

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 300444

Details

Other names	9TH BEDS (BIGGLESWADE) BOY SCOUTS GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1963-01-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	4 Apple Tree Close Biggleswade SG18 8NF
Phone	07970269896
Email	gsl@biggleswadescouts.org.uk
Website	www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PURPOSES OF THE BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP.

Activities: Full Scouting activities in line with Scout Association guidelines

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BIGGLESWADE
- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£61,449	£64,916	-	-
2024-03-31	£61,790	£55,243	-	-
2023-03-31	£56,342	£53,726	-	-
2022-03-31	£44,864	£41,532	-	-
2021-03-31	£68,997	£39,610	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Leigh Wood	Chair	2016-07-19
Claire Louise Peacock		2024-06-24
Helen Kingerley		2016-07-19
Jerome Thomas Doyle		2024-06-24
SUSAN DOYLE		2018-01-16

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300444

Accounts

Biggleswade Scout Group

Trustees Report and Annual Review

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025



Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444

Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle

Tel 07779 817529

Email gsl@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Group Chairperson — Leigh Wood

Tel 07771 785454

Email chair@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Group Treasurer — Helen Kingerley

Email treasurer@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Lead Volunteers	Sue Doyle & Chris Wells
Treasurer	Helen Kingerley
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Brian Lawson
Irwin Scout Leader	Jerome Doyle
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Mercury Beaver Leader	Jane Thompson
Jupiter Cub Leader	Clare Peacock
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
Neptune Asst Cub Leader	Nick Gurney

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address
The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Biggleswade Scout Group is a registered charity governed by its Constitution, Declaration of Trust dated 17 April 1962, and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (April 2022).

The Group Council—comprising all adult volunteers, supporters, and parents/guardians of youth members—serves as the electoral body supporting Scouting within the Group. It holds the Group Trustee Board accountable.

The Group Trustee Board, whose members serve as the charity's trustees, is elected and appointed from within the Group Council. It supports the Group Scout Leader in fulfilling their responsibilities, which include:

- Maintaining the Group's property and equipment
- Fundraising and financial management
- Arranging appropriate insurance coverage
- Supporting leader recruitment and adult volunteer engagement

All new trustees complete the mandatory training set by The Scout Association.

The trustees regularly review key risks and are currently implementing a programme of upgrades to maintain and enhance the Biggleswade Scouts Headquarters. They continue to engage with local politicians and stakeholders to secure long-term access to the site—and to explore opportunities for potential relocation to ensure the sustainability of Scouting in Biggleswade for the next 20–30 years.

The Group is part of The Scout Association and receives guidance and support from the local district (Biggleswade and District), county (Bedfordshire), regional, and national teams. Trustees also take into account the guidance and best practices issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our charitable purpose is to support young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual potential as individuals, responsible citizens, and members of their local, national, and global communities.

We meet the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements under both the advancement of education and the promotion of citizenship and community development.

In 2024, membership grew slightly from 188 to 191.

The Group currently offers:

- 3 Beaver Colonies (ages 6–8)
- 3 Cub Packs (ages 8–10½)
- 2 Scout Troops (ages 10½–14)

We also work in partnership with Phoenix Explorers (ages 14–18), a District-led Explorer Scout Unit.

Together with Phoenix we provide a developmental programme for over 200 young people in and around Biggleswade, through:

- Weekly term-time meetings
- Day trips throughout the year
- Opportunities to participate in residential experiences

This programme is built around three key themes:

- **Outdoors and Adventure**
- **World**
- **Skills**

The Group is run entirely by dedicated volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting remains vibrant in Biggleswade, with all sections operating at or near capacity. Our Beaver Colonies continue to be in high demand: 9 young people are eligible to join but are awaiting places, and over 52 more are registered on our waiting list for future years.

Across all sections, the Group delivered over **540 hours of activity** throughout the year—translating to more than **120,000 hours of personal development** delivered to local young people.

Achievement was evident in the large number of **Chief Scout Awards** presented across all age sections, reflecting the commitment of both our youth and volunteers.

Fundraising Events

- **East Anglia Air Ambulance - £2200 fundraised by Irwin Scouts**
- **Easy Fundraising - £232.73 to group funds**
- **Online Giving - £0.07 to group funds**

As Biggleswade continues to expand, with new housing and school developments on the east and north sides of town, our Group faces the ongoing challenge of scaling up provision to meet growing demand.

The trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all our Leaders, helpers, parents, guardians, and—most importantly—our young people for their energy, time, and dedication throughout the year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2025

Receipts	31 Mar 25	31 Mar 24
Membership Subscriptions	27,093.28	26,804.48
Residential Experiences and Trips	24,969.88	27,400.73
Activities	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	1,395.07	531.42
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	2,840.67	3,059.57
Rent	504.00	252.00
Gift Aid	4,403.64	3,356.48
Other	242.50	385.20
Total Receipts	61,449.04	61,789.88
Payments	31 Mar 25	31 Mar 24
Scout Association Capitation	12,852.00	12,825.00
Residential Experiences and Trips	25,980.19	29,336.65
Activities	6,621.07	2,991.18
Fundraising Costs	0.00	744.50
Headquarters -Utilities	2,017.21	1,374.21
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	2,636.94	1,027.49
Headquarters Improvements	4,589.21	0.00
Leader Uniform	518.09	439.70
Insurance	2,496.31	52.00
Rent	991	968.00
Equipment	1,116.94	610.72
Resources (including Badges)	2,191.84	2,095.90
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00
Donations	2,220	20.00
Other	685.24	2757.37
Total Payments	64,916.04	55,242.72
Net Receipts/Payments	(3,467.00)	6,547.16
Cash Funds Last year end	78,370.15	71,822.99
Cash Funds this year end	74,903.15	78,370.15

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2025

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 25	31 Mar 24
Bank Current Accounts	27,590.08	61,926.26
Bank Deposit Accounts	47,217.09	16,348.01
Cash in Hand	95.98	95.88
Total	74,903.15	71,822.99

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2025

This was another successful year for the Group. We had a small deficit this year, mainly down to last year's annual insurance being paid late and coming into this financial year and headquarters improvements approved by the Trustees, paid out of the reserves built up from previous year's fundraising. We continue to have a very healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Up this year due to an increase in the subscriptions rate agreed by the Executive Committee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Only small amounts of fundraising this year for the Scout Group. This figure also includes fundraising by Irwin Scout Troop for East Anglian Air Ambulance of £2,188.45.

Rent – Rent received from Rainbows for using our Headquarters. This includes £108 payment for last year's rent, which was received this financial year.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We submitted a claim for 2023-24 this year.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2023/24 this was £12,825 which is slightly more than it was in 2022/23 due to an increase in the Capitation Fee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds, this is zero as we have not actively undertaken any fundraising activities this year, due to a shortage of volunteers.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Group's Headquarters and its grounds. Higher this year due to a small increase in cleaning costs and some urgent maintenance tasks to replace the rear fire door and replace the garage door. These were both imperative from a safety and security perspective.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. Projects completed this year were acoustic panels fitted to the ceiling to reduce noise and improve the quality of meetings; and a complete re-configure/re-fit of the back stores, improving safety and

inventory/stock control, bringing section resources together into a single group store.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group’s volunteers and provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping equipment owned by the Scout Group. Due to the proximity of the renewal date to the end of financial year, 2 annual payments were receipted into this financial year.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment. This year it included some racking and storage boxes for group equipment as well as section purchases from donations received.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc. Purchase of Activity and Challenge Badges to present to the young people.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them. None claimed.

Donations - donations made by the Group or Sections to other Charities. This year it included the donation from Irwin Scout Troop to East Anglian Air Ambulance of £2,188.45.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

Cash in Hand – Includes a Group float for fundraising events and small amounts of cash In Neptune and Jupiter Cub Packs.

In addition to the current assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2025, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name

Leigh Wood

Position

Group Chairperson

Date

24 June 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on page 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;
 - have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 08/12/2025

Name:

Kim Clegg FCMA CGMA

Address:

1 Meadowsweet Close, Lower Cambourne, CB23 6ET

Apollo Beavers Annual Report

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic!
Thanks to all the volunteer leaders and helpers who have assisted us this year.
If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our Section, please let us know.

Badges

6 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 4 Adventure,
7 Outdoors, 7 Personal, 1 Skills,
11 Teamwork, 3 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Builder,
Collector, Communicator

Staged Badges: Air Activities, Digital
Citizen, Nights Away, Swimmer

April 2024

District St Georges Day Event at Boyd Field Campsite. Air Activities and Guinness World Records.

May 2024

District Teddy Bears Picnic. Forest Bathing at Deepdale.

June 2024

Raft Racing and Fishing at Moggerhanger.

July 2024

Group Beaver Camp at Screen's Activity Park. Baulk Wood, Music Evening with Ukuleles and Water Games Night.

September 2024

Paralympics, Outdoor Games and Treasurer Hunt

October 2024

District Wild West Fun Day. Communicator Activity badge. Visit to Biggleswade Fire Station

November 2024

Autumn Leaves, Remembrance and started Creative Activity Badges

December 2024

Finished Creative Activity Badge and celebrated Christmas.

January 2025

Burns Night

February 2025

Digital Citizen and Photographer

March 2025

Space Sleepover at Haverings with Gemini. Football, Skills Challenge, Gardener and visit to Biggleswade Library.

Gemini Beavers Annual Report

The Gemini Beaver Colony has had a fantastic year filled with creativity, adventure, and teamwork. From science experiments and outdoor hikes to festive crafts and community visits, our Beavers have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Huge thanks to our parent volunteers and local partners — your support made it all possible. If you'd like to help next year, we'd love to welcome you. Come join the fun!

April 2024

🤡 *Let's All Laugh* – Joke sharing, Guinness World Records, and fun facts; 🌱 *Plant, Plant, Plant* – Exploring seeds and growing things; *St Georges Day Celebrations*.

May 2024

🍽️ *Mexican Food Night* – Tasting and learning about Mexican cuisine; 🚶 *Walk and Explore* – Local adventure from Saxon Gate; 🌻 *Community Gardening* – Hands-on session with Biggleswade Gardening Group; 🎨 *Let's Get Creative* – Arts and crafts; *Teddy Bears Picnic* with our District friends

June 2024

🌍 *Here and Abroad* – Exploring cultures and geography; 🏰 *Church Visit* – Tour of Biggleswade Baptist Church; 🛡️ *Better Safe Than Sorry* – Safety awareness session

July 2024

🏗️ *Build It Strong and High* – Construction challenge; 🎮 *Games Night* – Early start for group games; 🚀 *Out of This World* – Space-themed fun
Biggleswade Scout Group Beaver Camp - fun with all the colonies!

September 2024

🎮 *Welcome Back Fun* – Reconnecting through games; 🗺️ *Treasure Chest Hunt* – Outdoor challenge at Kings Reach; 🎨 *Let's Get Creative (Part 1)* – Planning and preparation; 🎨 *Let's Get Creative (Part 2)* – Building and show & tell

October 2024

🗺️ *Navigator* – Map skills and direction-finding; 🧠 *Blow My Mind* – Surprising facts and challenges; 🗣️ *Team Challenges* – Communication and cooperation;

Badges

4 Beavers achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: Adventure, Outdoors, Skills, Personal, Teamwork, World

Activity Badges: Bookreader; Builder; Camp Craft; Creative; Experiment; Explore; Faith; Gardener; Health and Fitness; Hobbies; International; Photographer; Safety; Sports; Space; **Staged Badges:** Emergency Aid; Navigator; Nights Away

241 Badges have been awarded

🎃 *Halloween Craft Night* – Spooky costumes and crafts; *Wild West Adventure Day*

November 2024

🥋 *Tae Kwon Do Visit* – Martial arts introduction; 🧩 *Task Night* – Fun puzzles and challenges; 🏠 *Activities at the Hut* – Indoor games and crafts; *Remembrance Parade* - so proud of how good they were

December 2024

🆘 *Help Help Help* – Learning to ask for help; 🍪 *Crazy Christmas Cooking* – Festive treats; 🎄 *Christmas Party* – Celebration in full festive dress; *Christmas Panto* - Snow White and the seven witches

January 2025

🥋 *Fencing Fun* – Introduction to fencing; 🚔 *Police Visit* – Community safety; 🍷 *Let's Think Food* – Healthy choices

February 2025

🧠 *Children's Mental Health Week* – Wellbeing activities; ✨ *Star Gazing & Hike* – Nature and wonder; 🔬 *Science Night* – Experiments and discovery

March 2025

🎮 *Let's Play* – Games from across the UK; 🔥 *Campfire Cooking* – Outdoor cooking and fire safety; 🧼 *Let's Keep It Clean* – Hygiene and environmental care; 🌸 *Mother's Day Crafts* – Handmade gifts for loved ones; *Space Themed Sleepover* - was out of this world!

