proud to have seen my first cohort of cubs throughout their full journey in the pack. In 2024/2025 we carried out a varied programme:

Autumn Term 2024

As part of our Autumn 2024 programme, the Waingunga cub pack was lucky to be revisited by the 1st Ibstock Band, The Rotary Aquabox Scheme, and Peter Armitage MBE, who gave a talk about the Postal Service through the Second World War. We had a Halloween night hike and also successfully completed our tea towel holders as part of the DIY badge. We also had members of the pack who took part in the September group camp at Willesley campsite and the fun day trip and hike at Calke Abbey.

Spring 2025

Highlights from Spring 2025 included our Lego challenge night, working on the Navigator badge including a navigation walk around Ashby town centre as well as making tin can pancakes. We also had a fun session on the potholing course at Willesley campsite. In April we joined with the Seeonee pack for an enjoyable camp at Ullesthorpe Scout Campsite.

Summer 2025

In the Summer term we had another fun and busy programme. We worked on the Environmental Conservation badge including a litter pick at Donisthorpe memorial gardens. We also used the pedal go karts at Conkers and continued our annual tradition of a cycling session at Hicks Lodge. We also carried out shelter building, backwoods cooking and had a Katakana session at Conkers at the end of August. We also had members that took part in the group sailing tasters, the fun day trip to RAF Cosford, and another great weekend camp at John Lees Wood Scout Campsite in June with the Seeonee pack.

Thank you to the support from the section volunteering team, parent helpers, group leadership team, trustees and other supporters - we couldn't have done it without all your help.

Chris (Bagheera)

Woodland Beaver Colony

Woodland Beaver Colony has grown this year to 25 Beavers. We have also welcomed Clair (Woodpecker) as a new leader.

Highlights of our activities this year included a visit to Ashby Fire Station, a tennis taster session at Ashby Lawn Tennis Club, and cycling at Hicks Lodge. In February, eight Beavers tried their hands at indoor kayaking, and seven more had fun at sailing at Foremark Reservoir. There was more water fun in March, when Woodland Beavers joined with Riverbank to take over Ashby School pool on a Saturday afternoon, where everyone gained a swimmer activity badge.

This year, Woodland Beavers have made the most of Willesley campsite, taking part in the caving experience and using the go-karts. We've learnt to tie knots and made kites, cooked some delicious backwoods dishes on the altar fires, gathered around the campfire, and used the whole campsite to practice our navigating and tracking skills.

At the Scout Centre we've built Lego racing cars, celebrated British Science Week with an evening of experiments, and tried a range of international Shrove Tuesday foods. We even spent an evening making our own percussion instruments and put on a short, but noisy, concert for those parents brave enough to attend!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rachel (Owl), Clair, David, our amazing young Leaders, and all the parents who have volunteered their help this last year.

Lynne (Fox)

Riverbank Beaver Colony

It almost seems a requirement that these reports start with "What a year!". It's a cliché, yes. But we have had an enormous amount of fun over the last 12 months. So... "What a Year!"

We kicked off the autumn term playing wide games at Willesley Campsite, and had a lot of adventures including Caving and Go Karting.

We also made and launched bottle rockets, and earned our Communications Badge by learning the phonetic alphabet, decoding messages, and sending emails. Later in the term, we were joined by Richard Fraser (in full scottish dress) to tell us all about St Andrews Day, and our braver beavers even tried haggis. We also visited a local care home to sing Christmas carols and chat to the residents.

We managed 2 nights away in Autumn 24, taking part in the group camp at Willesley, and a Halloween themed sleepover at the DSC. Panther now has his Indoor Nights Away Permit, so we look forward to more nights away next year.

The weather and dark evenings kept us inside for most of the spring term, but we kept ourselves busy learning first aid, how to keep safe in the home and making bird feeders. We also went shopping at Tesco to donate groceries to the Ashby Food Bank.

The beavers also learned about the importance of recycling and how we can help the environment.

For Mothers Day, we invited our mums along to make hot chocolate stirrers.

At weekends, we also managed to fit in Indoor Kayaking sessions at New Parks Pool, and earned swimming badges thanks to the support of Splish Splash Swim School.

We kicked off the summer term with a bang, with 16 of our Beavers joining other sections in sailing at Foremark Reservoir.

Spending just one session inside (where we built and raced Lego cars), the rest of the term saw us building fires, pioneering, cycling round Donsithorpe Woods and following a trail around Ashby's Blue Plaques. We also invited dads to join us for some backwoods cooking and finished the year off with a water fight at Willesley Campsite

Sadly the year has seen the departure of part of our leadership team, with one of our Young Leaders, Rose (Cobra) stepping back to concentrate on exams. We also said goodbye to Frank Bridge (Gorilla) at Easter, followed by Richard Onions (Badger) in the summer as their respective youngest children moved up to cubs.

Frank and Richard have been a key part of the team since the colony restarted in Spring 2021, and we thank them both for the support they have provided.

However, we are pleased to report that two more parents, Nicola Mailer (Chipmunk) and Richard Issit (Raven) have agreed to join us as leaders, and we have also been joined by a new Young Leader Bridget (Quokka).

Over the year we awarded over 260 badges, including 24 nights away, and 2 Bronze Awards. Well done to Darragh and Harry.

As has been the case for several years, the section is operating at our planned capacity of 24, and with an average attendance of 18 engagement has been strong. We see continued interest in new joiners, with an ever growing waiting list.

Matt (Panther)
Lead Volunteer

Combined Challenger and Discovery Scouts Report

Our two Scout troops continue to follow the same programme and work closely together for camps and activities. We have had another action-packed year of meetings, adventures, and achievements reflected in growing numbers.

Autumn 2024

We began the term outdoors with firelighting and pioneering at Willesley and Donisthorpe, developing teamwork and practical skills. Scouts completed challenges that encouraged independence and leadership, particularly through our November patrol nights. We rounded off the term with a fun and festive Christmas party.

Spring 2025

The spring term began with problem-solving and creative challenges, giving Scouts the chance to plan and lead activities. We worked on first aid and practical badgework, held a cooking competition, and enjoyed Pancake Day with a few twists! We also explored global Scouting, learning about Scouting in other countries and considering how we can connect internationally.

Summer 2025

Summer saw us taking part in the VE 80 commemoration event at Whitwick, joining other Scouts, veterans and community members in marking the anniversary. We also enjoyed go-karting and kayaking at Conkers, biking around Donisthorpe, and plenty of campfire cooking and outdoor

challenges. Weekly meetings continued to focus on teamwork, fitness, and preparing for our summer camp.

Camps and Activities

Our highlight this year was a week-long camp at Blackwell Adventure near Bromsgrove. Thirty-six Scouts took part in a wide variety of activities including climbing, abseiling, zip wire, orienteering, swimming and team challenges. It was a week full of adventure, friendship, and achievement, and we were proud of the Scouts' enthusiasm and teamwork throughout.

We also joined beavers and Cubs at the group camp in October and entered two teams in the county's Rambling Fox hike, with one finishing third in the teamwork competition.

Scouts also climbed, sailed and visited Cosford and Guillivers Kingdom with others.

Membership and Achievements

Our two troops have continued to thrive, maintaining strong numbers with around 29 Scouts on Tuesday and 34 on Thursday evenings. We continue to support Scouts in working towards their Chief Scout's Gold Award and are delighted to report that eight Scouts achieved this highest award in the past year:

- Caitlin Randall
- Alex Davies
- Samuel Southwart
- Benjamin Robbins
- Joshua Warren
- Martha Pearce
- William Dann
- Kaelan Payne

Several Cubs moved up to Scouts during the year, settling in quickly and making great progress towards their Challenge Awards. We're also pleased to see a number of our older Scouts moving on to Explorers, continuing their Scouting journey.

Thanks

A huge thanks goes to Richard, Blossom, Vicky, Chrisi, James, Lynne, Sean, Esther, Jack and Ollie for their help during the period. Our young leaders Leon and Jake have been valuable members of the team. We remain very grateful to all parents who have supported meetings, events and camps.

Jon Bloor

Group Lead Volunteer and Acting Scout Lead Volunteer

Declaration

This Report is a true and accurate account of the activities of 4th Ashby Scout Group as declared by the Group Trustee Board.

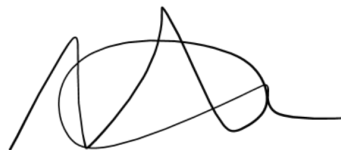
Through these activities, the Trustees are confident that the Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Dated: 30/10/25

Signed on behalf of the Group Trustee Board.



