

POLESWORTH (ABBEY) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1151943

Details

Other names POLESWORTH SCOUT GROUP

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2013-05-08

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 32 Whateley Lane
Whateley
Tamworth
B78 2ET

Phone 07815 316862

Email scouts@polesworthscoutgroup.co.uk

Website www.polesworthscoutgroup.co.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: 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 THROUGH SCOUTING

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Derbyshire
- Leicestershire
- Staffordshire
- Warwickshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-01	£22,650	£27,853	-	-
2024-07-01	£29,617	£36,233	-	-
2023-07-01	£31,969	£42,299	-	-
2022-07-01	£28,746	£21,379	-	-
2021-07-01	£14,685	£15,158	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brianne Asbury		2023-01-27
Carys Loveland		2023-01-27
Martin Etheridge		2023-01-27
Sam Dodds		2023-01-27
Sohpie Smith		2025-01-12
TRACEY ELIZABETH LOVELAND		2013-05-03
Tracey Pratley		2025-04-01

POLESWORTH (ABBAY) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1151943

Accounts

Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2024

Balance as per current account bank statement 30.6.2024	£10,675.41
Balance as per savings account bank statement 30.6.2024	£18,123.74
	£28,799.15

Less unrepresented cheques/Direct Debits, etc	0
	£0.00

The above receipts and payment account was approved by the Trustees on 28.10.2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed [Signature] Group Scout Leader (or Group Lead Volunteer)

signed [Signature] Treasurer

Scrutineers report to the trustees of Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group
I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2024
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and scrutineer.

As the Group's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the account set out above and in my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name: [Signature] Peter Squires
Address: 94 SHARPE STREET
TAMWORTH
B77 3HZ

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1															
2															
3															
4															
5	Receipts		2023-24		2022-23				Payments			2023-24			2022-23
6	Subs.		£9,476.00		£9,344.00			Electric			£2,076.28			£1,744.81	
7	Capitation 24		£2,131.00		£1,846.00			Hut running costs			£6,396.31			£3,960.10	
8	Capitation 25		£2,664.00		£2,676.00			Insurance			£1,875.50			£1,485.34	
9	Gift Aid		£3,315.37		£3,546.99			Stationery/Photo Copies			£87.47			£67.00	
10	Donations		£951.01		£2,913.01			Hut Maintenance			£10,602.08			£1,333.28	
11			£18,537.38		£20,326.00			Group Equipment			£232.02			£2,950.35	
12								Total			£21,269.66			£12,702.88	
13															
14	Bank Interest		£270.98		£69.82			Group Capitation			£4,895.00			£4,134.00	
15	Uniform		£0.00		£0.00			Uniform			£72.55			£0.00	
16			£270.98		£69.82			Capitation 2023 & refunds			£481.00			£146.00	
17								hut hire Deposit refunds			£85.00			£0.00	
18								Badges			£500.00			£1,162.00	
19								Total			£6,033.55			£5,442.00	
20															
21	Activities							Activities							
22	Scouts		£3,223.00		£432.00			Scouts			£1,635.72			3424.75	
23	Cubs		£2,549.00		£1,945.00			Cubs			£3,185.68			2436.45	
24	Beavers		£1,205.00		£1,864.00			Beavers			£979.56			1713.98	
25	Group		£2,020.00		£6,362.23			Group			£3,129.70			741.46	
26			£8,997.00		£10,603.23			Total			£8,930.66			£8,316.64	
27															
28	Hut Hire		£1,590.00		£905.00			Transferred to deposit			£0.00			£17,000.00	
29	Transferred from dep		£6,500.00		£0.00										
30	Miscellaneous		£0.00		£65.00										
31	Refunds		£222.00		£0.00										
32			£8,312.00		£970.00			Total							

POLESWORTH (ABBAY) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1151943

Accounts

Treasurers Report

Annual Accounts 2022-2023

The accounts for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 are attached. My thanks to Pete Seedhouse acted as our independent examiner. This is my 11th year reporting as Treasurer for the group.

Income

Receipts £31,969.05.

Subs are our largest income at £9,344.00.00, and this resulted in a nice Gift Aid claim of £3,546.99 – thank you HMRC!