Mercury Beavers Annual Report



Badges

8 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 10 Adventure, 9 Outdoors, 8 Personal, 7 Skills, 8 Teamwork, 12 World

Activity Badges: Book Reader, Camp, craft, Cook, Cyclist, Disability Awareness Experiment, Explore, Hobbies, Sports, Space,

Staged Badges: Emergency Aid, Nautical Skills, Navigator, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Time on water, Swimmer, Hikes, Nights Away

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic! Thanks to all the volunteer leaders, young leaders and parent helpers who have assisted us this year. If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2024

We participated in the District St Georges Day Event aBoyd. We made Paper mache Piñata's and had real Mexican food cooked by a Beavers visiting "Abulita" Granny in Spanish, who shared her culture with us.

May 2024

We had our 1st Indoor Castaway sleepover of the year at Bromham Lodge. We joined in the Districts Teddy Bears Picnic. We took part in climbing and Soft Axe throwing at Boyd.

June 2024

We learnt to put up tents, 2nd part of climbing and axe throwing and a Young Leader led a design and build night.

July 2024

We learnt fencing and became pirates and had a fun Games night with Gemini Beavers.

September 2024

We took part in a Water Activity day. Learned to cycle, and built marbles runs from recycling.

October 2024

We had a fun Experiment night, Disability Awareness and Faith Badge work.

November 2024

Some more faith badge work. We took part in the Remembrance Parade. We had our 2nd Indoor Sleepover of the year at Little Wymonley. The theme was Space camp and Bronze award work. We had great fun at Laser tag and celebrated St Andrews Day.

December 2024

We did some more Disability Awareness badge work and had Christmas craft fun and our Party.

January 2025

Bird feeders made, Chinese New year and food tasting.

February 2025

A Young Leader, led the cooking night. We had pancake fun and taste test them too,

March 2025

We celebrated the 6 nations rugby and built a robot out of recycling, learnt knots and how to light a fire with a flint and steel.

Jupiter Cubs Annual Report



Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to all the cubs for making it a fantastic year.

April 2024: The cubs were welcomed back for the summer term, and enjoyed a hike at Baulk Wood. Plus the district visit to Whipsnade Zoo.

May 2024: The cubs started May with a sports day towards their athletics badge, then got green fingered gardening, before a campfire to finish the half term.

June 2024: The months started with water activity day – which all thoroughly. The cubs then got active, having a go at climbing, tomahawks and pedal-karting at Boyd. A visit to Dunton Community Garden was also made to find more out about what they do. The cubs finished month by taking part in the Group Cub Camp.

July 2024: The cubs had a go at rafting and finished the term pond dipping at Stotfold mill.

September 2024: The cubs had a go at rifle shooting and competed against their friends with a conkers night. They finished the month at the District Cub Camp.

October 2024: The cub shared presentations for their personal challenges and visited pets at home to learn about their animals. They also learnt about the day of the dead for their international badge.

November 2024: The cubs finished off their animal carer badge making posters and tried lots of interesting foods at an international food night. started their science badge and went on the annual trip to the pantomime in Stevenage. The cubs were also present at the Remembrance Day Parade.

December 2024: Christmas was celebrated well, with an evening making Norwegian Christmas decorations and the traditional Christmas party to finish the year.

January 2025: The cubs took part in the annual Jupiter Bowling Competition and took their annual trip to the pantomime in Stevenage. The cubs learnt about how astronauts live and celebrated Chinese New Year.

February 2025: The cubs spent February undertaking their chef's badge and learning more about stars and space.. They also had loads of fun on Frosty Camp at Bromham and had a go at go-karting at the district event.

March 2025: March started with pancake night, before learning more about satellites and going on a night hike at Baulk Wood.

Badges

5 Chiefs Scouts Silvers Awards

Challenge Badges: 9 Adventure,
18 Outdoors, 10 Personal, 8 Skills
1 Team Leader, 5 Teamwork and 14
World

Activity
Animal Carer, Artist, Backwoods Cooking,
Chef, Gardener, International

Staged
Time on the Water, Nights away, Paddle
sports

Neptune Cubs Annual Report

I would like to thank Nick, Lucy, Lorraine and Harry for their involvement and support with running the pack during the last twelve months.

Eddie Fuller (Akela)

April 2024: Cubs and Leaders took part in a night hike starting in Langford and walking to Henlow before returning to Langford. Our Young Leader organised a challenge night.

May 2024: We paid a visit to Dunton Community Garden where Cubs were given a tour and learnt about the various plants growing. A fitness night was held with the Cubs doing various activities to help with fitness. Preparations were made for a camp. We made a visit to "Pets at Home" in Bedford where the Cubs were able to see various pets and talk to staff about keeping them.

June 2024: A number of Cubs and leaders attended a camp at the Phasels Wood campsite and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had our annual "Float the Boats" evening on the River Ivel, before which, Cubs had to make boats using any materials at their disposal. We visited Penrose Court and had a campfire sing-along with the residents and staff.

July 2024: Cubs spent an evening of activity earning their athletics badge. A visit was made to Boyd Field and the Cubs had an evening Paddle Boarding. We had an evening of Ten Pin Bowling at Eat'n bowl for Cubs and family members.

September 2024: We worked on personal and skills challenge badges for two evenings this month. A camp for parents and Cubs was held at the Leslie Sell Activity Centre in Bromham.

October 2024: Cubs and parents took part in a hike. We visited St Andrew's Parish Church where Cubs were told about various items in the Church and what they were used for. We held a

Badges

3 Chiefs Scouts Silvers Awards

Challenge Badges: 5 Adventure,
11 Outdoors, 18 Personal, 4 Skills
2 Team Leader, 3 Teamwork and 6 World

Activity: Artist, Athletics, Backwoods Cooking, Chef, Cyclist, Disability Awareness, DIY, Entertainer, Gardener, Hobbies, Local Knowledge, Money Skills

Staged: Community Impact, Emergency Aid, Hikes, Nights away, Swimmer

thanksgiving evening. An evening was devoted to working towards earning badges relating to Fire Safety and First Aid.

November 2024: Our annual fireworks evening was held where Cubs were instructed on safety, and we had a firework display. Armstrong Scouts visited the pack and organised an evening of various activities. One evening was spent brushing up on First Aid Skills. The pack took part in the town's Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

December 2024: We spent time preparing for a visit to Penrose Court to present a Christmas Carol evening. This was enjoyed by all. We had our annual Christmas Party with games and eats.

January 2025: An evening of learning various knots, what they were used for and how to tie them took place. We had a cooking night during which the Cubs had to prepare ingredients and then cook and eat them. Working for a Digital Citizen Badge, we had an evening of talking and learning about on-line safety.

February 2025: We spent time learning about Home Safety, carrying out various tasks and discussing the consequences of certain things happening. Two evenings were spent with the theme of money skills. Things learnt included how to exchange currency and how to avoid trouble.

March 2025: By popular request we had another cooking night where Cubs had to prepare, cook and eat the meal as well as doing the washing up. We celebrated a Hindu Festival. A night hike was held, and we made gifts for Mothering Sunday.

Saturn Cubs Annual Report

What a year it's been! Our Cubs have run, climbed, cooked, explored, paddled, and laughed their way through another action-packed twelve months. Enormous thanks to our incredible Cub leaders, tireless volunteers, supportive families, and of course—our awesome Cubs! You've made every moment magical. *"I loved the rafting and the Hogwarts Camp—it was like a real adventure!"* – Cub Scout

If you'd like to get involved next year, we'd love to welcome new helpers—especially a Cub Team Leader. Drop us a message and join the fun!

April 2024 – Nature & Community

Nature Night at Priory Park 🌳
Town Centre Neighbourhood Quiz 🧠
Visit to Whipsnade Zoo 🐼
St George's Day Celebrations ✨

May 2024 – Into the Wild

Backwoods cooking at Boyd (who knew Cubs could toast marshmallows like pros?); Hike at Baulk Wood with boots, maps, and muddy knees!

June 2024 – Outdoor Games & Camp

Cricket and Cave Bus fun
Giant Bubble Wands 🌈
Fishing Taster Session 🎣; Summer Cub Camp for all cub sections 🏕️

July 2024 – Splash & Dash

Olympic-style Athletics Night 🏅
Rafting at Boyd—soaked but smiling!
The “Krypton Factor” challenge finale
Water day at Grafton Water 💧

September 2024 – Food & Fire Alarms!

International Food Night (so many flavours!)
“Getting to Know You” for our newest Cubs
Visit to Stotfold Mill... complete with a surprise fire alarm 🔔
District Cub Camp with friends

Badges

2 Cubs achieved Silver Award

2 Scottish Thistle Award

Challenge Badges: Adventure, Outdoors, Skills, World Activity Badges; Artist, Collector, Entertainer, Sports Enthusiast, World Faiths, Disability Awareness; Digital Citizen;

Staged Badges: Hikes; Nights Away; Paddle Sports; Swimmer;

157 Badges have been awarded!

October 2024 – Circus & Celebrations

Trip to the Circus 🎪
“Chippy Tea” night 🍷
Day of the Dead crafts & colour 🕸️
Biggleswade Fire Station visit 🚒

November 2024 – Sparks & Service

Campfire Night at Boyd 🔥
Collectors Badge Challenge 📁
Rifle Shooting 🎯
Participating proudly in Remembrance Day

December 2024 – Festive Fun

Night Hike beneath the stars 🌌
Christmas Crafts 🎄
End-of-year Party

January 2025 – Starry-eyed Adventures

Stargazing with Cambridge Astronomers 🔭
Skills Night
Chinese New Year Celebrations 🧧
Peter Pan Pantomime (oh yes we did!)

February 2025 – Magic & Momentum

Hogwarts Camp 🏰
Problem Solving Night 🧩
Astronomer Part 1 📖
Go-Karting Success – Saturn Cub Team placed top 3! 🏆

March 2025 – Egg-cellent Endings

Pancake Flipping Madness 🥞
Night Hike #2 🌙
Astronomer Part 2
Mother's Day Crafts 🌸
Easter Egg Fun at Boyd

Armstrong Scouts Annual Report

April 24 Took advantage of the better weather to practice tent pitching and how to make different shaped shelters with a tarpaulin. World badge volunteering at Boyd by tree planting.

May 24 Looked at the importance of different food types and the effect of additives to processed foods. Developed a health balanced menu for camp. Completed the Meteorologist badge looking at weather patterns and learning cloud shapes.

June 24 Inter patrol team cooking challenge. Had a quiz evening and drew up posters to advertise for new leaders. Rubbish challenge evening where theme was "Forts" and defending them from attacking patrols.



July 24 Climbing evening at Boyd. Final bash games evening and BBQ at Boyd including a very hotly contested Scouts vs adults tug of war. Joint Summer Camp with Irwin which was brilliant.

September 24 Lots of team building with our new scouts and challenges to develop our new patrol leaders. Scout lead troop forum to discuss behaviours and responsibilities. Looked at kit for camp and food hygiene and preparation plus some cooking on stoves.

October 24 Gold award scouts lead and evenings demonstrating camp kit selection, rucksack packing and tent pitching. Developed skills with maps and route plotting. Had a great evening on Digital Citizen badge and how to be internet aware and joined Scouts UK on the Jamboree On The Internet where we contacted 22 different countries.