Jon Bloor
Group Lead Volunteer & Trustee



Nikki Davies
Group Chair & Trustee

APPENDIX

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th Nov 2024 to approve at AGM

Held Ashby Rugby Club on 7 th November 2024. 264 members were recorded as present Minutes taken by Jess Southwart	
Attendance: Jon Bloor welcomed everyone and ran through the evening proceedings with reminder that children are the responsibility of parents at all times. Welcomed the guests, Mayor Councillor Liz Parle and Consort, Greg Parle and District Commissioner Duncan Watts Also welcomed our young members and their parents, the leaders and Group Trustee Board who together form the Group Council. Housekeeping Jon went through housekeeping: If there is a fire alarm – assembly point on first team pitch behind us If there is an accident – please let anyone in a blue hi-vis know No Sparklers please but there are buckets around if you need them	JB
Apologies Madeline Warren and Alice Bush	JB
Passed onto our chairperson for governance Nikki Davies introduced herself and explained that we have to do official things for AGMS She explained that the Annual Report had been sent out with the previous AGM and EGM Minutes included and hoped everyone had chance to read this through Minutes of the previous meetings She asked to record these as a true and proper account: Minutes of EGM held on 23rd Nov 2023 – Proposer – Matt Simpson, Seconded – Roz Wright Minutes of AGM held on 18th May 2023 – Proposer – Elaine Bridge, Seconded – Beth Skea	ND
Nikki informed everyone that the group received a Community Group Certificate of Recognition from the Parish Council that we were nominated for member of the public and said thank you to the leaders, helpers and trustees on behalf of the members. Nikki also reminded members that an email was sent out last month asking for help and stated that we need more leaders – for all sections, especially Scouts and invited members to come and have a chat to any of the leaders or trustees if they want to know more. Group Trustee Board Nikki informed everyone that there have been changes to the Scout Group Trustee Board. Trustees can only serve a term of 3 years before needing to be revoted in and can only serve a maximum of 9 years before a break of 3 years is required. “This came into force from April this year, so our current trustees can serve for 3 years from this date, and then if they would still like to continue, then we can revote them in at the AGM before	ND

the end of their 3rd year.” She explained that at this point there is no need to revote anyone in and our current board can continue to serve. She advised that Debbie Crumley is stepping down from the Trustee Board and from the role of Treasurer after being part of the group for 12 years. She expressed thanks to Debbie for all of her hard work and time given to the group over this time. Nikki explained that an email sent out a month ago asked for new trustees to come forward and support us. We have 2 new trustees to vote in today who have kindly come forward. Appointment of Trustees Treasurer – Jessica Southwart – proposed Karen Pillary, seconded Frank Bridge Trustee acting as secretary – Madeline Warren - proposed Beth Skea, seconded Matt Simpson Nikki also explained that 4th Ashby are looking for one more trustee, who would like to take on the assistant chair position and asked if anyone is willing to give it a go, please come and have a chat to anyone of the trustees here today. Finally Nikki expressed that 4th Ashby also need helpers for the Group Leadership Team to help with everything from fundraising, grant applications, admin and second-hand uniform store. These can be one off tasks or more regular support but we really do need more help. She asked if people could please come and chat to the trustees if they could support. Lastly, she advised that the examiner or scrutineer appointment for the accounts will still be Sarah Jane Statham, who reviews the accounts. This is a non-nominated role. Confirmation of adoption of POR and Model Constitution Proposed Jon Bloor, seconded Nikki Davies	
Thanks Jon expressed thanks to the following people: Ashby Rugby Club for allowing us to have our event here –they are letting us have it for free so please spend lots at the bar and food stalls Mayor, Consort, District Commissioner and guests for being in attendance Leaders and young leaders for their time and dedication Trustee board for their time and support Mark Timson, Paul Campion and Tom the friendly electrician for their help in continuing to work to make DSC to become a great place to meet Parents and beavers, cubs and scouts for coming – without them we would not have a 4th Ashby Scout Group Thanks to grant funders: Leicestershire Scouts for forward 5 Ashby Rotary for donations for the toilets, acoustic dampeners and help with the doors and porch Ashby Lions for their donation to help refurbish the toilets Donisthorpe Reunion Band LCC Choose How You Move NWLDC Grants – Coronation, Eco and Small Grants and Shared Prosperity Fund National Forest- outdoor classroom	
Plans for the forthcoming year Over 100 children on our waiting list.	JB

About 20 older Scouts moving to Explorers over next year, aiming for their gold award Many camps and activities planned supported by Matt being awarded his Nights Away Permit at Midnight!	
District Commissioner's Remarks It was expressed how we need helpers please to make scouts run and that it is now much easier to join in with flexible volunteering. Duncan also expressed how great it is to see such a large turnout.	DC
Awards PHOTOS AT END IF REQUIRED Adult Awards, presented by the District Commissioner Duncan Watts 5 Years Service: Rachel Horswell Vicky Pedder Lynne Pearce Wood Badge Rachel Horswell Sean Ahern 10 Years Service Romana Petraru Beth Skea Kathryn Bloor 20 Years Service Mark Timson Mark Porter Scouting Awards, awarded by Jon Bloor and presented by the Ashby Mayor Chief Scout's Bronze Awards Archie Brotherhood William Eccleston Silver Awards Sebastian Allen Isaac Bridge Tom Brook Alfie Burrows Hugo Davies Charlie Flanagan Henry Laverick Samuel Onions Samuel Roberts Maxwell Robins Junior Thornton Gold Awards Leon Bealing	JB / DC/ Mayor

Harry Flannagan Lacey-May Lowrie Annual Awards Riverbank Beaver of the Year 2024: William Eccleston. Woodland Beaver of the Year 2024: Eddie Martin Seeonnee Cub of the year 2024: Junior Thornton Waingunga Cub of the year 2024: Samuel Roberts. Discovery Scout of the year 2024: Kaelen Payne. Challenger Scout of the year 2024: Caitlin Randall. The Harry Watson Award, awarded by Jon Bloor and presented by Harry's Mum, Sharan and Sister Holly: Richard Singleton Jon explained this award is presented in memory of Harry, a 4th Ashby Scout who we lost while waiting for the presentation of his Gold Award. In his memory, the Scouts made this trophy, which is presented to the group member who has, in the opinion of the leaders, been pleasant in their Scouting and gone further than could be expected to help others, raise funds or champion a cause they are passionate about. "The recipient of the trophy this year takes part in everything. Usually, the first to arrive and the last to leave. He even helps with my mad-cap ideas. Over the last few months, he's really shone, flourishing, running meetings and pushing himself by taking part our stall at Apple Day which would probably be his least favourite thing. He took part with good grace and helped promote Scouts in the village. Well done and thank you Richard Singleton	
Closure JB then closed the AGM and thanked everyone for their attendance, expressed thanks to all of the leaders and helpers who made the AGM possible. Reminder of Remembrance Sunday – 8.45am at Ivanhoe School – please come in layers as we won't be wearing coats ideally. Everyone was invited to enjoy the fireworks and once fireworks are complete, leave swiftly and safely	

4TH ASHBY SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1125053

Accounts

4th Ashby Scout Group

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



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Reference and Administration Details

Charity name:	4th Ashby Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1125053
Scouts Association Registration Number	32054
Charity's principal address:	Donisthorpe Scout Centre 3 Church Street Donisthorpe Swadlincote Derbyshire DE12 7PX

Trustee Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
Philip Jonathan Bloor	Group Lead Volunteer and Trustee	
Andrew Leake	Seeonnee Cub Scout Lead Volunteer and Trustee	
Alice Bush (nee Legate)	Assistant Group Lead Volunteer and Trustee	
Nikki Davies	Chair	From EGM on 23rd November 2024
Deborah Crumley	Outgoing Treasurer	
Jess Southwart	Incoming Treasurer	Aug 2024
Mark Timson	Trustee	
Mark Randall	Trustee	From EGM on 23rd November 2024
Paul Wright	Trustee	From EGM on 23rd November 2024
Madeline Warren	Incoming Trustee	To be voted in

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-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 common to all Scouts.

Trustee Selection Methods:

The Trustees are appointed following the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance information:

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

Our year end has recently changed from January to August 31st.