Expenditure

It goes without saying that we have an amazing scout hut, but it does take a lot of running and maintenance - £7190.25 to be exact. We now have regular cleaners and a local gardener, which means we don't have to rely on volunteers. Electricity costs count for £1744.81- double that of last year, which is no surprise.

Reserves

We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and £35,415.66 in the bank.

It was always our intention to keep at least £10k for our emergency fund, and over the last few months we have had to utilise that. As you are all aware of the 'Wall situation', the cracks which appeared have had to be rectified at a total cost of £10,442.80 to date. I would like to especially thank Sophie and Jim Smith and Carys who have gone above and beyond to sort this problem, consulting architects, insurers, engineers, councils and steel fabricators.

In fact, all our group committee members should be recognized and thanked for the extra work they have had to put in in solving this situation.

Turn2Us Scheme

As we are all aware the Cost of Living Crisis continues, so we are pleased to announce that we are continuing with our fund to help parents who might be struggling to pay their subs, buy uniform or pay for trips. The aim is to help parents in need by paying a proportion of their subs and trips and by purchasing uniform on their behalf.

Please contact me directly if you wish to discuss this scheme. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Tracey Loveland
Treasurer

Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2023

Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2023

Balance as per current account bank statement 30.6.2023	£10,791.92
Balance as per savings account bank statement 30.6.2023	£24,623.74
	£35,415.66
Less unrepresented cheques/Direct Debits, etc	0
	£0.00

The above receipts and payment account was approved by the Trustees on 4-10-2023 And signed on their behalf by:

S/Smt

Signed Group Lead Volunteer

Tracey Ireland

signed Treasurer

Scrutineers report to the trustees of Polesworth (Abbey)Scout Group
I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2023.
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and scrutineer.

As the Group's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the account set out above and in my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name: *Peter Scobhouse*
Address: *914, SHARPE STREET
TAMWORTH
B77 3HZ*

[Signature]

Scouting

It has been another busy Year in the Scout section at Polesworth. We've welcomed new members (so many in fact that we had to close our waiting list) and said goodbye to others who have progressed onto Explorers. We've even welcomed back some former scouts who have returned to us as Young Leaders.

During the year we've embarked on numerous camps, and returned mostly intact from all of them. Our survival camp saw our scouts building their own sleeping shelters in the woods and being completely self sufficient in terms of their own cooking and camp organisation. Our Group Camp was a great opportunity for the Scouts to make friends in the Beavers and Cubs sections as well as learn new skills like fencing, backwoods cooking and orienteering. They also did themselves proud by standing up to the worst weather I've ever experienced on a camp. The intense rain flooded several tents and saw some of our more veteran equipment reach the end of its days but the Scouts refused to be defeated and quickly pitched spare tents and managed to literally weather the storm. This year also saw us run our first ever canoe and kayak based expedition camp. Some of our older scouts journeyed along the canal for two days and covered several miles in their boats. They showed great team work and even managed to keep the paddling in a circle to a minimum.

The Scouts have also taken part in a scrap heap challenge this year where they had to design and build their own go karts. The races at the end were great fun and allowed the Scouts to adapt their designs and discover why it's so important that the wheels stay on. The Scouts have also had the opportunity to try some scuba diving and snorkelling over the last year and it was great to see how enthusiastically they joined in.

Overall the last year has been great one and the scouts should be proud not only of their accomplishments, the badges they've earned, the experiences they've shared and the obstacles they've overcome but also of how they've conducted themselves.

As we welcome new members joining us from Cubs and new volunteers joining the ranks we can look forward to a great year to come.

Polesworth Cubs June 2022 to July 2023

Summery

- 423 badges awarded total
- 2 Cubs Completed their Silver Award
- Activity Day out 2022
- District Cub Camp 2022
- Polesworth Carnival 2022 and 2023
- Polesworth group camp 2022 and 2023
- District Cub Bake Off 2023
- Indoor Crafts
- Outdoor activities

June to August 2022

Summer part 1 [April to May]

We have taken part in various activities such as Saving energy in the home; and protecting our environment and wild animals. Cubs have also learned about basic first aid and have used the resuscitation Anne dolls provided by Tamworth District Scouts.