Badges (total 169)

Gold Award 5

Challenge Badges: 3 Adventure, 5 Creative, 5 Expedition, 5 Outdoors, 4 Personal, 6 Skills, 5 Team Leader, 3 Teamwork, 5 World

Activity and staged badges total 128: Climber, Craft, Entertainer, Fundraising, Local knowledge, Meteorologist, Emergency Aid, Hikes, Nautical Skills, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Time on the water

November 24 Had an interesting evening learning what happened on Armistice Day and attended Remembrance Parade. The troop visited Neptune Cubs for the evening where we had some great games and then the scouts instructed the cubs in setting up camp stoves.

December 24 Studied Survival skills and how to keep dry. Practical evening on survival first aid. Final bash Karting and final evening eating Pizza.

January 25 Great time at Frosty Camp with 27 Scouts!! Lots of fun activities and a film night. Had a games evening and Forum. Practical evening on the Creative challenge badge building mini camp sites. Out and about around Biggleswade with a local knowledge quiz.



February 25 Started the Personal and Leaders challenges and had a decorative pancake competition. Had evenings on the countryside code and how to navigate without maps.

March 25 Brilliant month doing Scientists badge, teamwork challenges and getting lost around Biggleswade (with parent help!). The scouts had a great quiz evening walking round Sandy.

Irwin Scouts Annual Report



Badges

7 Scouts achieved Gold Award

Challenge Badges: 2 Adventure, 23 Creative, 6 Expedition, 2 Outdoors, 5 Personal, 5 Skills, 7 Team Leader, 11 Teamwork, 17 World

Activity Badges: Outdoor in 24, YouShape Award, Climber, Entertainer, Fundraiser, Local Knowledge, Master at Arms, Media Relations, Musician,

Staged Badges: Hikes, Musician Nights Away, Time on the Water.

Irwin has had another busy year, with 423 badges being awarded over this period. One highlight to mention that Scouts should be particularly proud of themselves with is their fundraising efforts this year. **We raised an incredible £2,200 for East Anglian Air Ambulance** after several nights of prep then being given the challenge over summer to raise a tenner each! Well done! The team would like to thank parents for their support, Sue T for admin, Helen for badgework and our strong Young Leader team (Dylan, James, Laila & Neve). who are an integral part of Irwin.

Jerome, Big D, David, Faraz, Oliver & Pete – Irwin Leadership team

April 2024: Young Leader Dylan gave us a whistle-stop tour of all the badges Squirrels could earn, some orienteering and learning about Bedfordshire. We camped with District Scouts for their St Georges Day fun weekend.

May 2024: A great night at Fit4OCR obstacle course near Baldock and a night getting to know the Irwin Scouts and leaders.

June 2024: Our Patrol Leaders ran a night on their own, we learned about Eid and sampled some food as well as a incident hike from Dunton. We also joined Phoenix and Sandy at Box End Aqua park for inflatable fun.

July 2024: A community night at Boyd doing jobs such as painting and cleaning, as well as end of term fun Go-karting at Letchworth.

Summer 2024: Joined with Armstrong Scouts for a joint Summer Camp in Thriftwood Essex. SUPs, Climbing, inflatables and minigolf. A day to Southend beach, Sealife & the roller coasters and a day in London to the Twist Museum, a river cruise and A-Z tourist quiz.

September 2024: Rafting in the dark, tent pitching and pioneering. We came 2nd in the District Raft Race.

October 2024: We welcomed the EAAA charity volunteers to an evening of first aid and presentations, awarding some prizes for some super fundraising.

November 2024: Cooking at Boyd, Knife skills as well as our Irwin-at-Arms competition of Shooting and Axe Throwing. We also joined Armstrong at The Bigg Theatre to watch the Summer camp video. We also had our Gold camp, 5 Scouts took part over 20 miles, getting stuck in a swamp and needing rescuing!

December 2024: Completing the Biggleswade Monopoly Run, as well as creating Christmas Crafts and a xmas party. End of year fun was with parents watching the MK Ice Hockey game. We also congratulated Pete and Young Leader James for both receiving a Commendation Award from District Lead Tracey for their hard work at Scouts.

January 2025: A 2-week cooking challenge, as well as continuing to work on our World badge and have a troop forum for the year plans. Our Frosty camp was music themed, making instruments, Boomwackers, Podcasting, band t-shirts, as well as a silent DISCO and snow fight!

February 2025: This month was themed around Skills, including morse code and shelter building. We ran a Mini-gold camp for a few of our Scouts.

March 2025: A challenge night in town, as well as important chip shop survey research! We had a Challenge Camp where they brought their food and a gift for the leader, before getting on the train to setup and cook. We also welcomed Oliver to the leadership team.

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300444

Accounts



Biggleswade Scout Group

Trustees Report and Annual Review

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



**Registered in England and
Wales Charity No 300444**

Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle

Tel 07779 817529

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Group Chairperson — Leigh Wood

Tel 07771 785454

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Group Treasurer — Lucy Courtney

Tel 07834 176128

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Group Secretary — Lorraine Bennetts

Tel 07398 182511

Email lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Scout Leader	Sue Doyle
Deputy Group Scout Leader	Chris Wells
Treasurer	Lucy Courtney
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Brian Lawson
Irwin Scout Leader	Jerome Doyle
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Mercury Beaver Leader	Jane Thompson
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
	Nick Gurney
	Helen Kingerley

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address
The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Biggleswade Scout Group is a registered charity, governed by our Constitution, Declaration of Trust made on 17 April 1962 and also the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association UK (April 2022).

The Group Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in the Scout Group. It is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. The Group Council consists of all adult volunteers and supporters, along with the parents of all youth members.

The Group is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are appointed and elected from the Group Council. It is their responsibility to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. This includes maintenance of the Group's property and equipment, raising funds and managing the Group's finances, insurance of persons, property and equipment and assisting with recruitment of leaders and other adult support. All new trustees undergo training mandated by the Scout Association.

The trustees regularly consider major risks and are currently undertaking a programme of works to maintain and improve the facilities at Biggleswade Scouts Headquarters. We continue to lobby local politicians in an effort to secure Scouting in Biggleswade for the next 20-30 years for both access to our existing premises and to consider the possibility of a new venue.

The Group is part of the Scout Association UK and as such is guided and supported by the local Scouting District, Biggleswade and District, by the local county, Bedfordshire, by the Regional Team and by the national team for the Scout Associations based at Gilwell.

As a registered charity the trustees also give due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable Objectives are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Membership for the year 2024 was up slightly from 2023. From 188 to 191.

Biggleswade Scout Group currently runs 3 Beaver Colonies (age 6-8), 3 Cub Packs (ages 8-10.5), 2 Scout Troops (ages 10.5-14) and has a partnership agreement with the district Explorer Unit – Phoenix Explorers (ages 14-18).

We provide a programme of personal development for 223 young people aged between 6 and 18 years old who live in and around the market town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

This programme consists of regular weekly meetings during term time, a number of day trips throughout the year and the opportunity to take part in residential experiences. The programme is based around three themes: -

- Outdoors and Adventure
- World

- Skills

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting continues to be very popular in Biggleswade with all sections running on or near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have 9 young people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over a further 52 plus people on the waiting list who are not yet old enough to start.

Through our sections we have successfully delivered a programme of personal development consisting of over 540 hours of activities in a year to our 223 young people—this is over 120,000 hours of personal development for young people in the local area.

We know that our young people are engaging and benefiting from this development by a significant number of Chief Scouts Awards that have been presented this year— the highest recognition of a young person's achievement in each section.

Fundraising events

- Quiz Night 2024 was enjoyed by 71 people and raised £882.25
- Amazon Smile raised £58.94
- Recycle4Charity raised £4.50

Grants

- Taylor Wimpey £1500 – towards fitting out our stores

Biggleswade continues to grow with more housing development on the east and north side of the town. School intakes within the town are increasing with expansions of existing schools and the addition of new schools. This growth represents a significant challenge for an already large Scout Group and we are looking for ways to ensure we can meet the challenge.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, helpers, Parents/Guardians and the young people themselves for all their hard work over this past year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2024

Receipts	31 Mar 24	31 Mar 23
Membership Subscriptions	26,804.48	24,462.26
Residential Experiences and Trips	27,400.73	24,190.98
Activities	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	531.42	185.48
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	3,059.57	3,649.16
Rent	252.00	416.00
Gift Aid	3,356.48	2,475.04
Other	385.20	962.80
Total Receipts	61,789.88	56,341.72

Payments	31 Mar 24	31 Mar 23
Scout Association Capitation	12,825.00	12,265.00
Residential Experiences and Trips	29,336.65	23,468.73
Activities	2,991.18	4,674.92
Fundraising Costs	744.50	923.75
Headquarters -Utilities	1,374.21	1,469.06
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	1,027.49	1,343.54
Headquarters Improvements	0.00	0.00
Leader Uniform	439.70	24.00
Insurance	52.00	1,110.81
Rent	968.00	1,034.00
Equipment	610.72	907.23
Resources (including Badges)	2,095.90	2,964.64
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00
Donations	20.00	2,270.80
Other	2757.37	1,269.81
Total Payments	55,242.72	53,726.29

Net Receipts/Payments	6,547.16	2,615.43
Cash Funds Last year end	71,822.99	69,207.56
Cash Funds this year end	78,370.15	71,822.99

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2024

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 24	31 Mar 23
Bank Current Accounts	61,926.26	56,567.94
Bank Deposit Accounts	16,348.01	15,145.01
Cash in Hand	95.88	110.04

Total

78,370.15

71,822.99

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2024

This was another successful year for the Group. We made a surplus this year—mainly down to our Fundraising Events and the annual insurance being paid late and coming into the next financial year. We continue to have a very healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Up this year due to an increase in the subscriptions rate agreed by the Executive Committee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Shows the income generated through fund raising activities. This year this was mainly from events— Quiz Night—and a donation from Taylor Wimpey.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We submitted a claim for 2022-23 this year.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2023/24 this was £12,825 which is slightly more than it was in 2022/23 due to an increase in the Capitation Fee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Groups Headquarters and its grounds.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. There have not been any improvements this year.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group’s volunteers and provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping equipment

owned by the Scout Group.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc. Purchase of Activity and Challenge Badges to present to the young people.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them.

Donations - donations made by the Group or Sections to other Charities.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

In addition to the cash assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2024, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name

Leigh Wood

Position

Group Chairperson

Date

22 July 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on page 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;
 - have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 24/08/2024

Name:

Kim Clegg FCMA CGMA

Address:

1 Meadowsweet Close, Lower Cambourne, CB23 6ET

Apollo Beavers Annual Report



Badges

7 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 21 Adventure, 4 Outdoors, 9 Personal, 11 Skills, 15 Teamwork, 14 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Book Reader, Builder, Experiment, Explore, Faith, Hobbies, International, Money Skills, Photographer, Space,

Staged Badges: Air Activities, Emergency Aid, Hikes, Nights Away

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic!

Thanks to all the volunteer leaders and helpers who have assisted us this year.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2023

We started this year with an evening in Dunton and meeting Lorraine's Pony. We also did 2 weeks working towards our Navigator Activity Badge,

May 2023

In May we celebrated the Coronation with our own Street Party. We did an interesting evening on Archaeology and finished with walk to Broom East Conservation Area.

June 2023

In June we really enjoyed camping at the Bigg Weekender – and thanks to all the parents that supported this event. We also did an evening of Tracking and Shelter Building at Baulk Wook and worked towards our Builder Activity Badge.

July 2023

We enjoyed an evening at Stotfold Mill doing Pond Dipping. We also held our, now annual, Water challenges and Water Fight at Boyd Field Campsite.

September 2023

We made the most of the light evenings in September with 3 weeks at the Campsite doing Climbing, Tomahawks and Backwoods Cooking.

October 2023

During our weekly meetings we made Bee Hotels and did an evening of activities for the International

Activity Badge. We also had a great evening at Biggleswade Rugby Club.

Our Beavers really enjoyed attending the District Beaver and Squirrel Pirate Funday at Boyd Field Campsite.