Group Trustee Board

In April 2023, the Scout Association renamed Executive Committees and Executive Committee Members, as Trustee Boards and Trustees respectively. Doing this brings us in line with good practice guidance set by charity regulators. It also clarifies purpose. Before the name change, Executive Committee members performed the roles of charity trustees and were responsible for charity governance. Trustee Boards are set up to focus solely on the governance of the charity not charity operations, and the name change makes this focus clearer.

It'll also help us to recruit new volunteers to Trustee Boards. With an easier to understand purpose, volunteers have a better idea of whether they can get involved in a way that works for their skills, interests and availability.

The Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity trustees, to make sure Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. Effective Trustee Board governance helps our volunteers deliver fantastic programmes that give young people skills for life.

Who's in the team

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Trustees
- The Group Lead Volunteer is automatically a Trustee because of their roles in Scouts.

We currently have 8 trustees, with one leaving and 2 incoming. 24/25 will see us have 9 trustees in total. Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 members. Appointed Trustees are appointed by the Scout Council (all youth members parents and guardians plus all leaders and volunteers as well as trustees) for up to three years and can be re-appointed by the Scout Council at the AGM. Trustees may only be on the same Trustee Board for a maximum of nine years, before taking a break of at least three years. This applies to any role, but not ex officio Trustees (Lead Volunteers or Youth Leads). Because of the above changes, all trustee terms are reset as of April 2024. No current board members need re-voting in as yet.

All Trustees must complete:

- The learning everyone needs
- Being a Scouts Trustee

Trustees work together to make sure that we:

Manage money well

- Have enough money for now and in the future. This means having a reserves policy and making sure fundraising takes place, if it's needed.
- Have a budget in place. Trustees then agree how to manage the budget with other volunteer teams.

Follow Scouts policies and relevant legislation

- Follow [POR](#), [key policies](#) (including [safety](#), [safeguarding](#), [data protection](#), and equality, diversity and inclusion), and charity regulations.
- Follow employment law if staff are employed, and act as a responsible employer in line with relevant legislation and Scout values. Make sure effective line management is in place for each staff member, which can be delegated to others.

- [Create Trustees Annual Report and Statement of Accounts](#)
- Have Statement of Accounts audited by an appropriate person before the Annual General Meeting. If they're a registered charity, they'll need to share it with the charity regulator.
- Hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Look after buildings, insurance and property

- Look after records of ownership of property and equipment.
- Have the right insurance for people, buildings, and equipment.
- Make sure buildings and equipment are working well.

Manage risks

- Maintain a risk register and put the right risk mitigations in place.

Help the charity to operate well, today and in the future

- Work with Lead Volunteers to meet their charity aims.
- Champion [Our Volunteering Culture](#), and make sure volunteers are aware of it, reflect on it, commit to it, and apply it in their teams.

In carrying out the above, Trustees also:

- Make sure effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board.
- Make sure records of Trustee Board meetings are kept and complete any actions that are agreed.
- Run [open selection processes for appointing Trustees](#).
- Co-opt Trustees onto the Board if they need people with particular skills or knowledge.
- Get expert advice, if needed. This could be on health and safety, managing money, buildings, equipment, or employment.
- Network with other Scouts Trustees to share knowledge and experience.

What are AGMs?

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an opportunity for members, that's every young person's parents or guardians and all our adult leaders and helpers, to meet with the Trustees and hear their report on the charity, review of the accounts, and other administrative business.

It's a compulsory yearly meeting that happens within 6 months of the end of the charity's financial year, and where the Scout Council appoints their Trustees.

Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to contribute positively to society.

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 cooperate with others and make friends.

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.

4th Ashby Scouts

Vision

We want to deliver first class scouting to as many children in our local catchment area as possible, to give all involved inspiring opportunities to do and be our best and develop life skills to make our world better.

Mission

We want to continue to grow our successful scouting offer to our full capabilities without compromise on the quality of experience, by enabling flexible volunteering and keeping scouting fun.

Public benefit statement:

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.

Risk Assessment:

The Group Trustee Board has established the following risks that we are actively working to mitigate:

- **Safety and Safeguarding:** We are constantly updating and reviewing our processes to ensure our members are as safe as possible
- **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members** - Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. We also have additional insurance for occasional volunteers. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- **Volunteer team:** Risk of leader overwhelm and losing volunteers, which is a potential risk to Scout group. If Scout team members leave, sections are at risk of closing due to numbers, or worst case, group is at risk of closure. We are actively reaching out to parents and the local community to recruit more volunteers for both GTB and Scout Team. We will be looking at other ways to recruit. We are also working hard to ensure our leaders are effectively supported.
- **Facilities risk** - no long-term security on scout hut – we are actively working with the District to improve this situation
- **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. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- **Reduced income from fundraising** - 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 significant reduction in income. The Board 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 members** - The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership 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. We currently have a waiting list for all sections so are reasonably confident that this is a slight risk.

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 6 months of running costs, circa £16,000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £21k against this at year-end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. Leaders have highlighted that a significant investment in our Scouting equipment will be needed during the camping season due to many items reaching the end of their useful life.

Investment Policy:

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4th Ashby Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 4th Ashby Scout Group for the 18-month ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 4th Ashby Scout Group, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 4th Ashby Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 4th Ashby Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Sarah-Jane Statham

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACMA, CTA, TEP

Address: C/O Donisthorpe Scout Centre, 3 Church Street, Donisthorpe, Swadlincote DE12 7PX

Date: 27/10/2024

Receipts & Payments Account: For 18-month Period Ended 31st August 2024

Receipts	01/03/23 - 31/08/24 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/22 - 28/02/23 Unrestricted Funds £
Membership Subscriptions	29,564.00	18,337.00
Less membership fees paid on (To district, county, and national)	-16,020.70	-
Net Membership Subscriptions Retained	13,543.30	18,337.00
Bank Interest	736.28	144.55
Donations	16,800.00	-
Events (Activities/Camp)	27,139.26	13,657.00
Events (Group e.g. AGM, etc)	113.41	-
Fundraising (Easy Fundraising/Amazon and any others)	283.57	238.11
Gift Aid	3,627.32	2,541.14
Grant Income	18,982.75	450.00
Member/Other Payment Refund	0.00	13.28
Other Income (e.g. Badge sales)	84.00	29.83
Total Receipts	81,309.89	35,410.91

Payments	01/03/23 - 31/08/24 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/22 - 28/02/23 Unrestricted Funds £
Admin (Sundries/Website/Training)	993.94	1,270.09
Badges & Uniform	3,168.12	2,470.49
Bank Fees (Go Cardless, OSM, CAF)	1,406.84	1522.92
Equipment	1,894.65	1,215.27
Events (Activities/Camp)	27,758.91	13794.74
Events (Group e.g. AGM, etc)	754.77	71.44
Grant Expenditure	17,374.21	0.00
Insurance/Minibus Permits	552.34	254.59
Meeting Costs	2,301.19	996.67
Member/Other Payment Error	0.00	35.74
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00
Project Expenditure	37,687.39	0.00
Sub Total	93,892.36	21,631.95
Building Expenses		
Phone/Broadband	271.99	97.50
Cleaning	2,834.41	1,234.97
Building Maintenance - Minor Works	3,045.32	5,836.01
Rent (inc Elec/Gas)	6,300.00	1,400.00
Sub Total	12,451.72	8,568.48
Total Receipts	106,344.08	30,200.43

Net receipts/payments	-25,034.19	5,210.48
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds	23/24	22/23
Bank Current Account	6,339.01	4,858.04
Bank Deposit Account	13,954.12	40,243.00
Pre-Paid Card Balance	892.79	1,125.07
Cash/Floats	6.00	0
Sub Total	21,191.92	46,226.11

Liabilities not paid as at end 22/23		30,183.60
Sub Total		30,183.60
Net Cash Funds	21,191.92	16,042.51

Non-Monetary assets for own use	23/24	22/23
Badge Stock	1,187	150
Scouting Equipment/Furniture	10,000	10,000
Total	11,187	10,150