Summer part 2 [June to July]

Soon coming back after half term, Cubs got stuck in with the Cleaning and Maintenance of Pooley Memorial as part of their community awareness badge. We then had four weeks of fun that included wide games; den building: kayaking; and archery.

On 2 July Cubs took part in the annual Polesworth Carnival alongside Beavers, Scouts and the Polesworth Community. They completed decorations for the "float" weeks prior to the parade, and sat on the float with Beavers, Scouts and Leaders.

Weekend 8 July, Cubs camped at Beaudesert Campsite with Tamworth District Cubs

September to December 2022

Part 1 [September to October]

we focused on going back to Scouting basics. We started off with welcoming new cubs with games and completing a code of conduct. The following two weeks cubs learned to pitch tents and camp basics; i.e setting up camp, keeping safe on camp, packing their bags. This is in preparation for the group camp. We then moved onto learning knots and pioneering basics and a night hike. We finished the half term with our annual Halloween party and pumpkin carving.

Weekend of 30 September, Polesworth Beavers Cubs and Scouts took part in their annual group camp at Beaudesert. Everyone took part in various activities such as shooting, wide games, and climbing.

Part 2 [November to December]

Back after half term cubs got stuck in mastering their knots and lashings and having a go making a pioneering project. District Commissioner [DC] ran a CEOP evening for cubs covering online safety for the cubs and parents. We made use of the Tamworth District Activity Centre [DAC] new traverse wall and claymation. We finished the term with archery, badges and bowling.

January 2021 to March 2023

Part 1 [January to February]

January new year and we started off with 3 parts of the Skills badge of keeping healthy, learning about the human body, healthy eating and exercise. The second week we learned about the Scottish Burns night. We tried traditional Scottish food, danced, and made crafts. The final part of half term we completed our Astronomer badge. We made a solar system, used telescopes and learned about stars and planets

Part 2 [March to April]

We had a local group of volunteers to come and talk about Polesworth in the past. They spoke about how much the village has changed since they were young. They provided a powerpoint with old pictures and maps of what Polesworth used to look like. Cubs showed their knowledge on road safety and the green cross code. They learned about what different road signs mean, and spoke about the right manner to behave as a passenger in a car. We finished the term with various Team games and a trip to the go karting arena in Nuneaton.

April to July 2023

Part 1 [April to May]

First week back and the cubs have brought in cakes as entrants to the Tamworth District Cubs Bake Off. The theme was King Coronation and cubs had to make and decorate a cake or cupcakes based off the theme. There was 15 entries which had to be judged on decoration and taste. Thankyou to the parent volunteers who had the satisfaction of tasting every cake but the challenging task to pick 3. The winner was then put forward for the Tamworth Cub bake-off. Whilst the judging was happening cubs were presenting their hobbies / collections to the other leaders and young leaders. Cubs visited Atherstone Council to complete their local Knowledge badge. There they were shown around the history section and get to sit in one of the council meeting Chambers.

In May, we had a fun evening of playing games as a break for the cubs from badgework. We then moved onto our final safety badge, Home Safety, cubs pointed out various hazards in the kitchen, completed a fire drill, a learned about how to inform emergency services of an emergency scenario. We finished the half term learning about bike maintenance as a start to our cyclist badge, including fixing a puncture. Cubs also learned the importance of locking our bikes away correctly.

Part 2 [June to July]

Outdoor activities were upon us in the last half term. Cubs took part in a 3 week rotation of archery, kyaking, and backwoods cooking [fires]. Cubs also finished their cyclist badge by going on a short cycle ride around pooley park. For cubs not confident on a bike we had a group on scooters group who completed their skater badge. We finished the year with emergency aid.

1 July – Polesworth group took part in Polesworth Carnival. They decorated their float as Sword in Stone theme. Polesworth Scout Group won 1st place for the best float.

Weekend 7 July – Polesworth Group camp at Beaudesert. This camp we mixed up all 3 sections together into 4 groups during activities. They taken part in activities such as axe throwing, climbing, zip line, backwoods cooking and orienteering.

Beavers

Throughout the reporting period the Beavers colony has remained consistently at around 20 Beavers, with many waiting in the wings. A total of 237 badges have been awarded, including 10 Chief Scout Bronze awards, which is an impressive achievement given that the majority of these gaining the award would have started within scouting during the Covid restrictions.