November 2023

We focussed on getting our Emergency Aid Level 1 Activity Badge.

December 2023

We had a great evening exploring Space and the Beavers performed their very own Panto.

January 2024

We completed the Money Skills Activity Badge and invited the Beavers to bring along their favourite Board Games for a games night.

February 2024

We had a visit from the Police Community Support Officer, we made Pancakes and had a Marble Olympics

March 2024

The Beavers really enjoyed our Dinosaur themed Sleepover. We spent an evening learning about Structures, had a taster of Tae-Kwon-Do, and celebrated Easter

Gemini Beavers Annual Report



Badges

10 Beavers achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 13 Adventure, 3 Outdoors, 22 Personal, 12 Skills, 13 Teamwork, 4 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Cook, Creative, Cyclist, Experiment, Explore, Global Issues, Health and Fitness, Money Skills, Sports

Staged Badges: Digital Citizen, Hikes, Nights Away, Swimmer

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic!

Thanks to all the volunteer leaders and helpers who have assisted us this year.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2023

We had a visit from the Police Community Support Officer and the Beavers chose their Personal Challenge.

May 2023

We had our own Coronation Party. We did an evening where we covered lots of different badge requirements and also an evening about endangered animals where we made masks.

June 2023

The Beavers had a fantastic time at Bigg Weekender – a District Jamboree – where we got to do loads of different activities. We also had an evening about Fairtrade and went to visit the Biggleswade Rugby Club.

July 2023

We did a junk modelling night where we made shelters and we finished the term off with a night of fun and games at the local park.

September 2023

We found out all about our bodies and personal hygiene. We did an evening on Space and an evening on fitness. We finished the month off by earning out Air Activities Badge.

October 2023

We had a great evening on our Bikes and an evening making healthy Snacks. The Beavers had an amazing time at the Pirate Themed Beaver and Squirrel District Fun Day at Boyd Field Campsite.

November 2023

We had a visit from the Inflatable Planetarium and learnt all about the Stars and Constallations. We made out own aircraft and earnt our Money Skills Badge.

December 2023

We had an evening imagining we were superheroes, held a family quiz night and finished off the term with lots of Xmas fun.

January 2024

We had an interesting evening earning our Experiment Activity Badge and also had an evening finding out about the Winter Olympic Games.

February 2024

The Beavers brought their favourite board games along for an evening, we spent an evening learning Scouting skills and an evening making sweets.

March 2024

We enjoyed our Minecraft themed Sleepover at Leslie Sell Activity Centre with our friends from Apollo Beavers.

Mercury Beavers Annual Report



Badges

16 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 15 Adventure, 14 Outdoors, 9 Personal, 15 Skills, 15 Teamwork, 10 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Book Reader, Builder, Camp Craft, Collector, Cook, Creative, Cyclist, Experiment, Explore, Faith, Gardener, Global Issues, Health and Fitness, International, Photographer, Safety, Space, Sports,

Staged Badges: Digital Citizen, Emergency Aid, Hikes, Musician, Nautical Skills, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Swimmer, Time on the Water

Thank you to the leadership team at Mercury Beavers, Explorer Young Leaders, our parent helpers and of course to the Beavers for making this another great year full of learning and laughter. If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section, please let us know.

April 2023

We conquered the climbing wall at Boyd and made Marshmallow Catapults.

May 2023

We celebrated the Kings Coronation. Had fun at our annual indoor sleepover at Bromham, learnt our Green Cross code and went on a tree identification hike at Baulk Walk.

June 2023

We took part in the District BigWeekender sleepover, Safety Badge work and water themed games night as it was so hot.

July 2023

We had fun in the new Franklin Rec play equipment and making up our own games.

September 2023

We had fun at a water Activity Day at Luton Hoo, made pitta pizzas and completed Emergency First Aid.

October 2023

We learned to light fires with a "flint & steel" at

Boyd and completed a paper clue Treasure Island escape room to learn how to solve problems.

November 2023

We had the Harpur Trust School Planetarium come to the hut. Took part in Remembrance Day. We had our annual indoor winter sleepover. We also had a coach from FC Biggleswade Youth Football team come in and teach ball skills.

December 2023

We had fun doing Christmas crafts and games.

January 2024

Worked on our Digital Citizen, made bird feeders for the RSBP Big Garden Bird watch.

February 2024

Soft archery and crossbows. Celebrated Chinese New Year and had Pancake fun.

March 2024

We started on the Navigator badge, World Book Day fun and Easter cooking.

Jupiter Cubs Annual Report



Badges

2 Chiefs Scouts Silvers Awards

Challenge Badges: 7 Adventure , 3
Outdoors, 7 Personal, 12 Skills
7 Team Leader, 6 Teamwork and 4 World

Activity

Artist, Athletics, Backwoods Cooking, Chef,
DIY, Scientist

Staged

Hikes, Nautical Skills, Navigator, Time on
the Water, Nights away, Paddle sports,
Sailing

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to all the cubs for making it a fantastic year.

April 2023: The summer term started with a night of fun and games and participation in a drawing competition.

May 2023: The cubs celebrated the coronation and had a laser tag night in Letchworth.

June 2023: The cubs took part in a sports day for the athletics badge and had a go at cricket. They also joined the rest of Biggleswade at the Big Weekender.

July 2023: Wednesday evenings were spent at Boyd, having a go at pedal karting and rafting. The cubs also took part in the Water Activity Day at Grafham Water.

September 2023: The cubs put their chef skills to the test making pizza swirls and competed against their friends with a conkers night. Some of the cubs also went to sixer and seconder camp.

October 2023: October was spent completing some badge requirements with a pic n mix night

and listening to each other's personal challenge presentations. The cubs also took part in the District Hike.

November 2023: The cubs started their science badge and went on the annual trip to the pantomime in Stevenage. The cubs were also present at the Remembrance Day Parade.

December 2023: The science badge was completed with an engineering challenge and the cubs had a fun Christmas night.

January 2024: The cubs took part in the annual Jupiter Bowling Competition and completed their Stage 2 Navigation Badge.

February 2024: The cubs spent February celebrating Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. They also had loads of fun on Frosty Camp at Bromham.

March 2024: Hard work was put into making Bug Houses to complete their DIY Badge.

Neptune Cubs Annual Report



Can I take this opportunity to record my thanks to the team of Nick, Lucy, Lorraine and Harry for their help and support and to anyone else who has helped the pack in any way during the year.
Eddie Fuller (Akela)

April 2023: During this month we concentrated on team building and this culminated in a trip to Boyd Field Henlow where teams had to collect materials to build a small fire and then they were able to cook bread dough and marshmallows.

May 2023: This being Coronation month we had a coronation party including games. Our Mums and Cubs camp was held this month although our water activity was not possible due to the Environment Agency closing the river due to high water levels. We had a ramble around Dunton including the Community Garden.

June 2023: Two mothers organised a Quiz Night for the pack which was thoroughly successful and enjoyed by the cubs. We had an activity night at Franklin's Recreation Centre. A mapping night was held at Boyd Field Henlow. We have a camp fire night at Penrose Court which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the residents.

July 2023: An archery evening was held and enjoyed by all attendees. A 'float the boats' evening was held on the River Ivel where Cubs made boats from recycled materials and these were then floated down the river. To conclude before the summer break we had a swimming evening.

September 2023: Our first meeting after the summer break was a games night coupled with emergency procedures (fire etc). The annual Dads and Cubs camp was held at Boyd Field Henlow. We had a pioneering night where cubs had to make items of use. An evening using money skills was also held this month.

Badges

1 Chiefs Scouts Silvers Awards

Challenge Badges: 1 Outdoors, 1 Skills
1 Teamwork and 1 World

Activity

Artist, Backwoods, Cyclist, Entertainer, Fire Safety, Home Help, Pioneer, World Faiths

Staged

Hikes, Nights away, Paddle sports, Sailing,
Time on the Water

October 2023: We had a night devoted to science experiments. A quiz night was arranged with assistance of the quiz rounds being provided with parental help.

November 2023: This month we had our annual firework night with refreshments at my house. A town quiz, a mapping evening, festival evening with a Scottish themed evening concluding the month's activities.

December 2023: This being the month we visited Penrose Court to sing carols to the residents meant we had to prepare in advance. The evening was well received and we were provided with refreshments on conclusion of our Christmas programme.

January 2024: We had a visit from the Jamboree Contingent who went to the World Jamboree in South Korea. They gave a very informative account of their activities and answered many questions.

February 2024: The 'Big Loo Push' took place from Saxon Pool to Penrose Court and back again. The Cubs had the opportunity to push go-karts and ride on them. Our thanks to all those who supported the event in any way. We had a Founders night and also a cooking night this month.

March 2024: A night was devoted to preparing for Mother's Day where cubs designed cards and wrapped plants for their mothers. A disability awareness night was held incorporating mobility issues, hearing (using sign language) and blindness. We concluded with a cooking night and making bug houses.

Saturn Cubs Annual Report



Thank you!
Many thanks
to everyone
who's helped

and to the Cubs themselves who have been fantastic!

We have enjoyed a very busy year of Scouting! Thanks to all the leaders and parents who have stepped up to help without you we would be able to do all the fantastic things detailed below.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know

April 2023

Badges

Armstrong Scouts Annual Report

April 23 Undertook activities towards the World Challenge badge and learned the Blinding Lights dance routine for our Fitness challenge. Patrol competition activity building bridges.

May 23 Cooking month where we looked at types of fire / stoves and had a patrol cooking competition for a two-course meal. We also had an evening out at a challenging and muddy obstacle course.

June 23 Team work challenge evening with lots of fun. Evening spent looking at OS maps and learning how to time a plotted route. Theory was put in to practice with an evening hike. Took part in the Bigg weekender.

July 23 Parents Vs scouts games evening and BBQ at Boyd. Final bash involved lots of wet water, the Leaders soaking most of it up! Summer Camp to Buddens Activity Centre in Hampshire



September 23 Activities around food and cooking, always a good event. Learnt some new knots and had an evening creating "art" with staves and rope.

October 23 Had a Skills event weekend at Boyd learning new skills and older scouts teaching younger ones. Started the Astronautics badge.

November 23 Had an evening making paracord poppies, attended Remembrance Parade and finished Astronautics badge. Scouts were given a personal challenge to present to the Troop.

Badges

Gold Award 1

Challenge Badges: 4 Adventure, 4 Creative, 1 Expedition, 1 Outdoors, 6 Personal, 3 Skills, 2 Team Leader, 6 Teamwork, 1 World

Activity and staged badges total 130: Artist, Air researcher, Astronautics, Athletics, Craft, Entertainer, Global issues, Hobbies, Local Knowledge, Master at Arms, Digital Citizen, Emergency Aid, Nautical Skills, Navigator

December 23 Made Christmas cake, went to Laser Tag in Letchworth and Final evening eating Pizza.

January 24 Great time at Frosty Camp. Had a games evening and Forum. Activities with different types of camp equipment and tents and started the World Challenge Badge.



February 24 Looked at community issues and ate Pancakes. Also looked at emergency procedures and action in the home and out and about.

March 24 Learned all things camp site layout and safety. The scouts ran their own evening and we had final bash out playing mini golf.



Irwin Scouts Annual Report



Irwin Scouts have had another great year thanks to an awesome set of young people and an equally-awesome leader team! We have a full house of 30 Scouts, so have a lively active bunch!

In the Spring 2023 term we had 5 taking part in our gold camp, crossing a lock, getting lost and complaining at the big hills of Milton Keynes! At the same time, we ran a skills camp, getting ready for the next set of Golders! We had a disability night, using an AI generated app telling Scouts what age it thinks the leaders are! Faraz and Pete faired very well! For St Georges Day, we slept in HQ and built cardboard castles, before getting to Boyd and have a day of activities. The Bigg Weekender was a favourite by the Scouts, enjoying all the fun on offer. We also used our Monday night after the event to clean the site and complete odd jobs. July we visited a group from the Netherlands staying at Boyd, where we swapped stories and badges and played air hockey!