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the trustees on 01/11/24



D Crumley
Group Treasurer



N Davies
Group Chair

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23rd Nov 2023

4th Ashby Scout Group Scout Council

Extraordinary General Meeting

23rd Nov 2023 19:30 / DSC

Introduction & welcome		
The GSL welcomed all attendees to the meeting of the Extraordinary General Meeting	N/A	N/A
Apologies for absence		
Apologies have been received from Mark Timson (trustee) Alice Legate (trustee) District County Council		
Governance Topics		
It was noted that: The meeting attendees constitute the Group Scout Council (GSC) for 4th Ashby. That we are re-adopting the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules in line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters. A copy of this is always available on request.	N/A	N/A
Group's Financial Year change		
It was noted to the Members of the Group Scout Council that our charity's financial year is to become 1st September to 31st August to bring it in alignment with our planning year. To facilitate this, the present year will run from 1st March 2023 - 31st August 2024. The next AGM will be held, around, Nov 2024	N/A	N/A
Voting Rules	Proposed	Seconded
The Group Scout Council agreed that The minimum number of people that can be elected to the Trustee Board is 4	Mark Randall	Sharon Harris - Christenson
The minimum number of Group Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting of the Group Scout Council, to form a quorum, is set at 30 persons.	Nikki Davies	Roz Wright
The minimum number of trustees that must be present for a Trustee Board meeting, to form a quorum, is set as one third of Trustee board members plus one	Henry Dann	Ramona Petraru

Making appointments		
It is noted that Beth Skea has formally resigned from the post as Chair. We wish to thank her for all her input and time. The following new Trustees were appointed Nikki Davies as Trustee and in the role as Group Chair Mark Randall Paul Wright	Unanimous vote from GSC	
The following were reappointed in their positions as Trustees Andrew Leake Alice Legate Mark Timson Debbie Crumley as Trustee and in the role as Group Treasurer	Unanimous vote from GSC	
Sarah Jane Statham was approved in her role as the Independent Examiner and Auditor	Unanimous vote from GSC	N/A
Closing Remarks		
Request for help in The Board of Trustees was asked		

Please note that the following trustees confirm that there were more than 30 Members attending the EGM.

Minutes for 4th Ashby Scout Groups AGM – 18th May 2023

Held at Willesley Scout Campsite, Willesley Woodside, Ashby de la Zouch. Leicestershire LE65 2UP

Minutes taken by Mark Timson (group secretary)

Jon Bloor (GSL) started the evening by welcoming running through the proceedings of the evening and then by continuing with the following.

- Jon Bloor (JB) welcomed the following for being in attendance and started with the formal part of the AGM.
 - Parents, beavers, cubs and scouts
 - Leaders and committee (now the Group Trustee Board)
- JB – Explained that we are our own registered charity and it is a legal requirement to hold a AGM “we form the scout council which is the body which have charity governance responsibility for Scouting in the Group, District or County. The Trustee Board is accountable to the Scout Council. 8 categories of membership, including all adults in the group, patrol leaders and parents of beavers, cubs and scouts”.
- Apologies – District Reps – Duncan Watts, Louise Bailey, Martin Farrer.
- Beth Skea – 4th Ashby Chair
- Minute from the previous meeting where asked if they were a true and proper account of last year’s AGM
 - Proposer – Matt Simpson confirmed they were.
 - Seconder – Ross Wright
- JB then ran through the re nomination of committee members and the Appointment to roles
 - Chair - nominated by GSL - approval sought for Beth for 6 months
 - Proposer - Jon Bloor
 - Seconder – Mark Timson
 - Secretary - M Timson - approval sought for Mark until a replacement is found
 - Proposer – Debbie Crumley
 - Seconder – Matt Simpson
 - Treasurer - D Crumley
 - Proposer – Alice Legate
 - Seconder – Andrew Leake
- JB then asked if anyone else would like to become a member if so they could approach him or a member after the AGM.
- Leaders – Andrew Leake is currently the only leader and Alice Legate has agreed to also now join the committee
- Appointment of examiner or scrutineer – is still to be Sarah Jayne Statham who audits the accounts on our behalf. This is a non-nominated role
- JB then continued by giving his thanks to:
 - Thanks to Ashby & Coalville Scouts for the use of the campsite
 - Thanks to Kathryn, Jons wife for allowing him to put all the hours he does into scouting
 - Thanks to leaders for their time and dedication
 - Thanks to committee for their time and support
 - Thanks to Mark Timson, Paul Campion and people at working party for their help in shaping DSC to become a great place to meet

- Thanks to Mark Porter for his help with leader training
- Thanks to parents and beavers, cubs scouts for coming – without them we would not have a 4th Ashby Scout Group
- JB then gave a quick outline of the next 12 months - more awards, lots of moving up, hoping for more camping and to offer more places
- JB then mentioned the following for achieving the following Awards during the past 12 months:

Adult Awards

- Training completed:
 - Ramona Patraru
 - Alice Legate
 - Vicky Peddar
- 20 Years' service: Paul Campion
- JB then awarded the below awards
 - Bronze Awards

▪ James Wright ▪ Darcey Simpson	▪ Noah Wall ▪ Daniel Foote
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 - Silver Awards

▪ Tommy Ahern ▪ Layla Ali ▪ James Beavin ▪ Tristan Bloor	▪ Nicholas Drew ▪ George Harling ▪ Benjamin Nash ▪ Thomas Ward
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 - Beaver Scout of the Year
 - Woodland Colony: Archie Botherhood
 - Riverbank Colony: James Wright
 - Cub Scout of the Year
 - Seeonnee Pack: Isaac Bridge
 - Waingunga Pack: Alfie Burrows
 - Scout of the Year
 - Challenger Troop: Leon Bealing
 - Discovery Troop: Felicity Goodwin

The Harry Watson Award

Harry was a Scout with a huge sense of fun, and a strong sense of responsibility and was an advocate for many in spite of facing many personal difficulties and constant pain. We lost him whilst waiting for the presentation of his Gold Award.

In his memory, the Scouts made a trophy and it is presented to the member of the group who has, in the opinion of the leaders, been pleasant in their Scouting and gone further than could be expected to help others, to raise funds or to champion a cause they are passionate about.

In 2023 Harry's Dad/Sister is here to present the trophy.

2023: Paul Campion (unfortunately was unable to be in attendance)

JB then close the AGM and thanked everyone for their attendance

Attendance

Review of 2023 - 2024

Chair's Report

In Scouts our main priority is enabling young people to develop life skills and confidence whilst having fun and adventures – as safely as possible. This year there have been updates for safety and safeguarding from the national Scout Association and we continue to follow their guidance and requirements and ensure we are fully compliant on all training.

We have also embarked on an internal audit of processes and reporting and are now working together to set group standards that will ensure, as we continue to develop our scouting offer, we are delivering the safest and most accessible scouting possible.

We continue to improve the facilities in line with our fire and safety audits– safety and security are top of the agenda with door upgrades and fire alarms coming soon.

Security of tenure remains a risk we are acutely aware of and we continue to work with the District to try to be as secure as possible.

This is my first full year as Chair and Trustee and as you've hopefully read above – there have been changes to the governance structure over the past year. We are confident that we are compliant with the new requirements.

Many, many thanks to our amazing scouting team, my fellow trustees and group leadership team for their continuing efforts and support.

You have all hopefully seen our emails and messages concerning volunteering. The reality is that we need more people to join the team – we desperately need more leaders and helpers to get involved, especially for the Scout age range, but all sections need more help. We do not want our volunteers to be overloaded. The more people we have, the more the load can be shared.

We also need help with the “operative” tasks, in other words the day-to-day tasks that need doing.

If you can help in any way – social media, admin, minute taking, building fixing, fundraising and grant applications – the list goes on. We are a really friendly team and need you. If you can spare any time please get involved – even if you've never done it before. We will help you every step of the way.

Please email gtb@4thashby.org.uk and get involved.

A final note about financial pressures – we are keeping an eye on the ongoing increases in running and membership costs. We may need to put our monthly sub fees up to £13. We are discussing this at present and will advise if this is the case via email. As always, we do not want monetary restrictions to stop any child from accessing Scouts, so please do have a chat with their leader, or Jon or myself if we can help in any way. Many thanks for your understanding and continued support.

Nikki Davies

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

It is my pleasure to provide an overview of the group's activities.

I greatly appreciate the support from the leaders, board of trustees, parents and other volunteers.

In January, our census numbers showed an increase of 5% again, and adult numbers were up slightly, too—that doesn't mean that we couldn't use more help, particularly in the scout troop.

Last year, I reported that we had 40 children on the waiting list; this has now topped 100! We are keen to open more sections with support from the District and County.

Sadly, we lost Mark Porter, who moved away to be with his family, but we have gained several other volunteers. In addition to Cubs, Mark took on an additional role to help with adult training. We've had a big push on helping adults complete their required training and maintain their ongoing learning, but we would welcome assistance in managing this at a group level.

Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts have had superb night-away opportunities and busy weekly meetings throughout the term. Over 1,400 badges have been presented, including 15 top awards.