The section leadership team have worked hard to produce a wide and varied programme, which was made more challenging by the enforced building works to our HQ. However, we saw this as a positive as it opened up new challenges and experiences which we may not have originally been considered, such as bolder walling and 999 emergency services calling, which was so realistic the Beavers were convinced that the police would be arriving outside at any moment! We would like to thank the Trustees for the quick and efficient response to the enforced building works. Their quick response has minimised the impact to the section to just a few weeks.

Amongst the Beavers highlights include, of course, group camp and the annual Christmas sleepover which returned to the DAC due to our building restrictions. The Beavers also helped decorate the carnival float in June which helped us to win 1st place. We've visited local community groups such as EdibleLinks food bank, where we all brought donations and found out about how they are stored and distributed and Polesworth Fire Station where they learnt about fire and water safety and got to use a fire hose.

Whenever we can, we look to utilise the lovely space and grounds of Pooley Country Park, which has allowed the Beavers to hike to the top of the mound, follow the poem trail along the canal and go on a bug hunt in the fields, where we have found a wild orchid, a dragonfly nymph and a toad!

I would like to thank the fantastic leadership team which consists of Tracey, Matt and Hadleigh (who are known within meetings as Willow, Birch and Pine) and our Young Leaders, Jess, Sophia and Violet for all their support with delivering such an engaging programme. We would like to highlight a couple of the personal highlights for the leadership team which reflects why we enjoy volunteering within scouting.

Hadleigh is the most recent addition to the leadership team and within the short time he has been with the section he didn't think that he would learn, see, and be a part of something so amazing. Camping was something that he hadn't personally done before and he wasn't sure what to expect. However, with gentle guidance he was soon learning about axe throwing, tree climbing and how to keep Beavers dry during the daddy of all thunderstorms. With growing confidence he has planned and led meetings, including a notable one where we all built birdhouses. What he enjoyed most from this was seeing that even though the young people thought that they couldn't make something like a birdhouse for themselves, at the end of the meeting every Beaver had pride on their faces when they ran to their parents to show what they made. With the extra bonus of seeing the pictures of some bird houses with birds in! Being able to provide these opportunities for the young people is just as much an enjoyable experience for us as volunteers, as it is for them.

Finally, we would like to thank the parents for all their support, many thanks to the parents who offer to open and close the gates, especially on the dark winter nights and those parents who have answered the call to help, sometimes at short notice, in whichever way they can. It is hugely appreciated and enables the Beavers to enjoy their scouting even more, and everyone involved should feel very proud of this.

POLESWORTH (ABBAY) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1151943

Accounts

POLESWORTH (ABBEY) SCOUT GROUP

Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2022

Balance as per current account bank statement 30.6.2022	£21,122.39
Balance as per savings account bank statement 30.6.2022	<u>£7,623.74</u>
	£28,746.13
Less unrepresented cheques/Direct Debits, etc	0
	£0.00

I certify that the accounts detailed above are in accordance with the books and vouchers supplied to me and are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Date: 1/11/2022
Signed S. Ward
Name SARAH WARD FCCA

Signed [Signature] Chairman

Signed [Signature] Group Scout Leader

signed [Signature] Treasurer

Polesworth Scout Group

Statement of Receipts and Payment for the Year 1.7.2021-30.6.2022

Receipts		Payments			
	2021-22	2020-21			
Subs	£9,504.00	£5,349.50	Electric	£875.88	£460.39
Capitation 2022	£2,655.00	£2,132.00	Hut running costs	£2,864.97	£2,339.80
Gift Aid	£3,184.32	£998.59	Insurance	£1,269.40	£1,224.62
Capitation 2023	£2,961.00	£2,330.00	Room/hut hire	£0.00	£0.00
			Stationery/Photo Copies	£51.55	£54.06
Donations	£384.00	£1,055.00	Group Equipment	£864.95	£2,411.75
	£384.00	£1,055.00	Badges	£771.70	£331.00
Bank Interest Received	£0.75	£1.19	Group Capitation	£4,836.00	£3,424.00
Uniform/Neckerchiefs	£5.00	£127.00	Uniform/Neckerchiefs	£0.00	£0.00
			Capitation 2022 refunds	£0.00	£36.00
Activities			Hut Maintenance	£1,520.76	£2,516.74
Scouts	£3,064.00	£492.54			
Cubs	£4,224.00	£800.00	Group Training	£0.00	£0.00
Beavers	£1,313.00	£15.00			
Group	£50.00	£0.00	Activity/Materials		
	£8,651.00	£1,307.54	Scouts	£2,985.72	£700.20
Hut Hire	£1,760.00	£105.00	Cubs	£4,540.69	£1,369.91
Miscellaneous	£46.00	£0.00	Beavers	£714.36	£22.25
Refunds	£85.81	£1,280.00	Group	£74.00	£74.00
				£8,314.77	£2,166.36
			Misc	£10.00	£9.00
			Transferred to deposit		
			Covid Refunds	£0.00	£185.00
Total Receipts	£29,236.88	£14,685.82	Total Payments	£21,379.98	£15,158.72
Balance At Bank	30.6.22	30.6.21			
Current Account	£21,122.39	£13,265.49			
Deposit Account	£7,623.74	£7,623.74			
	£28,746.13	£20,889.23			
	£28,746.13				



**Polesworth (Abbey)
Scout Group**



Chair's Report

For our Section leaders, Leadership Teams and Executive Members the past years have proved to be very challenging from the impact of the pandemic to the current economic crisis. To provide a safe, active and balanced program in a suitable and safe environment has become part of the new normal and whenever the rules or requirements change, all the teams adapted. It is with much praise and appreciation that we thank these volunteers for their time, commitment and support that enables scouting to continue during such challenging times.

Financially the Group regularly reviewed and adapted its action plan, with everyone's safety as a priority and keeping expenditure to a minimum. The impact of the pandemic was first felt with the cancellation of rental bookings for the building and a reduction in the number of our young members. As the recovery from the pandemic has progressed, we see a return for the rental and use of the building and our membership of young members has returned to its maximum level in most sections, with a waiting list of young people wishing to join our Group. The Group recognizes the impact and hardships that maybe encountered by some of our young members and their families during this economic crisis. The group has implemented a hardship fund for those young members living through tough times, to ensure that these young members do not miss out on their scouting journey and experience.

The leadership team have again produced and delivered an exciting and adventurous program of activities from Birdbox building, Kayaking, Shooting, Archery, Sleepovers, Camping and for some lucky Mom's or Guardians receiving handmade Mother's Day presents and this list is just some of those activities completed.

The previous year has seen some changes to the Executive Committee and Senior Leadership teams. After many very successful years as Scout Section Leader, Justin Tweed has stepped down, continuing with scouting and the Group as assistant Scout Leader. Beaver Section Leader Steve Smith left the Group at Christmas, having been with the group for many years. Steve's previous positions within the Group had included Group Chair and as a supporter of our District Scouting team had taken on various roles and assisted with many of their activities and events.

Catherine Hillyard stepped down from her last Executive member role within the Group as Events and Booking manager. Cath is greatly missed having been involved with supporting the Group in many ways and for many, many years. During that time Cath had taken on nearly every role within the Executive Committee and had also helped as a leader and fundraiser. I thank them both for their exceptional hard work and I send them our very best wishes and every success with their next adventures.

This too is my last year with the Group as Chair and this my last yearly report. As I hand back the reins of the Group. I would like to thank all the Executive Committee Members, Section Leaders, Leaders, Assistant Leaders, our team of Young Leaders, Occasional helpers and the friends of the Group, both past and present, for their time, exceptional hard work, dedication and commitment in delivering such a high standard and an adventurous program of scouting on behalf of Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group for over fifty-two years. I would also like to gratefully thank and acknowledge Tracey Loveland, Catherine Hillyard and Tracey Pratley for all their advice, assistance and support while in my role as Group Chair.

As my journey with the Group comes to an end, I have met so many exceptional people, made many friends, completed tasks and challenges which I would never have experienced and my advice to anyone thinking of volunteering, "Please, give it a go, you never know you might like it"; I have, very much so...

Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group
Chair
Ian Mason

January 2023

Treasurers Report

Annual Accounts 2021 – 2022

The accounts for the period 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 are attached. My thanks to Sarah Ward who, once again, has acted as our independent examiner. This is my 10th year reporting as Treasurer for the group.

Income

Receipts are thankfully back up to pre-covid levels at £29,236.88.

Subs are our largest income at £9,504.00, and this resulted in a nice Gift Aid claim of £3,184.32.

My thanks go to all the parents who pay subs promptly. Ensuring all subs are paid is the job which takes up the majority of my time, along with the Gift Aid claim, so please could you pay during the first week back after a full term/half term break. I really hate having to personally chase parents. Reminders will be put out on our Facebook page.

Expenditure

It goes without saying that we have an amazing scout hut, but it does take a lot of running and maintenance - £5261.61 to be exact. Hut rental contributes to this cost, and this is something we wish to expand on. All other costs are roughly the same as pre-covid years.

Reserves

We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and £28,746.13 in the bank.

Our recommendation is that we keep at least £10,000 as a float to cover the running costs of the hut, any unexpected repairs that may surface, and also to cover the rising costs of electricity, as our new contract began 1.11.2022 at a very much higher rate.

Turn2Us Scheme

As we are all aware we are all going through a Cost of Living Crisis, so we are pleased to announce that we have set up a fund to help parents who might be struggling to pay their subs, buy uniform or pay for trips. The aim is to help parents in need by paying a proportion of their subs and trips and by purchasing uniform on their behalf. However, this does depend on how many people apply and how much funds are available.

Please contact me directly if you wish to discuss this scheme. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Tracey Loveland
Treasurer

SCOUTS SECTION REPORT

Scouts during 2022 was an active year with a full programme of activities. We led the scouts through shooting and archery, some active mini olympics and kayaking sessions; as well as stretching them mentally with some brain teasing activities.

We awarded well over 300 badges to reward their hard work and skills that they learned or honed during the year. We ran a fundraising badge which saw two scouts get awarded a special award, the commissioners commendation. This award is only awarded to young people who have gone above and beyond and has only been awarded to a few scouts in Tamworth district.

The scouts went on several camps, we started the year with an expedition challenge in the Peak District exploring the hills above Ladybower reservoir where the Dambusters did their practice runs during world war 2, and then the shore of the reservoir itself.

We had our survival camp where the scouts slept in hammocks and cooked over open fires, without running water or toilets.

Then group camp where all sections camped and did activities together.

Andrew managed to secure some funding from the commonwealth games to enable us to purchase another two open canoes, which will be coming soon.

The year was finished off with a change in the leadership team, Justin stepped down from Scout Leader and took up an Assistant Scout Leader position, handing the Scout Leader role over to Sam.

This coming year has a fantastic programme planned, with another survival camp and an expedition camp on the water, where we will explore the canals and transport all our equipment for a weekend by kayak and canoe.

There will also be another group camp and a special camp for Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders and those scouts who will be filling the roles as older scouts move onto explorers. They will be learning skills to enable them to manage their patrols well.

CUBS SECTION REPORT

We averaged between 30 to 40 cubs throughout the year, mix of both boys and girls. A Total of 653 badges were awarded, with 8 Chief Scout Silver Awards included. Cubs took part in pioneering, science experiments, fires, and various trips and visits.

June to July 2021

During the summer, cubs were predominantly outdoors earning their green thumbs at gardening and making insect homes. We then progressed onto science experiments where cubs learned various things through exciting and safe experiments. In the later part of the term Cubs learned some camp basics including pitching tents and looking after themselves whilst away. We also got ourselves somewhat tangled in pioneering and learning how to make tracking symbols in the park. We finished the term burning off any leftover energy with a mini sports competition between the sixes. Everyone earned one or more medals.

September to December 2021

Cubs had a cub camp for a weekend in September at Alfrey Activity Centre. This camp was mainly for Cubs who have been with us throughout lockdown and have not been on away on a camp before. There were various activities including climbing, Abseiling, fire lighting and lots of free time being kids playing outside. Cubs and Beavers had a joint visit to the Space Centre Museum where they could interact with space activities. We also sat in the observatory and watched a short documentary on how aspiring astronomers study and connect with each other.

Our first evening hike was around Pooley Park. Some newer cubs were nervous to begin with but were soon smiling and having fun by the time we returned. We had an exciting visit to the fire station where all Cubs got to meet fire fighters. They got to sit in the fire engine and have a go with the water hoses. We also had some fun with crafts and learning some knots. Ending midterm with a fun Halloween party.

In the later part of term Cubs looked into what makes different people unique and learning about disabilities. They learned about brail, using one arm or no arms to complete a task. We also finalised their pioneering badge by completing a mini project. We also finalised their naturalist badge which took them a whole year to complete. For our christmas Outing the cubs took part in bowling and mini golf.

January to April 2022

New Year started with some team building games. Cubs completed the first set of their teamwork badge whilst getting to know their peers, new and current. We then "travelled" to China learning about the Chinese New year, learning about the festivities and activities. Cubs then got into making puppets and scenery which they then presented the following week to parents.

Over February half term cubs had an online drumming session. They learned about rounds and different beats using simple words. They earned their musician level one badge.

Over the second half term cubs got stuck into cooking with their groups. They learned cooking basics such as hygiene and cooking methods. Over a 3 week rotational period cubs cooked 2 course meals. The other 2 sessions over the rotational weeks cubs learned about money management, and fire lighting / backwoods cooking. We had a little parent help over these three weeks and it would have been unachievable without their help, so thank you.

April to July 2022

Cubs began with Environmental Conservation, it's a large topic looking into being eco friendly with waste and energy. Part of this badge cubs need to complete a community project, they assisted cleaning the war memorial on Pooley Lane and some litter picking. Cubs got handy and learned some basic first aid as part of their level 2 badge. We had 2 volunteers come in and teach the cubs first aid. They also learned about the recovery position and had a try on the resuscitation Ann dolls. After some serious weeks we ended the half term playing wide games in the local park.

The second part of term Cubs completed some more outdoor activities including kayaking, den building and archery. This was done over a 3 week rotation, with parent help and qualified volunteers running the kayaking.

Beavers Section Report

At the start of 2022 the Polesworth Beaver section increased its young person membership from 24 to 30. This allowed the section to extend the benefits that scouting can bring from an early age to more young people whilst also helping to ease some of the pressures of a very long waiting list. The expansion of the Beaver section was only made possible by the growth of the sections leadership team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Taylor, who is also a parent, for coming forward and supporting the request for more leaders and joining leadership team.

Throughout the last reporting period the Beavers enjoyed a wide, varied and balanced program, here are some of the highlights;

Polesworth Beavers has always supported opportunities for the Beavers to learn about themselves and gain independence. With this in mind the Beavers have attended 3 sleep overs in the last 12 months. 15 Beavers enjoyed an eventful distinct event at Ash End Farm, where they could mix with other beavers from across the district as well as come up close to the wide variety of creatures kept at Ash End. If the Beavers were not tired out by the day activities, they had free roam of the Play Barn for the evening before eventually settling down to sleep(?) between the soft play equipment. In September the Beavers joined the cub and scout sections on our Group Camp and thoroughly enjoyed a weekend full of adventurous activities including a 1st for the beavers - axe throwing! Whilst in December the beavers joined with Beavers from Kingsbury for the annual Beaver Christmas Sleepover.

Earlier in the year, a number of beavers took to the water for the District run Paddlesports event whilst in July the whole section helped to decorate the groups carnival float to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee which was finally back following the pandemic. A large group of Beavers joined other sections in fancy dress on the float. The Beavers finished off the year with a visit to the Snow Dome Fun Play which saw the Beavers wrapped up warm to brave the snow and slides.

Overall through the course of delivering the beaver program a total of 214 badges were awarded in 2022. This was made-up of 3 Bronze Chief Scout awards, 49 challenge badges, 74 activity badges and 88 stages badges.

I'd like to thank the whole Beaver leadership team for delivering the beaver program, these are Steve Smith, Tracey Pratley and Matt Talyor along with our Young Leaders Harry Chesters, Charlie Ashbury-Richardson and William Banes. Without their time, flexibility and supportive mindset we couldn't run the high quality Beaver section that we do today.

Finally, I'd like to thank Steve Smith, who at the end of 2022 decided to take a break from scouting, for his dedication and time within the section. Steve has many years experience within scouting and has held many roles within the Polesworth Group. His experience, leadership and drive has been a big factor in the continued success of the section and will no doubt take sometime to adjust to the change.