Summer camp was awesome up in the Lake District, bar the rain! We got soaked on a waterfall walk, soaked on mini golf, soaked on raft building....! We met up with Ben Febery-Watts (now District Network Lead) at his then workplace for an awesome day of sailing and kayaking on Lake Windermere, which we also took a cruise on and went to a sealife centre.

Autumn term we came 2nd in the District Raft Race, as well as a super presentation from the Korean team (great to see many Irwin members attended!) Our skills night is always a laugh, mainly to see Scouts attempt ironing. We also did a double week of planning, buying ingredients and cooking them the following week, one to repeat! We worked with Beavers to keep the astronomy guy for Scouts, showing off planets in the large dome. Our end of term fun with hungry hippos and our District Youth Lead Joe handed out our Youth-Shaped badges we had been working hard on.

In 2024 we have started our 'Outdoor in 24' challenge, set by Gilwell. Our aim for us is for each Scout to take part in 24 unique activities this year. Check our noticeboard thermometer for what we have been up to! Its meant we have flew kites, had a Beaver badge night, chip shop survey and another incident hike!

Our first camp was Frosty camp, this years theme was Space! We tried bottle rockets, space modelling and space food... There was a party, film and silent headphone DISCO to (again) celebrate Jerome's Birthday on another Frosty! We also welcomed a 2nd Young Leader James, joining Dylan to support (and keep the average leader age down!)

Spring gave us another Gold and Skills camp, similar to above but with 5 new excited Scouts! Bad weather didn't affect them, bar needing to be picked up and moved a mile forward due to waist-deep floods....! And don't ask about the runner, who met us 4 times on route as Scouts got lost...! Big Dave and myself enjoyed touring around the pubs of Phasles and supporting as needed.

The team have said goodbye to Tom, who moves to a Thursday night with Armstrong. Tom has been instrumental in providing Irwin to what it is today and can already see great things supporting Armstrong. We were pleased to have a few joint camps with Armstrong this year and look forward to more camps and events in the future, including our joint Summer camp!

We can only provide an engaging programme and great set of camps with our volunteer team, who work together on all things Irwin! Jerome, heading up Irwin, with Big D, Dylan (YL), Faraz, James (YL) and Pete. The team must also thank Helen, who has joined us to support with badges, as well as Sue T, who supports the admin side. Thanks for all the volunteering hours, and looking forward to another year ahead!

David Moulton

Phoenix Explorers Annual Report

Phoenix continues to be an active Explorer Unit in the District partnered with Biggleswade Scout Group. We number 30 plus members. We had another busy Scouting year.



April 2023: We held traditional Scouting nights on food and easter themes.

May 2023: We had a special celebration for the King's coronation with a themed picnic. We helped out at Boyd Campsite as part of The Big Help Out and ran an evening for Mental Health Awareness week.

June 2023: We took part in the Big Weekender, supporting the while camp in many ways on activities and car park duties. We did tracking and hiking during our unit nights.

July 2023: We celebrated with our leavers with our traditional "This is your life in Scouting" night. Jenna and Oliver completed their Chief Scouts Diamond Awards. We did the Fit4OCR assault course and a night at Gravity.

Our Epic Summer Camp was in Crawfordsburn in Northern Ireland. We have an amazing time enjoying what Ireland had to offer including the Giants Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Belfast Giants Game and mush more.

September 2023: We supported yet again the Community Country Fayre on the Crockery Smash raising funds for a Children's Charity and a local Dementia Charity. We did nights on mapping and hike preparation.

October 2023: We supported the District Beaver Activity Day – setting up and running various

We have had 2 new leaders join our team. We have welcomed Stuart and Sam onto our Leadership Team.

Thank you to our fantastic Explorers for being you and for all the leadership team helping making Phoenix Explorers what it is.

activities. We did a cook a curry from scratch night and pumpkin carving.

November 2023: We attended the local Remembrance Parade, did some outdoor cooking skills and joined in a wide game with Sandy Explorers.

December 2023: We sadly said goodbye to Tasha after 12 years as a leader with us due to her moving asway and to David after 9 years as a leader with us but he continues his Scouting heavily involved in the District. We presented them with leaver gifts and thankyou for everything they contributed to the life of Phoenix Explorers. We had an amazing Christmas Party Weekend at Chellington Centre in Bedford. We also ran our fundraising Christmas Fayre to support our camps.

January 2024: We had a lot of our Explorers attend Young Leader training weekends to help support the Group.

February 2024: We ran charity nights supporting out local foodbanks and a school in Kenya. We enjoyed a shared night with Sandy Explorers wood whittling.

March 2024: We presented Oliver and Ryan with their Chief Scout Platinum Awards. We had teams in the London Monopoly run and tackled the escape rooms in Letchworth.

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300444

Accounts



Biggleswade Scout Group

Trustees Report and Annual Review

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444



Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle

Tel 07779 817529

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Group Chairperson — Leigh Wood

Tel 07771 785454

Email Leigh.Wood@pielan.com

Group Treasurer — Lucy Courtney

Tel 07834 176128

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Group Secretary — Lorraine Bennetts

Tel 07398 182511

Email lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Scout Leader	Sue Doyle
Deputy Group Scout Leader	Chris Wells
Treasurer	Lucy Courtney
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Tracy Warner
Irwin Scout Leader	Jerome Doyle
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Mercury Beaver Leader	Jane Thompson
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
	Nick Gurney
	Rob Jenkins-Green
	Helen Kingerley
	Louise Preston
	Brian Lawson
	Vicky Pullinger

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address
The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Biggleswade Scout Group is a registered charity, governed by our Constitution, Declaration of Trust made on 17 April 1962 and also the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association UK (April 2022).

The Group Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in the Scout Group. It is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. The Group Council consists of all adult volunteers and supporters, along with the parents of all youth members.

The Group is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are appointed and elected from the Group Council. It is their responsibility to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. This includes maintenance of the Group's property and equipment, raising funds and managing the Group's finances, insurance of persons, property and equipment and assisting with recruitment of leaders and other adult support. All new trustees undergo training mandated by the Scout Association.

The trustees regularly consider major risks and are currently undertaking a programme of works to maintain and improve the facilities at Biggleswade Scouts Headquarters. We continue to lobby local politicians in an effort to secure Scouting in Biggleswade for the next 20-30 years for both access to our existing premises and to consider the possibility of a new venue.

The Group is part of the Scout Association UK and as such is guided and supported by the local Scouting District, Biggleswade and District, by the local county, Bedfordshire, by the Regional Team and by the national team for the Scout Associations based at Gilwell.

As a registered charity the trustees also give due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable Objectives are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Membership for the year 2023 was down slightly from 2022. From 203 to 188. With a large number of young people moving up to Explorers over the year.

Biggleswade Scout Group currently runs 3 Beaver Colonies (age 6-8), 3 Cub Packs (ages 8-10.5), 2 Scout Troops (ages 10.5-14) and has a partnership agreement with the district Explorer Unit – Phoenix Explorers (ages 14-18).

We provide a programme of personal development for 223 young people aged between 6 and 18 years old who live in and around the market town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

This programme consists of regular weekly meetings during term time, a number of day trips throughout the year and the opportunity to take part in residential experiences. The programme is based around three themes: -

- Outdoors and Adventure

- World
- Skills

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting continues to be very popular in Biggleswade with all sections running on or near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have 16 young people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over a further 50 plus people on the waiting list who are not yet old enough to start.

Through our sections we have successfully delivered a programme of personal development consisting of over 540 hours of activities in a year to our 223 young people—this is over 120,000 hours of personal development for young people in the local area.

We know that our young people are engaging and benefiting from this development by a significant number of Chief Scouts Awards that have been presented this year— the highest recognition of a young person's achievement in each section.

Fundraising events

- Halloween Disco 2022 was enjoyed by 121 people and raised £486.46
- Quiz Night 2023 was enjoyed by 63 people and raised £689.27
- 4 Amazon Smile payments were received:
 - May 2022 £19.99
 - August 2022 £18.02
 - November 2022 £20
 - January 2023 £26.23

No Grant Applications were applied for in the period April 2022 to March 2023

Biggleswade continues to grow with more housing development on the east and north side of the town. School intakes within the town are increasing with expansions of existing schools and the addition of new schools. This growth represents a significant challenge for an already large Scout Group and we are looking for ways to ensure we can meet the challenge.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, helpers, Parents/Guardians and the young people themselves for all their hard work over this past year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2023

Receipts	31 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
Membership Subscriptions	24,462.26	18,417.53
Residential Experiences and Trips	24,190.98	16,823.54
Activities	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	185.48	1.16
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	3,649.16	5,789.39
Rent	416.00	157.00
Gift Aid	2,475.04	3,036.97
Other	962.80	638.53

Total Receipts	56,341.72	44,864.12
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Payments	31 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
Scout Association Capitation	12,265.00	12,022.50
Residential Experiences and Trips	23,468.73	15,204.20
Activities	4,674.92	1,837.91
Fundraising Costs	923.75	523.95
Headquarters -Utilities	1,469.06	1,749.11
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	1,343.54	2,072.20
Headquarters Improvements	0.00	2,151.51
Leader Uniform	24.00	115.60
Insurance	1,110.81	1,747.54
Rent	1,034.00	233.00
Equipment	907.23	379.16
Resources (including Badges)	2,964.64	2,240.26
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00
Donations	2,270.80	0.00
Other	1,269.81	1,255.26

Total Payments	53,726.29	41,532.20
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Net Receipts/Payments	2,615.43	3,331.92
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Cash Funds Last year end	69,207.56	65,875.64
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Cash Funds this year end	71,822.99	69,207.56
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2023

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
Bank Current Accounts	56,567.94	53,167.31
Bank Deposit Accounts	15,145.01	15,832.46
Cash in Hand	110.04	207.79
Total	71,822.99	69,207.56

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2023

This was another successful year for the Group. Youth Membership has increased slightly to 233 (inc 35 Explorers). Coronavirus Restrictions have been lifted and are having almost no impact on residential experiences and fundraising events. We made a small surplus this year—mainly down to our Fundraising Events. We continue to have a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Up this year due to increasing numbers and an increase in subscriptions agreed by the Executive Committee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Shows the income generated through fund raising activities. This year this was mainly from events—Halloween Disco and Quiz Night—and a donation from the Biggleswade Splash Park Fund.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We submitted a claim for 2021-22 this year.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2022/23 this was £12,265 which is slightly more than it was in 2021/22 due to an increase in the Capitation Fee.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Groups Headquarters and its grounds.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. There have not been any improvements this year.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group's volunteers and provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping equipment owned by the Scout Group.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for Exec Committee Meetings and other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc. Purchase of Activity and Challenge Badges to present to the young people.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them.

Donations - donations made by the Group or Sections to other Charities.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

In addition to the cash assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2023, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name

Leigh Wood

Position

Group Chairperson

Date

25 March 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on page 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;
 - have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 31 March 2024

Name: Kim Clegg FCMA CGMA

Address: 1 Meadowsweet Close, Lower Cambourne, CB23 6ET

Apollo Beavers Annual Report



Badges

1 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 5 Adventure,
9 Outdoors, 1 Personal, 13 Skills,
11 Teamwork, 5 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Book
Reader, Cook, Creative, Disability
Awareness, Experiment, Gardener,
Health and Fitness, Money Skills

Staged Badges: Hikes, Nights Away

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic!

Thanks to all the volunteer leaders and helpers who have assisted us this year.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2022

We participated in the District St Georges Day Event at Boyd Field Campsite. We learned about Gardening Tools and what plants need to grow.

May 2022

Continuing the Gardeners Badge we planted seeds, made Cress Animals and learned about Trees in all Seasons. We also celebrated the Queens Jubilee.

June 2022

We met a Pony, Kept Fit and learned about Disabilities. We also enjoyed the great outdoors at Boyd Field Campsite.

July 2022

We visited Stotfold Mill to do Pond Dipping. We had to cancel our visit to the Cave Bus because of the hot weather and instead did water games.

September 2022

We enjoyed our Autumn Beaver Camp at Boyd Field Campsite with Gemini Beavers. Cooks Badge where we made Pizzas, Chocolate Lollies and designed our own dessert.