Our Young Leaders have been again invaluable, and we have enjoyed helping them to grow and complete their young Leader Training and missions as part of their personal development,

Looking forward, we hope to increase the number of open sections that support adults and be a more significant part of our community.

Thank you again to all the adults, whether leaders, parents, committee members, van loaders, tent unpackers, register takers, or helping the group.

Jon Bloor

Woodland Beaver Colony

Woodland Beaver Colony has had another busy year. Our Beavers have been working hard towards new badges, with nearly 200 being awarded.

Highlights of our activities this year included a visit from Harry the Therapy Dog, who helped us learn about disability awareness and animal care and was more than happy to be cuddled by everyone. We planted a range of vegetables which flourished in the car park of the Scout Centre for our gardener badge and cooked up some tasty treats for the cooking badge. Two of our Young Leaders spent an evening talking about their trip to WSJ in Korea with our Beavers, showing their kit and teaching some traditional Korean pastimes. At Christmas, Woodland Beavers built their own Christmas tree, added some beautiful handmade decorations, and proudly exhibited it at Treefest in Moira.

In May, some of our Beavers joined in an activity weekend and sleepover at Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre in Cannock, where they tried archery, grass sledging, climbing and coracling.

For their adventure challenge, Woodland Beavers have enjoyed both kata-kayaking and go-karting at Conkers, cycling at Hicks Lodge and climbing at Alter Rock. At the campsite, they have tried building fires, tracking, backwoods cooking, and held a campfire. We finished the term with an evening of water fun and games, culminating in a huge water fight.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rachel (Owl), our four young Leaders, and all the parents who have volunteered their help this last year.

Lynne (Fox)

Riverbank Beaver Colony

What an exciting year - no, 16 months - it has been for Riverbank Beavers. We thought the previous year would be difficult to top, but somehow we managed it.

Our core team has again grown, with Rose and Riley joining us as Young Leaders from 4th Ashby, and 1st Appleby Magna with Measham respectively. We have also had support, especially at Willesley from 1st Appleby's Scout Leader Claire.

As with the rest of the group, Riverbank Colony continues to be oversubscribed and so our numbers have remained static at 24-26 over the course of the year.

So what have we been up to?

We have spent well over half our meetings out and about. Willesley Campsite features heavily, but we have also spent evenings: exploring Ashby; Kata canoeing at both Conkers and at Moira Furnace; visiting Pets at Home and exploring local woodlands both on foot and by bike.

Our programme at Willesley saw us Ziplining, Caving, Den Building and Backwoods Cooking, including inviting dads along for a Fathers' Day Sausage Sizzle. Despite raining heavily, this was a fun evening and we managed to cook some fantastic sausage rolls and some delicious baked apples.

Further afield, we have also been abseiling and climbing at Alter Rock - this is fast becoming a favourite activity for the colony, and in the Autumn half term we spent a late night at Rosliston Observatory, learning about the stars and telescopes.

We had plenty of new experiences however, including flying Hawks at Cattows Farm with Hawkwise, and a rugby skills session at Ashby Rugby Club.

We even spent a day sailing at Foremark Reservoir. This was particularly exciting, and we will definitely do this again next year.

Back at the DSC, we hosted a visit from Aquabox who explained the importance of clean water in Crisis areas; held a tea and cake night for Mothers' Day; and baked biscuits for Halloween. All this, as well as our usual programme of craft activities, show and tell nights and experiments.

A big highlight however was the cardboard box caving night organised by Gorilla. A brilliant way to burn off energy after the Christmas break.

2024 also saw the return of the County Beaverree. This year's reality-TV themed event was a big hit, with a magician, adventurous activities, and a disco amongst others.

In May we joined with Cubs and Beavers from across the group, in an Activity Weekend at Beaudesert Activity Centre in Cannock Chase. This was a very fun weekend with Grass Sledging, Archery and Kayaking, and was enjoyed by all.

We are fortunate to have a large leader team, but we couldn't have done all this without the support of the parents. Thanks to all those who have stepped in, sometimes at short notice, to help at both the DSC and at Willesley.

However, we must give special thanks to:

- Andy and Charlotte for running our Rugby session;
- Naomi and Mark for helping at the Beaverree;
- Kenny for supporting our Remembrance activities, and many evenings at Willesley

We awarded around 240 Activity and Challenge badges, including 2 Bronze Awards. Congratulations to Noah and William.

Matt

Seeonnee Cub Scouts Report

April 23	Cubs learnt about the St George's flag in preparation for St George's day and the Kings coronation.
May 23	We celebrated the King's coronation with a party at Willesley campsite and completed a picture treasure hunt around the campsite.
June 23	We held a very enjoyable camp at Oaks campsite with Waingunga Cubs where the Cubs had a go at Zorb football and tomahawk throwing. We also held an annual Fathers' Day backwoods cooking evening and did go-karting at Conkers.
July 23	Cubs enjoyed a water fight for our last meeting before the summer holidays.
September 23	We welcomed new members and undertook some skills challenges. We also completed the blue plaque trail around Ashby as part of the local knowledge badge
October 23	Cubs worked towards their teamwork challenge and air activities badge and had a fancy-dress Halloween party.
November 23	We enjoyed a campfire and wide games at Willesley campsite as well as completing the Personnel safety badge. Cubs were proud to join hundreds of others in Ashby's Remembrance Sunday.
December 23	Highlights included a Christmas party at Rebound inflatable park.
January 24	We completed the Cubs road safety badge which included a walk around Donisthorpe highlighting possible dangers and identifying various road signs.
February 24	All the Cubs enjoyed cooking a stir fry for Chinese New Year and pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, but the biggest highlight was a visit to Ashby fire station where we were given a demonstration of the danger of pouring water onto hot oil.
March 24	We had an easter egg hunt at Willesley campsite and made an emergency escape plan for our hut.
April 24	The focus this month was the naturalist badge by doing bug hunting, identifying trees and pond dipping.
May 24	We held a joint activity weekend with Waingunga Cubs and both Beaver colonies at Beaudesert activity centre near Cannock where we got to have a go at grass sledging, Archery, Coracling and Jacobs ladder. Cubs also had a great night at Cocks doing either go-karting or Kata Canoeing.
June 24	During June the Cubs learnt how to pitch and pack away tents and build mini catapult's as well as a backwoods cooking evening with a parent and a hike. Also, we had a great night canoeing at Moira furnace.
July 24	Cubs enjoyed a water fight for our last meeting before the summer holidays.
Summer Holidays	We held a week-long camp at Cornel Scout Centre in North Wales. 22 Cubs had a great time and enjoyed visits to Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, the national slate museum and Zip world which included bounce below, deep mine tour and Fforest coaster.

A big thank you to Angie, Sean, Ramona, Mark, Kirsty and David for their help during the period. We have also benefited from regular help from Roz and Matt, who are Beaver leaders. I am also very grateful to parents who have helped with sessions or supported their cub.

We have welcomed many Beavers into Cubs and a few new members from other Cub packs. We have lost a few along the way, but we are pleased with the numbers we currently have. At the end of August, we had 25 cubs and 5 adults.

We continue to support Cubs in working towards their Silver Award. We are delighted to report that Samuel Onions, Maxwell Robins and Junior Thornton have completed their award.

We hope to share the planned camps and activities for 2025 soon and we continue working towards the silver award for our older scouts.

Thank you again for all the help I received.

Andrew Leake

Cub Scout Leader

Waingunga Cub Pack

Waingunga has been a busy pack since the last AGM! We currently have 23 Cubs, 2 Young Leaders, and 5 Leaders. Over the previous year, we have had many achievements, with 7 Cubs having been awarded the top award in Cubs, earning their Chief Scout Silver Award.

We have earned many activity badges, including Astronomer, Cyclist, Disability Awareness, Chef, Entertainer, Fire Safety, Gardener, International, Local Knowledge, Money Skills, Home Help, Pioneer, Air Activities, Emergency Aid, Hikes, Musician, Navigator, Snowsports, and Paddlesports. Over the last year, 522 Challenge, Activity, and Staged badges have been achieved within Waingunga Cubs!

Waingunga was lucky to be visited by the 1st Ibstock Band, The Rotary Aquabox Scheme, and Peter Armitage MBE, who gave a talk about the Postal Service through the Second World War. For our end-of-term Christmas party, we visited Swadlincote Ski Centre and had a fantastic time; for some Cubs, it was their first experience of learning how to ski! Waingunga has also participated in canoeing, dinghy sailing, cycling, and visiting the Apple Store in Sheffield to learn how to make music digitally!