October 2022

We learned to look after our Teeth, to keep our promises and how to take the lead.

November 2022

We did a night hike, learned about St Andrew and Scotland and started to prepare for our Christmas Play. We also took part in the Remembrance Parade.

December 2023

We performed a Christmas Carol for the parents written and directed by Michael.

January 2023

Team Challenges, Skills for Life, Inventions and Experiments all happened this month.

February 2023

We started work on the Navigator Badge and Health and Fitness Badge. We also celebrated World Book Day.

March 2023

We completed the Navigator Badge and Health and Fitness Badge. We also held a campfire and made Easter Chocolate. We enjoyed our Minecraft themed Sleepover at Haverings with our friends from Gemini Beavers.

Gemini Beavers Annual Report



Badges

8 Beavers achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 16 Adventure, 18 Outdoors, 7 Personal, 14 Skills, 16 Teamwork, 16 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Book Reader, Builder, Camp Craft, Collector, Creative, Disability Awareness, Experiment, Explore, Faith, Gardener, Photographer, Space

Staged Badges: Emergency Aid, Musician, Navigator, Nights Away

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic!

Thanks to all the volunteer leaders and helpers who have assisted us this year.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2022

We participated in the District St Georges Day Event at Boyd Field Campsite. We also learned about gardening tools and what makes plants grow.

May 2022

We learned about Trees in all Seasons, spent time identifying leaves in Baulk Wood and learned about Animals.

June 2022

We enjoyed climbing and backwoods cooking at the campsite and started to learn about Maps.

July 2022

We made Marble Mazes, and drew pictures with Charcoal. We practiced map reading and observation and finished the term with water games at the Campsite.

September 2022

We remembered the Queen, learned about rhythms and made mini gardens. We enjoyed our Autumn Beaver Camp at Boyd Field Campsite with Apollo Beavers.

October 2022

We went to Spy School and learned about Leadership.

November 2022

We made Drums and learned about Music. We also took part in the Remembrance Parade.

December 2023

We made our own Robots, learned skills for life and prepared for Christmas.

January 2023

We found out more about Beavers and learned about Safety in the Home. We learned about other countries and hunted for Haggis. Finally we talked about Superheroes

February 2023

We learned about Emergency Aid and morse code. We enjoyed a range of colourful experiments.

March 2023

We enjoyed our Minecraft themed Sleepover at Haverings with our friends from Apollo Beavers.

Mercury Beavers Annual Report



Badges

7 Beaver achieved Bronze Award

Challenge Badges: 11 Adventure, 10 Outdoors, 15 Personal, 12 Skills, 12 Teamwork, 9 World

Activity Badges: Animal Friend, Book Reader, Camp Craft, Collector, Communicator, Creative, Experiment, Explorer, Gardener, Global Issues, Hobbies, International

Staged Badges: Hikes, Musician Nautical Skills, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Swimmer, Time on Water

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Beavers themselves who have been fantastic this year. Thanks to all the volunteer leaders, Young Leaders, scouts & cub's siblings and of course our parent helpers for making it another amazing time.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2022

We participated in the District St Georges Day Event at Boyd Field Campsite. We learnt Epee Fencing,

May 2022

We had our 1st Sleepover of the year at Bromham Lodge. We had fun trying to construct towers with Marshmallows, tried the Cave Bus and Field Obstacle Course at Boyd. We also celebrated the Queens Jubilee.

June 2022

We tackled the climbing wall at Boyd and learnt to cook food parcels on a fire. We did a Junk modelling challenge.

July 2022

We had a mini beast bug hunt at the Saxon Pocket Park. We took part in an external Water Activity Day run at Luton Hoo. We visited the Hobby craft store and learnt decoupage,

September 2022

We made Myra's Birthday choice which was a Chocolate Mug cake and lot of hut games and badge work.

October 2022

We had Biggleswade Youth FC come in and teach us Ball Mayhem, Experiment challenge.

November 2022

We had our 2nd Sleepover of the year at Little Wymondley. Had Bonfire fun, night hike to the Wind Turbines and of course Remembrance Day

December 2023

We took part in traditional Christmas craft bits and Christmas fun and of course our party.

January 2023

We celebrated Chinese New Year and tasted and learnt about new cultures and made different types of bird feeders.

February 2023

We tackled Global Issues, pancake fun and newspaper Tepee building.

March 2023

We joined Gemini Beavers for Embers and online UK campfire nights, putting up tents, learning knots and a whole lot of fun

Jupiter Cubs Annual Report



Badges

4 Cubs achieved Silver Award

Challenge Badges: Adventure, Outdoors, Personal, Skills, Team Leader, Teamwork, World

Activity Badges: Artist, Backwoods Cooking, Book Reader, Chef, Cyclist, DIY, Entertainer, Equestrian, Physical Recreation

Staged Badges: Digital Maker, Nautical Skills, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Snowsports, Swimmer, Time on Water

179 Badges have been awarded!

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Cubs themselves who have been fantastic!

Welcome to our new leader Clare and thanks to all the leaders Chil (Charlotte), Ziggy (Anna), Rocky (Faraz) Tabaqui (Pete) and Kaa (Sue). We need additional help so if anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know.

April 2022

We celebrated St George's day and had a games night

May 2022

We dashed for Geocache around Boyd, Took a hike from the RSBP in Sandy, got knotted at the HQ and raced to the top of the climbing wall at Boyd.

June 2022

Played wide games at Boyd, hiked round the lake at Bedford Priory. We built rafts and sailed around Boyd pond followed by the next week pedal carts and water fights

July 2022

The RSPB took us bug hunting in Sandy. Some games in the cool and then the Krypton Factor challenge to finish the term.

September 2022

This month we were pond dipping at Stotfold Mill, with a visit to the Dunton Community garden with a further session of the climbing wall at Boyd. We had our District Cub Camp too! Where we Parachorded and Twisted dough amongst other great activities.

October 2022

Bonkers Conkers, Spy games, Backwoods cooking at Boyd and a visit to the Windy Miller at Stotfold

November 2022

Shooting and then the District Shooting Finals, learning about remembrance, attending our local Remembrance Day service, Hama time, fun and games followed

December 2022

Christmas crafts and a party to finish off the year.

January 2023

We were bowled over @Eat&Bowl, had some haggis and played Scottish games

February 2023

We had great fun at Pirate Camp, had a light bulb moment, flipped our home made pancakes and learned about the importance of water.

March 2023

We went on a wheelie nice walk, completed our Digital Maker badge, some scouty challenges and had a camp fire to finish off.

Neptune Cubs Annual Report



Badges

1 Cub achieved Silver Award

Challenge Badges: Adventure, Personal, Team Leader

Activity Badges: Artist, Cyclist, Disability Awareness, Entertainer, Martial Arts

Staged Badges: Emergency Aid, Nautical Skills, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Snowsports, Swimmer, Time on Water

48 Badges have been awarded!

My thanks to my fellow leaders, Nick Gurney, Lucy Harradine and all parents who have helped us in any way during the year. If you can help the pack in any way please do speak to me. Eddie Fuller (Akela)

April 2022

Participated in the District St George's Day event at Boyd Field campsite. Cubs prepared and provided entertainment. An evening was spent at Baulk Wood learning tracking skills.

May 2022

Team building games both indoor and outdoor were organised, to encourage teamwork amongst the Cubs. Our annual Cubs/Mums camp took place at Jordan's Close Activity Centre, Great Barford. Cubs and Mums learnt tent pitching skills, went canoeing and hiking.

June 2022

A street party was held to celebrate the late Queen's Jubilee. Map reading skills were practised. A sponsored hike was organised to support the charity "Hands at Work in Africa", raising £504. Cycle Cross riding took place at Rowney Warren.

July 2022

An outdoor cooking night was held at Boyd Field campsite. We held a splash night at the swimming pool at Eynesbury.

September 2022

This month was spent on preparing for our annual Cubs/Dads camp in that certain skills (knotting and construction) would be needed. Cubs had to assist

in tent pitching for this camp at the end of the month.

October 2022

Pioneering skills were the flavour of the month which included half term.

November 2022

We held our annual Guy Fawkes celebration with fireworks and eats. Learnt and practised First Aid. Attended Remembrance Day service at Biggleswade Market Square.

December 2022

Made Christmas cards for the family and went to Penrose Court Biggleswade and gave residents a Christmas Carol Service.

January 2023

This month we worked towards Home Help badge and Hobbies badge.

February 2023

Further work on the Home Help badge was done, including the cooking of pancakes. A bird survey was organised, and bird feeders made.

March 2023

St David's Day was celebrated. A visit to the local Fire Station took place where a fire safety talk was given with the visit culminating in the pretence of putting out a fire (squirting hoses).

Saturn Cubs Annual Report



Badges

4 Cubs achieved Silver Award

2 Scottish Thistle Award

Challenge Badges: Adventure, Outdoors, Personal, Skills, Team Leader, Teamwork, World

Activity Badges: Animal Carer, Artist, Astronomer, Backwoods Cooking, Book Reader, Chef, Collector, Collector, Communicator, Cyclist, Fire Safety, Home Safety, International, Local Knowledge, Marial Arts, Money Skills, Physical Recreation, Pioneer, RNLI Water Safety Awareness, Scientist, World Faiths,

Staged Badges: Digital Citizen, Hikes, Musician, Navigator, Nights Away, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Swimmer, Time on the Water

289 Badges have been awarded!

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Cubs themselves who have been fantastic!

We have enjoyed a very busy year of Scouting! Thanks to all the leaders and parents who have stepped up to help without you we would be able to do all the fantastic things detailed below.

If anyone has any time they can volunteer to help at our section please let us know

April 2022

After the Easter Holidays we celebrated St George, got out and about with a hike.

May 2022

Played wide game Cluedo, had a STEM themed evening, made scones Yummy and celebrated the Jubilee.

June 2022

Looked for Geocaches in Henlow, RSPB took us on a bug hunt, made bug traps back at HQ and climbed the heights at Boyd on the climbing wall.

July 2022

Water fights, fun and games at the Krypton Factor! We also had a full day of water activity at Grafton Water.

September 2022

Pond dipping, Garden tour in Dunton, and a family visit to the Circus along with a District Cub Camp made for a busy month.

October 2022

Conkers competition, a visit to Stotfold Mill and a games night to finished off the month.

November 2022

Shooting and then the District Shooting Finals, learning about remembrance, attending our local Remembrance Day service, singing bowls from India, finished off with some more STEM experiments.

December 2022

Code cracking and map skills on the hunt for Santa followed by Christmas crafts and a party to celebrate.

January 2023

Teamwork and some Scouting skills, celebrating Chinese new year and learning about Digital Safety. Went for a walk around town.

February 2023

Flipping good time was had when we made pancakes, we learned about St David. We also hoisted the main sail and went off to be Pirates at Bromham,

March 2023

We had a go at various skills including ironing, changing a plug and a bulb, found our way round navigation and then walked the wheel.

We do not have reports from Armstrong Scout Troop, Irwin Scout Troop or Phoenix Explorers this year.

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300444

Accounts



2022
Biggleswade Scout Group
Trustees Report and Annual Review

Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444

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Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle
Tel 07779 817529
Email gsl@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Group Chairman — Leigh Wood
Tel 07771 785454
Email Leigh.Wood@pielan.com

Group Treasurer — Lucy Courtney
Tel 07834 176128
Email lucykate21@hotmail.com

Group Secretary — Lorraine Bennetts
Tel 07398 182511
Email lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Scout Leader	Sue Doyle
Deputy Group Scout Leader	Chris Wells
Treasurer	Lucy Courtney
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Tracy Warner
Irwin Scout Leader	Tom Keller
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
	Nick Gurney
	Rob Jenkins-Green
	Helen Kingerley
	Louise Preston
	Brian Lawson
	Vicky Pullinger

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Biggleswade Scout Group is a registered charity, governed by our Constitution, Declaration of Trust made on 17 April 1962 and also the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association UK (April 2022).

The Group Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in the Scout Group. It is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. The Group Council consists of all adult volunteers and supporters, along with the parents of all youth members.