In addition to our meets, both Waingunga and Seeonnee Cub packs have had lots of camping adventures. In June 2023, Cubs from both packs camped at The Oaks near Loughborough. In March 2024, Cubs jointly camped at John's Lee Wood, near Markfield.

Cubs also shared a camp with Beavers, staying at Beaudesert Campsite in May 2024. More recently, in August 2024, Cubs from both packs attended our bi-annual summer camp at Cornel campsite near Snowdonia. Activities included visiting Zip World Bounce Below and Fforest Coaster, The National Slate Museum, and a beach day at Llandudno. Waingunga has achieved 148 collective nights away since the last AGM!

During the Summer of 2023, we said goodbye to James and Jenny as they moved across to Scouts to assist the group as Assistant Scout Leaders. In the Summer of 2024, we also said goodbye to Camilla, who stepped down, having achieved her 10-year service awards. We have also had a new face join the team: Dan has stepped up as a Section Assistant and is working towards his Wood Badge. I want to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn, Carrie, Chris, Dan, Camilla, James and Vicky for all their help in the last 18 months. Your support and time during meets and outside have made Waingunga Pack a pleasure to participate in – thank you!

Alice Bush (Akela)

Combined Challenger and Discovery Scouts Report

Our two scout troops follow the same programme and work together for camps and activities.

March 23	We trained in map and Compass and then went on a hike. We went to Willesley and played wide games. Richard Nevin trained scouts in first aid. Scouts participated in a Digital Skills workshop at the Apple Store in Meadow Hall, which our cub leader, Mark Porter, arranged.
April 23	Scouts started moving outdoors. We fielded three teams in the first county incident hike, Rambling Fox. Our teamwork scores were good. We also participated in St George's Day with the Ashby & Coalville district.
May 23	We took advantage of the district water team's services to have a kayaking session at Moira Furnace. It was good for 35 scouts to join many others across the district for a scout camp.
June 23	In addition to weekly meetings, we held a survival skills camp and made tarp tents to sleep in (except for George, who rolled out).
July 23	Scouts did two cycling sessions, starting at Donisthorpe Woodland Park and the. At Hicks Lodge, we were mindful of the new scout's rules which restrict what we can do.
Summer Holidays	We had sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, which Taff kindly organised at Conkers. These included karts, Kara canoes, archery and raft building. Many of us headed to Beaudesert campsite, where we took advantage of their ready-erected tent village and catered service—a great idea that needed some polishing! Scouts could sleep in hammocks for one or more nights, a popular option!
September 23	We welcomed new members and undertook some skills challenges. We also trialled a new activity at Conkers, paddling tubes across the basin!
October 23	Scouts worked towards their teamwork challenge badges.
November 23	We welcomed Ray and Sylvia Spare of the Rotary, who explained their vital Aquabox project to us. As ever, cooling proved popular. We also tried a film night. Scouts were proud to join hundreds of others in Ashby's Remembrance Sunday.
December 23	Highlights included a winter hike and a noisy trip to Laser Quest in Derby.
January 24	We completed team challenges, made bee hotels and enjoyed a night playing wide games at Willesley.
February 24	All scouts enjoyed the Warhammer activity packs supplied as part of their partnership with Scouts, and several scouts have taken up the hobby as a result. With Shrove Tuesday falling early, we also enjoyed pancakes and pancakes challenges.
March 24	We welcomed the County Shooting team for some air rifle sessions and completed our local knowledge badge in Ashby.

April 24	The focus here was training for the upcoming expedition challenge. It was also the Rambling Fox event again, and both our teams enjoyed it. Again, scouts took part in St George's Day.
May 24	With the support of parents and past leaders, we were able to support six teams, including one from our friends at Ashby Hastings Scouts. A last-minute cancellation of the campsite we booked provided a little excitement, but it led to us discovering the excellent 'Fire and Stars' site, worth a visit by families and scouts alike. Some super walking in the heat and expedition rations sustained us well (with thanks to Basecamp Foods at Melbourne, who helped us out tremendously). Troop night included wide games and learning some fire lighting skills.
June 24	With other scout groups, we joined the organisers, Whitwick Scout Group, to support the Royal British Legion in commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. A moving procession of flags representing all the countries that took part, lit by candlelight, headed to the nationwide beacon lighting. We also did kata canoes at Conkers and made campfire pizzas.
July 24	Scouts enjoyed cycling, activities at Conkers and team games.
Summer Holidays	Over the summer, we made the most of the weather to enjoy many activities organised by Taff at Conkers, including karting and raft building. We held a week-long camp at Rangemore outside Burton. 33 Scouts enjoyed patrol cooking, visits to the NMA and Sudbury Hall and swimming at Moorways. Scouts also made paracord items and tried pyrography and embroidery. Highlights included Clout archery and whittling.

A huge thanks to Richard, Blossom, Vicky, Chrisi, James, Lynne, Sean, Karen, Esther, Carmen, Jack, Dan and Ollie for their help during the period. We have also benefited from regular help from Kathryn and Alice, who are Cub leaders, and Paul and Mark, who thought they had hung up their neckers! I am also very grateful to parents who have helped with sessions or supported their scout.

We have welcomed many Cubs into Scouts and quite a few new members. We have lost a few along the way, but we are pleased with the number who have moved up to Explorers. At the end of August, we had 27 on Tuesday and 34 on Thursday.

We continue to support scouts in working towards their Gold Award. We are delighted to report that Lacey-May Lowrie, Harry Flanagan and Leon Bealing have completed their award.

We hope to share the planned camps and activities for 2025 as we continue working towards Gold for our older scouts. Places in Explorers have been secured.

Thank you again for all of the help I received.

Jon Bloor

Group Lead Volunteer and Acting Scout Lead Volunteer

4TH ASHBY SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1125053

Accounts

Annual Report

2022-2023



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Reference and Administration Details

Charity name:	4th Ashby Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1125053
Scouts Association Registration Number	32054
Charity's principal address:	Donisthorpe Scout Centre 3 Church Street Donisthorpe Swadlincote Derbyshire DE12 7PX

Trustee Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
Beth Skea	Chair	
Deborah Crumley	Treasurer	
Mark Timson	Secretary	
Philip Jonathan Bloor	Group Scout Leader	
Andrew Leake	Cub Scout Leader	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-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 common to all Scouts.

Trustee Selection Methods:

The Trustees are appointed following the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance information:

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

The Committee can consist of 3 independent representatives, the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders (if they opt-in to take on the responsibility) and parent's representation and meets every three months.

Members of the Executive Committee complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee and other training such as safety, safeguarding and GDPR as mandated by The Scout Association.

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 significant risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed, and systems have been established to mitigate them. The main areas of concern 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. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- Reduced income from fundraising. 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 significant 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 reliant on volunteers to run and administer its activities as a group. If there were 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 were a reduction in membership 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.

Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to contribute positively to society.

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 cooperate with others and make friends.

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.

Public benefit statement:

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

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 6 months of running costs, circa £12,000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £16k against this at year-end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. Leaders have highlighted that a significant investment in our Scouting equipment will be needed during the camping season due to many items reaching the end of their useful life.

Investment Policy:

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of 4th Ashby Scout Group Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 28 February 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages 8-11

This report is made solely to the trustees under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I must state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners

The Group's trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out following the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence required in an audit. Consequently, no opinion is given on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

1. In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
 - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records per Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name Sarah-Jane Statham
Address: 2 Cotswold Way Ashby de la Zouch LE65 1ET

Qualification: ACMA, CTA, TEP
Date: 16/05/2023

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year Ended 28th February 2023

Receipts	01/03/22 - 28/02/23 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/21 - 28/02/22 Unrestricted Funds £
Membership Subscriptions	18,337.00	12,764.69
Less memberships fees paid on (To district, county and national) <i>Note - membership fees not accrued this year as we move to cash accounting.</i>		-7,482.30
Net Membership Subscriptions Retained	18,337.00	5,828.39
Donations	0	82.21
Gift Aid	2,541.14	593.53
Match Funding	0	0
Grants Received	450.00	6,193.00
Member Payment Refund	13.28	
Activities	2,411.80	935.00
Badges/Uniform Sales	29.83	0
Camps	11,245.20	1,989.60
Christmas Post	0	650.20
Easy Fundraising/Amazon Smile	120.11	119.34
Other Fundraising Activities	118.00	650.00
Bank Interest Received	144.55	3.77
Total Receipts	35,410.91	16,449.04

Payments	01/03/22 - 28/02/23 Unrestricted Funds £	01/03/21 - 28/02/22 Unrestricted Funds £
Activites	1,906.30	922.00
Administration/Sundries	1,139.96	189.61
AGM, Bonfire, Scout Post	71.44	315.10
Badges & Uniform	2,470.49	1,265.78
Bank and Card Charges	640.92	225.46
Camps	11,888.44	280.00
Equipment and Maintenance	1,215.27	1,118.25
Insurance/Minibus Permits	254.59	261.06
Section Meeting Costs	996.67	710.10
OSM Subscription and Payment Fees	882.00	525.66
Training Costs	24.00	0
Website	106.13	443.33
Member Payment Error	35.74	0
Sub Total	21,631.95	6,699.68
Building Expenses		
Phone/Broadband	97.50	37.50
Cleaning	1,234.97	963.61
Building Maintenance/Grounds keeping	948.83	5,240.98
Project Work	4,887.18	
Building Development	1,400	3,480
Sub Total	8,568.48	9,722.09
Total Receipts	30,200.43	15,978.44

Net receipts/payments	5,210.48	520.60
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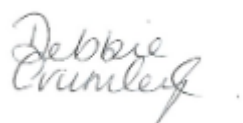
Note this excess of receipts is due to building works starting later than planned and so not completed in the financial year.

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds		22/23	21/22
Bank Current Account		4,858.04	5,644.59
Bank Deposit Account		40,243.00	42,104.65
Pre-Paid Card Balance		1,125.07	680.22
Cash/Floats		0	68.47
Sub Total		46,226.11	48,497.93
Liabilities not yet paid			12,082.30
Contracted building work not completed in 22/23	7,620		
Contribution towards toilet refurbishment at DSC	12,000		
DSC Emergency repairs fund	2,000		
Subscriptions not yet paid to district	7,652		
Income relating to camps and activities planned to take place after the end of the financial year	912	30,183.60	
Sub Total		30,183.60	12,082.30
Net Cash Funds		16,042.51	36,415.63

Non-monetary assets for own use		22/23	21/22
We plan to revalue our badge and equipment during 23/24			
Badge Stock		150	150
Scouting Equipment/Furniture		10,000	10,000
Total		10,150	10,150

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the trustees on 17th May 2023



D Crumley
Group Treasurer



B Skea
Group Chair

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th June 2022

Held at Ashby Castle, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch. Leicestershire

Minutes taken by Mark Timson (group secretary)

Attendance

Jon Bloor (GSL) started the evening by running through the evening proceedings. Then they welcomed the Mayor - Cllr Deakin, consort Karen Deakin, Duncan Watts, the District Commissioner for Ashby and Coalville, parents, beavers, cubs and scouts, the leaders and committee who together form the Group Council. A complete list of families participating is held by the Group Secretary. A total of 293 people were in attendance.

Apologies.

No apologies noted.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th June 2021

Minutes from the previous meeting were shared with the annual report. Recorded as a true and proper account of last year's AGM. Proposer – Matt Simpson. Seconded – Jenny Drew

Appointment of Trustees

Chair (is nominated by GSL - approval of the Group Council sought) - B Skea

- Proposer - M Timson
- Seconder – Karen Etches

Secretary - M Timson

- Proposer – Sharon Watson
- Seconder – Beth Skea

Treasurer - D Crumley

- Proposer – Paul Wright
- Seconder – Mark Randall

JB then asked if anyone else would like to become a member if so they could approach him or a member after the AGM.

Section Leaders are ex-officio members of the Group Executive but have to exercise their rights at the AGM. Andrew Leake (Cub Leader, Seeonnee Pack) has confirmed he continues doing so.

The examiner or scrutineer appointment will still be Sarah Jane Statham, who reviews the accounts on our behalf. This is a non-nominated role.

Thanks

JB then continued by giving his thanks to....

- Thanks to English Heritage for allowing the group to use the castle for their AGM

- Thanks to Mayor and guests for being in attendance
- Thanks to Kathryn, Jons wife for allowing him to put all the hours he does into scouting
- Thanks to leaders for their time and dedication
- Thanks to the committee for their time and support
- Thanks to Mark Timson, Paul Campion and people at a working party for their help in shaping DSC to become a great place to meet
- Thanks to Richard Singleton for helping with 2 scout troops
- Thanks to Mark Porter for his help with leader training
- Thanks to parents and beavers, cubs scouts for coming – without them we would not have a 4th Ashby Scout Group

Plans for the forthcoming year

JB then gave a quick outline of the next 12 months - more awards, lots of moving up, hoping for more camping and to offer more places

District Commissioner's Remarks

D Watts gave his thanks to everyone at 4th Ashby Scout Group for their continued success and for the families who also support the group. He then presented the following awards –

- Mark Timson – Wood Badge
- Debbie Crumley – 5 Years' Service
- Jon Bloor – 25 Years' Service

Scouting Awards

Adult Awards

Training Completed:

- Roz Wright
- Ramona Patraru
- Alice Legate
- Vicky Peddar

Leicestershire Scouts St George's Day Award

- Richard Singleton

Medal of Merit

- Blossom (David Granger)

Chief Scout's Bronze Awards

- Henry Evans
- Jack Ward

Silver Awards

- Ethan Barrett
- Rupert Bloor
- Harry Fillary
- James Gill
- Riley Randall
- Stefan Petraru
- Jake Wevill
- Harry Pedder

Gold Awards

Noah Decon and Oscar Capell-Jones are both – extremely close to completing and will hopefully do so as they start Explorers.

Expedition Challenge A special mention to Matha, Jamie and Cameron for doing exceptionally well during the recent expedition challenge.

Annual Awards

Duncan Watts (ACDC) and the Mayor of Ashby, Cllr Deakin and his consort Karen Deakin presented the following awards -

Beaver Scout of the Year

Woodland Colony	Rupert Benstead
Riverbank Colony	Jack Marsh

Cub Scout of the Year

Seeonnee Pack	Holly Watson
Waingunga Pack	Riley Randall

Scout of the Year

Challenger Troop	Oscar Capell-Jones
Discovery Troop	Noah Deacon

The Harry Watson Award

Presented by Harry's Mum and Sister to Stefan Petraru

Closure

JB then closed the AGM and thanked everyone for their attendance

Thanks

We are happy to thank North West Leicestershire District Council for several grants received:

- £450 - Teamwork training (agreed to be spent this summer)
- £500 - Green Grant (received in March 2023)
- £250 - Coronation Grant (received April 2023)

Review of 2022 - 2023

Here are some of the highlights of the last year.

Chair's Report

Reading the reports and seeing the activities our team are making available to the growing number of young people makes me proud to chair the group.

In September, we were finally able to agree on a licence to use Donisthorpe Scout Centre, and as a committee, with support from leaders and others, particularly Paul Campion, we have worked hard to bring the upstairs room into use and to start to improve the insulation, lighting and noise levels in the main hall. More work is needed to bring the toilets up to an acceptable standard as well as repair the external drains, fences and car park, and we hope to work with the District team, as our landlords, to deliver these necessary works.

Sadly, due to my work and family commitments, this will be my last report as Chair. Hopefully, you will consider if you can undertake this role, or perhaps Treasurer or Secretary to support your children.

I look forward to hearing more of the brilliant Scouting happening across all our sections in the 4th Ashby family in 2023/24.

Beth Skea
Group Chair

Group Scout Leader's Report

It is my pleasure to provide a brief overview of the group's activities during the year.

The support from our Executive Committee, parents and other volunteers has been greatly appreciated by the leaders and me. Particularly noteworthy is the work done in getting Donisthorpe into a usable state and a licence agreed upon with our District landlords.

Parents have been great with help preparing for and packing away after our many camps and activities, and most sections have help on tap for their meetings when needed.

At our January census, required by all Scouts nationally, our membership was up 5.8% on beavers, cubs and scouts, and we added 2 new adults. All sections could use additional leaders, but especially Scouts.

Our waiting list was 40 children old enough to start tomorrow if we had space. Since then, this number has increased despite taking new members at the start of each term.

More of our leaders have completed or refreshed their training, and again, I must thank Mark Porter for his help and support on this.

Cubs camped, Scouts hiked to Fox Covets near Hinckley, and both had a week in Bournemouth. 5 minibuses and one giant, full van arrived back with some exhausted passengers! Beavers had a sleepover at Donisthorpe, and the 2023 camping season is now in full swing again.

Thank you to all the adults who give their time, not just on a Tuesday or Thursday night but in planning and preparing for those sessions and the extra activities like camps, hikes and outings. Thanks also to their families for sharing them with us.

Our Young Leaders deserve a mention - they help each week and complete their training, and all are reliable and hard-working. Parents, we appreciate your help, support and trust. We hope you all have a lovely evening.

Jon Bloor
Group Scout Leader

Seeonnee Cub Pack

Currently, we have 30 Cubs, 5 Leaders and 1 Young Leader on our books.

During the past 12 months, we have been working on various badges, including Emergency Aid, Money Skills, Entertainer, Local Knowledge, Scientist, Disability Awareness, and the Skills, Personal and Adventure Challenge Badges, which have helped 3 cubs earn the top award in Cubs the chief scout silver award and 6 more Cubs being very close to completing theirs.

In late March this year, 30 cubs from Seeonnee and Waingunga went on a weekend camp at John's Lee Wood Campsite. Despite the weather and mud, the cubs enjoyed various activities, including a low ropes course, rubber band shooting, exploring the site, a campfire, and a walk to Bradgate Park.

We have another weekend camp in June at Oaks Campsite, which will include Zorb Football, Tomahawk throwing and orienteering. We also have a canoeing session at Moira Furnace and some exciting activities, including a Father's Day backwoods cooking evening.

Plans are already underway for next year's weeklong summer camp, for which further details will be announced before the end of term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark, Angie, Sean & Ramona for all their help during the last 12 months

Andrew Leake
Seeonnee Cub Scout Leader

Waingunga Cub Pack

Within our Waingunga pack, we currently have 28 Cubs, 3 Young Leaders, 4 Leaders and 2 Occasional Helpers. Over the last year, we have been a busy pack with many achievements. 13 Cubs have been awarded the top award in Cubs, earning their Chief Scout Silver Award.

In addition, we have been working on many activity badges, including Athletics, Chef, Cyclist, Environmental Conservation, Physical Recreation, Local Knowledge, Pioneer, Scientist, Musician, Navigator, Paddlesports, Fire Safety, Money Skills, Air Activities, Hikes, Emergency Aid, and Home Help. Over the past year, 642 Challenge, Activity and Staged badges have been achieved within Waingunga Cubs!

Waingunga has been lucky to have many visits, including Ashby Fire Station, 1st Ibstock Band, and The Rotary Aquabox Scheme, as well as joining residents of Lyndhurst Lodge for carol singing at Christmas. We visited The Climbing Station at Loughborough for our end-of-term Christmas party and had a fantastic time; some Cubs had their first indoor rock climbing experience. In February 2023, we had a half-term treat, hiking from Conkers to the hut, followed by a film with popcorn!

In addition to our meets, Waingunga and Seeonsee Cub packs have had many camping adventures. In August 2023, Cubs from both packs attended our bi-annual summer camp at Butchers Coppice campsite near Poole. Activities included visiting Brownsea Island, The New Forest, Studland Bay, Swanage Steam Railway and Splashdown Waterpark.

In addition, both packs camped at Johns Lee Wood Scout Campsite near Markfield in March 2023. Activities included a hike, obstacle course, campfire and team games. Despite being a very wet camp, many happy Cubs went home to tell the tales of their first nights away in Cubs! In June 2023, both packs will be camping at The Oaks Scout Campsite near Shepshed for a weekend, with activities including football zorbing, orienteering, a hike, and tomahawk throwing.

Waingunga pack has welcomed new faces to the leading team; these include James, Jenny, Chris and Carrie. During the Summer of 2022, we said goodbye to Vicky as she moved across to Scouts to assist the group as an Assistant Scout Leader. I want to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn, James, Jennifer, Carrie, and Chris for all of their help in the last 12 months. Your support and time during meets and outside have made Waingunga Pack a pleasure to participate in – thank you!

Alice Legate (Akela)

Waingunga Cub Scout Section Leader

Woodland Beaver Colony

Woodland Beavers Colony has grown in size this year and currently has 22 members. We were also pleased to welcome a new leader, Batsy, to our colony recently.

Our Beavers have been busy working towards lots of badges at the Scout Centre. They have enjoyed learning about endangered animals, making water filters and trying fair trade products for their Global Issues badge. They worked hard to gain their safety badge, which included an exciting visit to Ashby Fire Station. They have also been on visits to the Ashby Museum and Our Lady of Lourdes Church. They have found some creative ways to push themselves for their Personal Challenge Award, and a session led by a fitness instructor from Everyone Active helped the Beavers gain their Health and Fitness badge. At Christmas, Woodland Beavers made some beautiful Christmas cards, which were distributed to people who were on their own on Christmas Day.

Outdoors, Woodland Beavers have enjoyed Katakayaking at Conkers. At the campsite, they have been learning about knots and using them to build kites. More recently, they have tried building fires, backwoods cooking, and ziplining.

Woodland Beavers were excited to join Riverbank Beavers on a Superhero Sleepover at the Scout Centre in November. They enjoyed pizza and a night hike before settling down for the night and in the morning, they had fun with games and crafts. They also joined Riverbank Beavers for an evening of indoor canoeing run by the Leicestershire Scouts Watersports Activity Team in December. Woodland Beavers were well represented at the Remembrance Parade in November and the St Georges Day activities in April.

Lynne (Fox)

Riverbank Beaver Colony

It has been another successful year for Riverbank Beavers.

Our core leadership team has grown, with the addition of Frank, or Gorilla as he has been named by the Beavers. Gorilla is a familiar face to many, as he has been helping out as a parent most weeks for the last 2 years.

As always, we spent as much time outside as possible, and could usually be found up at the Willesley District Campsite.

The Summer 22 term saw us Orienteering, fire building and making hot chocolate on the Kelly Kettles, as well as covering the Communicators Badge. However, the real highlights of the term were Potholing, making Bottle Rockets, and finally a visit to the Firestation where we were allowed to use the hoses!

In the Autumn, we visited East Midlands Aeropark to cover the Air Activities Badge and watch cargo planes departing the airport. We spent time ziplining at Willesley and went Kayaking in the indoor pool in Leicester. We also learnt about first aid with a visit from a paramedic.

The real highlight, however, was a Superhero Sleepover in the Donisthorpe Scout Centre. We went for a walk in the dark, roasted marshmallows, and watched a movie, with plenty of craft activities the next day.

This was the first Night Away opportunity for Beavers since before Covid and was very well received. We look forward to arranging more in the future and hope to get the Beavers camping.

In the Spring term, we invited the Leicester Astronomical Society back. We enjoyed using the large telescope to look at the moon and learned a lot about the solar system. We also visited St Helens Church, learnt about some global issues such as pollution and the environment, and in between still found time for plenty of craft activities.

We were pleased to see several of our eldest beavers achieve the Bronze award before moving to Cubs - so well done to Darcey Simpson, James Wright, Noah Wall, and Daniel Foote.

Matt

Combined Discovery & Challenger Scout Troops

Numbers continue to grow in Scouts, despite saying goodbye to Noah, Pip, Cameron, Ryan, Harmony, Flynn, Bea, Jacob, Jake, Farris, Will, Jamie and Rose to Explorers. There are 25 scouts on a Tuesday (Challenger) and 31 on a Thursday (Discovery).

Weekly meetings have included first aid, teamwork, problem-solving, making things, building bridges with and without rope as well as plenty of burning, cooking and chopping. Scouts have met the police, been to Roller World and hiked, geocached, played wide games, made friends and much more. We've kayaked, built rafts, shot air rifles, raced go-karts and carried buckets of water around the Conkers activity trail.

We've held overnight trips, hiking from Donisthorpe to Fox Coverts, a week-long trip to Bournemouth with 36 Scouts and more recently taken part in the first county "Rambling Fox" hike. Thanks to Mark P, we've had sessions at the Apple Store. Taken part in Remembrance Sunday and St George's Day and also District Camp.

We are relying on parents to help Richard and me on Tuesdays, although since Easter 2023 Chrisi and Karen have been able to join us regularly, thank you. Thursday are being run by Vicky, Blossom, Richard and I and we are pleased to have Lynne and Sean help us regularly too. Thanks to other parents who have helped in all sorts of ways. Dan, Jack, Ollie, Carmen and Esther have been amazing young leaders.

Jon Bloor

Group Scout Leader and Acting Scout Leader