The Group is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are appointed and elected from the Group Council. It is their responsibility to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. This includes maintenance of the Group's property and equipment, raising funds and managing the Group's finances, insurance of persons, property and equipment and assisting with recruitment of leaders and other adult support. All new trustees undergo training mandated by the Scout Association.

The trustees regularly consider major risks and are currently undertaking a project to help secure a new home for Scouting in Biggleswade to ensure we have adequate facilities for the next 20-30 years.

The Group is part of the Scout Association UK and as such is guided and supported by the local Scouting District, and by teams at the Scout Associations national headquarters.

As a registered charity the trustees also give due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable Objectives are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Membership this year is down slightly at 260 including our Explorers.

Biggleswade Scout Group currently runs 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub

Packs, 2 Scout Troops and in partnership with Biggleswade and District 1 Explorer Unit. Between them these provide a programme of personal development for 229 young people aged between 6 and 18 years old who live in and around the market town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

This programme consists of a weekly meeting during term time, a number of day trips and the opportunity to take part in residential experiences. The programme is based around three themes: -

- Outdoors and Adventure
- World
- Skills

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting continues to be very popular in Biggleswade with all sections running on or near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have 16 young people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over a further 50 plus people on the waiting list who are not yet old enough to start.

Through our sections we have successfully delivered a programme of personal development consisting of over 540 hours of activities in a year to our 229 young people—this is over 120,000 hours of personal development for young people in the local area.

We know that our young people are engaging and benefiting from this development by a significant number of Chief Scouts Awards that have been presented this year— the highest recognition of a young person's achievement in each section.

We were only able to hold one Fundraising Events during this financial year—a quiz night that raised £575. We did continue to raise funds through Amazon Smile £97. We also made a number of successful grant applications— Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation £2021 and Asda £806

These grants have allowed for us to undertake improvements to our headquarters during this period such as internal decoration and new notice boards.

Biggleswade continues to grow with more housing development on the east and north side of the town. School intakes within the town are increasing with expansions of existing schools and the addition of new schools. This growth represents a significant challenge for an already large Scout Group and we are looking for ways to ensure we can meet the challenge.

Following the relaxation of the Coronavirus restrictions the Scout Group has been able to return to face to face meetings and residential experiences this year.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, helpers, Parents/Guardians and the young people themselves for all their hard work over this past year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2022

Receipts	31 Mar 22	31 Mar 21
Membership Subscriptions	18,417.53	18,435.73
Residential Experiences and Trips	16,823.54	2,020.75
Activities	0.00	273.34
Bank Interest	1.16	12.75
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	5,789.39	16,099.61
Rent	157.00	240.00
Gift Aid	3,036.97	11,153.48
Covid-19 Grants	0.00	20,240.93
Other	638.53	520.87
Total Receipts	<u>44,864.12</u>	<u>68,997.46</u>
Payments	31 Mar 22	31 Mar 21
Scout Association Capitation	12,022.50	12,075.00
Residential Experiences and Trips	15,204.20	3,285.25
Activities	1,837.91	1,302.30
Fundraising Costs	523.95	102.20
Headquarters -Utilities	1,749.11	1,979.60
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	2,072.20	1,671.64
Headquarters Improvements	2,151.51	14,375.90
Leader Uniform	115.60	0.00
Insurance	1,747.54	42.00
Rent	233.00	161.00
Equipment	379.16	671.03
Resources (including Badges)	2,240.26	2,565.43
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	181.66
Donations	0.00	
Other	1,255.26	1,196.74
Total Payments	<u>41,532.20</u>	<u>39,609.75</u>
Net Receipts/Payments	3,331.92	29,387.71
Cash Funds Last year end	65,875.64	36,487.93
Cash Funds this year end	<u>69,207.56</u>	<u>65,875.64</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2022

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 22	31 Mar 21
Bank Current Accounts	53,167.31	50,885.92
Bank Deposit Accounts	15,832.46	14,699.50
Cash in Hand	207.79	290.22
Total	<u>69,207.56</u>	<u>65,875.64</u>

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2022

This was another successful year for the Group. Youth Membership has dropped slightly to 229 (inc 26 Explorers). Coronavirus Restrictions have continued to have a significant impact on residential experience and fundraising events. We have continued to invest in improvements to our Scout HQ—largely funded by Grants. We made a small surplus this year—although this is largely down to money collected for Residential Experiences that have not happened yet. We continue to have a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Down slightly this year due to falling numbers and the decision to make subscriptions optional while we were unable to deliver face 2 face meetings.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Shows the income generated through fund raising activities. This year this was mainly from grants/donations from a number of organisations.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We submitted a claim for 2020-21 this year.

Covid-19 Grants—specific government funding to support charities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2021/22 this was £12,022 which is slightly less than it was in 2020/21 due to a small drop in membership.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Groups Headquarters and its grounds, including capital expenditure. This has increased this year due to a number of maintenance projects.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. This year we have decorated the inside of the building and installed new noticeboards.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group’s volunteers and provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping equipment owned by the Scout Group. WE paid for 2 years of insurance during 2021-22 because the payment that should have happened in 2020-21 was made late.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for Exec Committee Meetings and other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them.

Donations - donations made by the Group.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

In addition to the cash assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2022, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 31 July 2022

Name:

Darryl Ashing FCA

Address:

c/o Ashings Chartered Accountants, Northside House,
Mount Pleasant, Cockfosters, EN4 9EB

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name

Leigh Wood

Position

Group Chairperson

Date

31 July 2022

Biggleswade Scout Group
www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

BIGGLESWADE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300444

Accounts



2021

**Biggleswade Scout Group
Trustees Report and Annual Review**

Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444

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Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle
Tel 07779 817529
Email gsl@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Group Chairman — Leigh Wood
Tel 07771 785454
Email Leigh.Wood@pielan.com

Group Treasurer — Lucy Courtney
Tel 07834 176128
Email lucykate21@hotmail.com

Group Secretary — Lorraine Bennetts
Tel 07398 182511
Email lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Scout Leader	Sue Doyle
Deputy Group Scout Leader	Chris Wells
Treasurer	Lucy Courtney
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Tracy Warner
Irwin Scout Leader	Tom Keller
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
	Nick Gurney
	Rob Jenkins-Green
	Helen Kingerley
	Louise Preston
	Brian Lawson
	Vicky Pullinger

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

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The Group is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are appointed and elected from the Group Council. It is their responsibility to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. This includes maintenance of the Group's property and equipment, raising funds and managing the Group's finances, insurance of persons, property and equipment and assisting with recruitment of leaders and other adult support. All new trustees undergo training mandated by the Scout Association.

The trustees regularly consider major risks and are currently undertaking a project to help secure a new home for Scouting in Biggleswade to ensure we have adequate facilities for the next 20-30 years.

The Group is part of the Scout Association UK and as such is guided and supported by the local Scouting District, and by teams at the Scout Associations national headquarters.

As a registered charity the trustees also give due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable Objectives are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Membership this year is down slightly at 267 including our Explorers.

Biggleswade Scout Group currently runs 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub

Packs, 2 Scout Troops and in partnership with Biggleswade and District 1 Explorer Unit. Between them these provide a programme of personal development for 232 young people aged between 6 and 18 years old who live in and around the market town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

This programme consists of a weekly meeting during term time, a number of day trips and the opportunity to take part in residential experiences. The programme is based around three themes: -

- Outdoors and Adventure
- World
- Skills

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting continues to be very popular in Biggleswade with all sections running on or near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have up to 65 young people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over a further 50 plus people on the waiting list who are not yet old enough to start.

Through our sections we have successfully delivered a programme of personal development consisting of over 540 hours of activities in a year to our 232 young people—this is over 120,000 hours of personal development for young people in the local area.

We know that our young people are engaging and benefiting from this development by a significant number of Chief Scouts Awards that have been presented this year— the highest recognition of a young person's achievement in each section.

We were not able to hold any Fundraising Events during this financial year. We did continue to raise funds through Amazon Smile £82, Printer Cartridge Recycling £20 and Easyfundraising £15. We received some generous donations—totalling £300. We also made a number of successful grant applications—Tesco £1166, Biggleswade Town Council £2090, Central Bedfordshire £10,790 and Co-op £250 as well as securing Covid-19 grants totalling £20,240.

These grants have allowed for us to undertake improvements to our headquarters during this period such as replacement of all of our Windows,, a completely new kitchen and installing new heating.

Biggleswade continues to grow with more housing development on the east and north side of the town. School intakes within the town are increasing with expansions of existing schools and the addition of new schools. This growth represents a significant challenge for an already large Scout Group and we are looking for ways to ensure we can meet the challenge.

The Group has been impacted throughout this year by the Coronavirus Pandemic. All face to face Scouting continued to be suspended and meetings were only able to run on-line.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, helpers, Parents/Guardians and the young people themselves for all their hard work over this past year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2021

Receipts	31 Mar 21	31 Mar 20
Membership Subscriptions	18,435.73	24,306.40
Residential Experiences and Trips	2,020.75	32,209.93
Activities	273.34	376.85
Bank Interest	12.75	61.35
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	16,099.61	19,010.75
Rent	240.00	368.00
Gift Aid	11,153.48	0.00
Covid-19 Grants	20,240.93	
Other	520.87	428.12
Total Receipts	<u>68,997.46</u>	<u>76,761.40</u>
Payments	31 Mar 21	31 Mar 20
Scout Association Capitation	12,075.00	11,080.50
Residential Experiences and Trips	3,285.25	30,044.85
Activities	1,302.30	3,146.29
Fundraising Costs	102.20	3,302.49
Headquarters -Utilities	1,979.60	2,996.40
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	1,671.64	1,725.15
Headquarters Improvements	14,375.90	31,537.97
Leader Uniform	0.00	250.00
Insurance	42.00	816.51
Rent	161.00	499.00
Equipment	671.03	2,203.99
Resources (including Badges)	2,565.43	1,916.01
Volunteer Expenses	181.66	0.00
Donations		0.00
Other	1,196.74	920.88
Total Payments	<u>39,609.75</u>	<u>90,440.04</u>
Net Receipts/Payments	29,387.71	(13,678.64)
Cash Funds Last year end	36,487.93	50,166.57
Cash Funds this year end	<u>65,875.64</u>	<u>36,487.93</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2021

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 21	31 Mar 20
Bank Current Accounts	50,885.92	21,869.57
Bank Deposit Accounts	14,699.50	14,243.65
Cash in Hand	290.22	374.71
Total	<u>65,875.64</u>	<u>36,487.93</u>

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2021

This was another successful year for the Group. Youth Membership has dropped due to Coronavirus to 232 (inc 29 Explorers) and this has resulted in a significant drop in Income. We have continued to invest in improvements to our Scout HQ—largely funded by Grants. We have received significant financial support in connection with the Coronavirus Pandemic. This has resulted in a healthy surplus for the year leading to a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Down significantly this year due to falling numbers and the decision to make subscriptions optional while we were unable to deliver face 2 face meetings.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Shows the income generated through fund raising activities. This year this was mainly from grants/donations from a number of organisations.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We submitted claims for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 this year.

Covid-19 Grants—specific government funding to support charities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2020/21 this was £ 12.075 which is more than it was in 2019/20 due to a significant increase in the rate of Capitation.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Groups Headquarters and its grounds, including capital expenditure. This has increased this year due to a number of maintenance projects.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. This year we have replaced all the windows, installed new heating and completely replaced the kitchen.

Leader Training—cost of providing leaders training—including on-going learning.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group’s volunteers and provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping and disco equipment owned by the Scout Group. This was paid late and so the payment will appear in the 2021-22 accounts.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for Exec Committee Meetings and other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them.

Donations - donations made by the Group.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

In addition to the cash assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2021, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 12 January 2022

Name:

Darryl Ashing FCA

Address:

c/o Ashings Chartered Accountants, Northside House,
Mount Pleasant, Cockfosters, EN4 9EB

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name

Leigh Wood

Position

Group Chairperson

Date

20 September 2021

Annual Review - 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Apollo Beaver Colony

The last year has been a totally different one for the Apollo Beaver Colony. Like everyone else we have been living through the Coronavirus Pandemic. It took us a few weeks to adjust to the initial lockdown. We started online meetings at the beginning of the Summer Term and have continued online since then. During the first term of online meetings numbers were lower than usual. Numbers picked up in the Autumn term and for the spring term we have had 14-16 most weeks.

The Colony have enjoyed the opportunity to join our online meetings and see each other. We have done a variety of activities online - from scavenger hunts to origami to Battleships.

Some of our Beavers have joined in with our Group Virtual Christmas Campfire and the various BIGG events - Summer Holiday, Safari, and Christmas Cracker. The Beavers really enjoyed the opportunity to see the Teaching Talons session organised by Gemini Beavers.

During this year we have presented 91 Activity Badges and 17 Challenge Badges to the Beavers. We did not award any Chief Scouts Bronze Awards this year.

Objectives for the Colony for the coming year are to:-

- Return to Face to Face Scouting.
- Recruit some additional volunteers for the Colony leadership team, including at least one more uniformed leader.
- Help more Beavers to achieve the Chief Scouts Bronze Award

I am very grateful for the help of all of the parents that have been supporting our Beavers while they join in with our online meetings. I would like to offer a big thank you to those volunteers who have helped us in the past but have moved on during this year - Vicky Pullinger, Kara Morallee, Nisha Vasavda and Callum Watson. Finally I would like to thank the current leadership team - Section Assistants Michael Nobbs and Greg Smith, and Young Leaders Harry Hodson and Oliver Meyer.

Chris Wells (Sparrowhawk—Acting Beaver Leader)

Gemini Beaver Colony

No report was provided by Gemini Beavers this year.

Ian Hall (Harrier)

Mercury Beaver Colony

No report was provided by Mercury Beavers this year.

Jane Thompson (Hawk) BSL

Jupiter Cub Pack



Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Cubs themselves who have been fantastic!

It has been a very strange year with lots of Zooming however we did manage to do lots see below!

April 2020

We had our first virtual meetings and got to learn about how to use Zoom! We ran our St George's Day celebrations online.

May 2020

Despite not being able to see each other in person we did lots of games, craft and badgework and caught up with our friends.

June 2020

We got to see behind the scenes at Shepreth Wildlife Park with a Virtual Experience. We learned about animals including rabbits, monkeys and tigers.

July 2020

We had a baby pictures quiz, more online fun and did lots of badgework at home. We took part in the BIGG Summer Holiday with sleepovers, campfires and fun activities all online!

September 2020

We were back online getting ready for being able to meet Face to Face with a walk to Priory Park and some games with half the pack then repeated the following week

October 2020

Lock down hit again but we made sure we were having fun with some Cub led activities, Pizza Rolls and Chocolate Science – Yummy!

November 2020

We rolled up our sleeves and did more cooking with apple and

mincemeat crumble which lots of us remade for our Christmas dessert. It was lovely.

December 2020

We did some Christmas crafting and had a Virtual Campfire. Singing on Zoom is very strange but good fun!

January 2021

We joined in with a virtual Panto which was great fun, took part in the national Winter Camp and the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. We crafted Chinese Window Decorations.

February 2021

We built a wellbeing box of things to do, be happy about or just to think about. We made Djembe drums and tried to work out the song from just the beats. Thanks to Helen for an entertaining First Aid virtual session.

March 2021

We had a late pancake night, did some more badgework and played Among Us online which was great fun!

Sue Doyle (Acting Cub Leader)

Saturn Cub Pack

The last year has certainly been unusual for Saturn Cubs. Due to the Coronavirus Restrictions we have only been meeting online this year. While an online meeting is very different to a traditional face to face meeting it has been great to see the Cubs each week. We have had great support from the Cubs and their parents and have been getting really good attendance at our online meeting - 20-24 Cubs most weeks.

Meeting online has severely limited what we can do this year and we have done our best to keep the weekly programme varied and interesting. It has been difficult to do many of the traditional scouting skills so we have focused on crafts, games, and activities to increase the Cubs' awareness of the world around them. We have given the Cubs as many opportunities as we can to take an active part in the programme and to interact with their peers. We have not been able to do any day trips or residential experiences this year.

We have done our best to promote and support the activities organised by Biggleswade and District - including the BIGG Challenge, Summer Holiday, Safari and Christmas Cracker.

During this year we have presented 106 Activity Badges and 28 Challenge Badges to the Cubs.

Objectives for the Pack for the coming year are to:-

- Recruit a new Cub Scout Leader and some additional volunteers for the Pack leadership team.

- Ensure that every Cub has an opportunity to earn their Chief Scouts Silver Award.

Deputy Group Scout Leader Chris Wells continues to run the pack. During this year we have said goodbye to Section Assistants Derek Revell and Anna Kwasniewsha. Derek had done a huge amount for the Pack over the 3 years he was volunteering and will be missed. I would also like to thank Caroline Henman who is retiring from the pack this year after 4 years. We have welcomed Sam Ryder to the pack this year as a Section Assistant. I am very grateful for the on-going help and support of my Section Assistants Sharon Wheeler and Marcia Bennett.

Chris Wells (Acting Cub Leader)

Neptune Cub Pack

No report was provided by Neptune Cubs this year.

Eddie Fuller (Akela — Cub Leader)

Armstrong Scout Troop

Well what can be said about 2020-2021 in scouting terms as many other walks of life, it has been a very difficult year, but a year that we have all embraced and carried on with a full programme.

The leaders have had to learn lots of new skills, use of technology, so we could carry on meeting remotely, using Zoom virtual meetings. It took us several sessions to learn these new skills such as, how to mute the whole section and finding a flag and an indoor flag pole! Due to the commitment of the whole team we managed to hold zoom meeting every week during term time and even fortnightly during the summer holidays as many of the scouts wanted contact during lockdown.

We started the year in April 2020 with 27 scouts and ended March 2021 with 31 although we have transitioned over 16 from cubs to scouts, scouts to explorers. We have thankfully managed to maintain our full leadership team of 7 during these times.

During the first lockdown we set the scouts a weekly walking challenge and each week the scouts reported back how far they had walked, cycled or run. The scouts managed to travel from Biggleswade to Iran covering 3069 miles. Not so sure why they stopped at the end of summer term, perhaps got too hot mid-July to continue.

The scouts also attempted (and mostly succeeded) cooking challenges, making Easter bonnets, learning to juggle, paper aeroplanes,

constructing them and then outdoor flying challenged against the other troop members remotely. We joined in with national Scouting events for example VE Day where we built Dens and the scouts decorated them with handmade bunting. The scouts have worked really well at teamwork by undertaking mental challenges, writing the "Armstrong Rap", and completing a virtual crystal maze. They have also run their own evenings.

We also joined in with other Troops and Scouting country wide where we published videos of our scouts participating in the "Toilet Roll Keepy Uppy challenge" and the "water challenge" which the scouts thought was a great activity, particularly the getting wet bit!.

With limited numbers, we did manage 4 weeks of some face to face meeting during the autumn term, which did help to return to more normal traditional scout skills within the then restrictions. But even with this we never able to meet as a full troop.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions were we unable to camp for the whole of last year, although a few scouts did manage to camp within the confines of their lounges or even some in their back gardens. At our Christmas zoom party we awarded over 140 badges and we finished the evening by awarding 8 Gold Awards.

Meetings from the New Year have become more difficult as meeting remotely is so far removed from the norm. But..... After quizzes, fun challenges, jokes (some good some not so) and even some remote Scouting skills, we believe all enjoyed the meetings which has been born out with so many attending each and every meeting.

I would like to thank all the members of Armstrong Leadership Team. Without all their help and support I would not have managed to get through last year as we did..

Tracey Warner (Scout Leaser)

Irwin Scout Troop

No report was provided by Irwin Scouts this year.

Tom Keller (Scout Leader)

Biggleswade Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit

Despite the Covid pandemic, we at Phoenix have managed to continue a very full and packed year of Scouting, even meeting through holiday periods to boost the morale of our young people; aware that the mental health of young people in the Pandemic has been especially affected. We have obviously mostly met via Zoom but did manage a few face-to-face sessions in small groups before going into lock down again! We have said goodbye to older Explorers and hello to new ones. We had between 25 and 30 Explorers during the year and continue to welcome new people to our 'crazy' Unit.

Every Explorer and leader have played their part in this unique period of history but personally as the Explorer Leader I want to say an enormous special THANK YOU to David M as without his amazing techno skills, abilities and ideas, our nights would not have been what they have been. Yes, we would have managed but... He has also had to put up with teaching me many technology skills that have put me out of my comfort zone. As a Scout we always continue to learn!

We have indeed have had some laughs and definitely the banter between Explorers and Leaders has been quite something. Quotes of some will remain as part of our Unit's history. In some ways we have got to know our young people more personally as they have us. We have always run as a 'big family' type Unit but Zoom has felt tighter knit and individual characters have certainly shone through. Wednesday nights made a difference to the various lockdowns in many ways. Wednesdays meant focus, laughter, learning, community, connection, family, supporting each other and looking out for one another. Thank you, Phoenix; you made a difficult challenging year more bearable and less isolating.

We even managed virtual camps. We held a Zoom camp for what was supposed to be our International Camp with leaders running it from my garden (permitted at the time). We had a full weekend on Zoom running our Winter Camp with so many activities. We set challenges for Explorers of camping out in their gardens, doing hikes with family and friends (when rules allowed). We had baking challenges, photo challenges, pioneering challenges, Royal tea parties etc. We held a virtual tombola fundraiser zoomed from my garden. Thank you to everyone who supported us with this.

Our Zoom nights have been varied; yes, there have been favourites of certain games including Among Us, Escape Rooms, Location Guesser, First and Last and Kahoot. Some of us older leaders have had to learn fast! I for one am known not to enjoy computer games but I do enjoy a good Escape room challenge! There has been something for everyone.

We have run themed evenings around Halloween, Easter, pancakes etc and music evenings, quizzes, puzzles, pioneering, crafts, mental health awareness, task masters, Space missions, skills nights, hobby nights, getting to know us nights, bingo nights and so many more.

I have become a bit of a Mary Berry and done a few cooking demonstrations via Zoom. Who would have thought that weighing out ingredients could take Explorers so long and be so hard! We certainly had a few interesting creations made. We even managed to get David cooking in the kitchen taking him out of his comfort zone (only fair!) Not sure some of the Explorers managed to clean the kitchens that well afterwards though. All part of skills for life.

We ran a surprise 30th birthday party via Zoom for David and presented him with a special 30th birthday scrapbook with photos and messages. Tasha made him cakes. We played games all based on the theme of 30. A fun night was had by all. Not quite the celebrations planned but one to remember!

When we could meet face to face in small groups, we had hikes, woodland tracking, town photo hunts and wide games with a difference. We also managed two of our three small group socially distanced Christmas Party before again we went into restrictions so our Sunday session quickly changed to a Zoom session. Showing our adaptability skills indeed.

There have been challenges as in all years but together we have supported one another and got through.

The biggest disappointment of the year is that our International Summer Camp to the Netherlands planned for August 2020 and reschedule for August 2021 cannot now take place. This has been upsetting indeed as so much work has been put into the organisation and fundraising and we were all looking forward to it. A lot of work now has begun in trying to get refunds from the various places and again I have to thank David for his work and support with this. It has meant us having very many Zoom meetings and phone conversations until late in the evenings.

We hope to do a UK Summer camp next year and then plan another International one when hopefully things settle down in the world.

A year like no other; one of fears and disappointment in some ways but one where Phoenix kept going throughout the whole year, not missing a Wednesday night and one where we all learned a lot. Scouting's motto of Be Prepared has definitely been done and also continuing to learn skills for life for all of us.

Thank you to my fantastic leadership team for your continued support.

All of you have various parts to play in making Phoenix what it is. Unique and Great and continuing to evolve. Thanks also to Jane for all her help and support this year.

Thank you to David, Sonia, Tasha, Pete, Ben, Jon, 2-Poles, Lucy and Lewis.

Bev Lattimer Explorer Scout Leader

Biggleswade Scout Group
www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk