



Scouts

1st HALESOWEN SCOUT GROUP

**Annual Accounts & Report
2021 -2022**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	2
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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

1st Halesowen Scout Group

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

5 2 4 6 2 5

HQ registration number

0 7 8 9 5

Charity's principal address

1st Halesowen Scout Centre

Elizabeth Road

Halesowen

Postcode

B 6 3 4 B G

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mark Timmins	Joint Chair	
2	Claire Timmins	Joint Chair	
3	John Carter	Treasurer	
4	Alison Wood	Secretary	
5	Margaret McCann	Subscriptions Sec	
6	Sarah Reynolds	Group Scout Leader	
7	Paul Taylor	Assistant GSL	
8	Caroline Betteridge		
9	John Sankey		Resigned 20/04/2021
10	Peter Case		
11	Danielle Baptiste		Resigned 26/03/2022
12	Gail White		
13	Ian Dale		
14	Caroline Betteridge		
15			

Custodian Trustees	Name	Address
	Melanie Case	
	John Sankey	
	Lesley Sinclair	
	Roger White	

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The Group's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Policies and procedures adopted for:

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

The Committee consists of 4 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Subscription Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual Section Leaders, parent's and supporters representatives and meets every month.

Members of the Executive Committee complete '*Essential Information for Executive Committee*' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	<p>Risk and Internal Control</p> <p>The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:</p> <p>Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.</p> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p> <p>The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal. Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others. Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live. Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and: - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>The Group provides a wide range of indoor and outdoor training and activities appropriate to the age range of the youth members many of which are directly linked to the programme of badges and awards as directed by The Scout Association. Key to the programme of activities is providing skills for life (#SkillsForLife).</p>
Contribution made by volunteers	<p>The Scout Group is indebted to a significant number of adult volunteers who give their time freely and at no cost to the Group. These include Leaders in the Sections, members of the Group Executive and a number of Supporters who assist the Group on an as required basis.</p>

Public benefit statement

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

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Following the significant reduction in youth members during the COVID pandemic, numbers had recovered to their pre-lockdown level by the end of the period. Half subscriptions were charged for the first 6 months of the financial year and full subs reinstated from October 2021. With the benefit of significant government COVID grants, we were able to carry out major repair and maintenance works including re-tiling the foyer floor, replacing the CCTV system and replacing one of the gas heating boilers - a total of around £8000. All the youth sections remained active throughout the year with a combination of online (Zoom) and face-to-face activities and meetings. The dedication and commitment of the adult volunteers remained outstanding although more volunteers are now required to replace those who left on 2020/21.

Section E

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 3 months running costs, circa £4K.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is required for day to day operations and as a consequence the Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

The Group Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

The Group is planning an extension to the Scout Centre to provide more storage for camping / activity equipment which is desperately needed. The likely build costs will be in excess of £40K. Planning permission is currently being sought and a project funding plan will be launched once approval is received. It is possible that the Group will launch a (new) youth section for 4 - 6 year olds called Squirrels sometime in 2023.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees


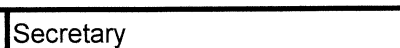
Signature(s)

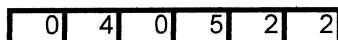
Full name(s)

Position

Date



1st Halesowen Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01.04.2021	To	31.03.2022
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Receipts and payments

	2021/22			2020/21
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	£ 10,547.50	-	-	£ 10,547.50
Less: Membership subscriptions paid	£ 5,278.00	-	-	£ 5,278.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	£ 5,179.50	-	-	£ 5,179.50
Donations	£ 1,961.00	-	-	£ 1,961.00
Legacies	£ -	-	-	£ -
Gift Aid	£ 2,471.11	-	-	£ 2,471.11
Grants		£ 10,667.00	-	£ 10,667.00
Sub total	£ 9,611.61	£ 10,667.00	-	£ 20,278.61
Fundraising (gross)				
Social Events	£ 2,103.23	-	-	£ 2,103.23
Other Events	£ 909.35	-	-	£ 909.35
Sub total	£ 3,012.58	-	-	£ 3,012.58
Activities				
Weekly programmes & activities	£ 2,448.00	-	-	£ 2,448.00
Camps	£ 2,885.00	-	-	£ 2,885.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award		£ 1,290.00	-	£ 1,290.00
Minibus & Equipment				£ 25.00
Uniforms & Training	£ 628.00	£ -	-	£ 628.00
Sub total	£ 5,961.00	£ 1,290.00	-	£ 7,251.00
Investment income				
Bank interest	£ -	£ 47.72	-	£ 47.72
Building Society interest		£ -	-	£ 5.91
Property Rent income	£ 6,957.00	£ -	-	£ 6,957.00
Other income		£ -	-	£ 136.66
Sub total	£ 6,957.00	£ 47.72	-	£ 7,004.72
Total Gross Income	25,542.19	12,004.72	-	37,546.91
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	25,542.19	12,004.72	-	37,546.91

1st Halesowen Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01.04.2021	To	31.03.2022
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Receipts and payments

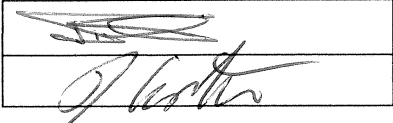
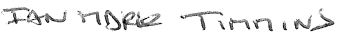
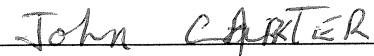
	2021/22			2021/19	
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Payments					
Charitable Payments					
Youth programme and activities	£ 4,672.31	£ -	-	£ 4,672.31	£ 2,158.47
Uniforms & Training	£ 2,542.04	£ -	-	£ 2,542.04	£ 10.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award	£ -	£ 571.07	-	£ 571.07	£ 75.00
Camps	£ 1,410.20	£ -	-	£ 1,410.20	£ 150.00
Electricity and Gas	£ 1,835.59	£ -	-	£ 1,835.59	£ 1,078.59
Insurance	£ 2,155.72	£ -	-	£ 2,155.72	£ 2,094.97
Repairs and Maintenance	£ 8,553.56	£ -	-	£ 8,553.56	£ 951.92
Water and Sewerage	£ 214.39	£ -	-	£ 214.39	£ 218.46
Equipment	£ 714.72	£ -	-	£ 714.72	£ 154.12
Minibus	£ 5,124.11	£ -	-	£ 5,124.11	£ 1,742.00
Cleaning and Sanitary	£ 3,745.31	£ -	-	£ 3,745.31	£ 2,688.03
Fire & Security	£ 1,171.01	£ -	-	£ 1,171.01	£ 1,463.03
Internet	£ 280.47	£ -	-	£ 280.47	£ 352.03
Administration	£ 1,309.86	£ -	-	£ 1,309.86	£ 527.08
Donations	£ 120.00	£ -	-	£ 120.00	£ 190.00
Sub total	£ 33,849.29	£ 571.07	-	£ 34,420.36	£ 13,853.70
Fundraising expenses					
Social Events	£ 182.68	£ -	-	£ 182.68	
Other Events	£ -	£ -	-	£ -	£ 138.31
Community Support	£ 925.46	£ -	-	£ 925.46	£ -
	£ -	£ -	-	£ -	£ -
Sub total	£ 1,108.14	£ -	-	£ 1,108.14	£ 138.31
Total Gross Expenditure	£ 34,957.43	£ 571.07	-	£ 35,528.50	
Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	-	-	-		-
Total payments	£ 34,957.43	£ 571.07	-	35,528.50	£ 13,992.01
Net of receipts/(payments)	-£ 9,367.52	£ 11,433.65	-	£ 2,018.41	£ 12,885.39
Transfers between funds	-	-	-		-
Cash funds last year end		-	-	£ 32,117.04	19231.65
Cash funds this year end	12,337.73	21,797.72	-	£ 34,135.45	32117.04

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31-Mar-22			31-Mar-21	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Bank current account	10,532.23	£ -	-	£ 10,532.23	£ 31,210.00
Bank deposit account	-	£ 21,797.72	-	£ 21,797.72	£ -
Building society account		£ -	-		
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	£ -	-	£ -	£ -
Cash/Floats	1,805.50	£ -	-	£ 1,805.50	£ 907.04
Total cash funds	12,337.73	£ 21,797.72	-	£ 34,135.45	£ 32,117.04
Other monetary assets					
Gift Aid outstanding	£ 5,000.00	-	-	£ 5,000.00	£ 7,000.00
Hire charges outstanding from Non - Group users of the Scout Centre		-	-		
Insurance claim		-	-	£ -	£ -
Sub total				£ 5,000.00	£ 7,000.00
Investment assets					
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total					
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Badge stock	2,621.00	-	-	2,621.00	2,663.00
Uniforms & Neckerchiefs	960.00	-	-	960.00	100.00
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	395,765.00	-	-	395,765.00	408,700.00
Motor vehicles	12,110.00	-	-	12,110.00	12,750.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	40,500.00	-	-	40,500.00	42,500.00
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	451,956.00	-	-	451,956.00	466,713.00
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid		-	-		
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 4th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	 Chair
	 Treasurer

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Halesowen Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer


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

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages 1 to 3

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Signed.......... Name.....I.M. DALE.....

Address: 34 Birley Grove, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1EP

Date: 30th April 2022

SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021 – 2022

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Membership Fees	10457.50	5278.00
Tax Refund (Gift Aid)	2471.11	
Grants / Donations	12628.00	120.00
Rental Income	6957.00	
Interest	47.72	
	32561.33	5398.00
Fundraising:		
Balloon Race	111.17	
Afternoon Tea & Ploughman's Lunch	738.00	108.68
200 Club	93.00	50.00
Fun Run	577.06	
Amazon Smile	166.27	
Olympics Competition	130.00	24.00
Quiz Night	454.00	
Match Funding	652.00	
	2921.50	182.68
Overheads:		
Insurances		2155.72
Water Rates	36.08	214.39
Electricity		847.87
Gas		987.72
Admin / Legal / Printing / OSM	55.00	1309.86
Internet		280.47
Fire & Security		1171.01
Cleaning & Sanitary		3745.31
Repairs & Maintenance		8553.56
	91.08	19265.91
Section Operating Costs:		
Weekly Programmes & Activities	2448.00	4672.31
Camps	2885.00	1410.20
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	1290.00	571.07
Equipment		714.72
Uniforms & Training	628.00	2542.04
Minibus		5124.11
Community Activities		925.46
	7251.00	15959.91
TOTALS	42824.91	40806.50

Balance as at 31.3.21		32117.04
Excess income / expenditure 2021 – 2022		2018.41
Balance as at 31.3.22		34135.45
Funds as at 31.3.22	Savings Account	21797.72
	Bank	10532.23
	Cash	1805.50
Total		34135.45
Restricted Funds		
Duke of Edinburgh Award		1992.09
Building Fund		21797.72

Chairperson's Report

The 2021-22 year has seen the group return to face-to-face meetings. All leaders across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have worked incredibly hard to provide a varied and interesting programme of events.

During the Covid lockdown, the group continued to meet on-line and, since returning to face to face meetings, we have seen the group numbers increase and we now have waiting lists for all sections. This shows how popular and valued the Scouting experience is to young people and their Parents.

We also support the Halesowen District Explorer Scouts Group and run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme with young people progressing through the Bronze all the way to Gold Award.

During their Scouting journey from 6 to 18, the young people learn many life skills, have many adventures and grow in confidence. All things that will help them succeed in life and leave them with great memories.

The success and popularity of the 1st Halesowen Scout Group is due to the all of the volunteers, leaders and helpers, who plan, organise and run the meetings. In addition, behind the scenes, we have the Executive Committee which is made up of some leaders together with current and ex-member parents who ensure that all the scouting policies are followed, especially those regarding child welfare and safety and the continuing financial viability of the group. This includes fund raising to ensure that we can continue to invest in the group for future young people.

Everyone gives up their time willingly, and the greatest reward is to see the smiling faces of the young people. However, to keep the group being successful, we need more volunteer helpers. This can be becoming a leader, to being an occasional parent helper and assisting in running a meeting or event, or helping with the Executive Committee. We all have different skills and the Group can benefit from these. Remember, many hands make light work. The success of the Group is down to these volunteers, so a big thank you and three very loud cheers to them all.

If you would like to help in anyway as a volunteer, then please speak to a Leader at a Section meeting.

Happy Scouting to everyone.

Mark Timmins - Chairperson

Group Scout Leader's Report

What a fantastic and different year we have had.

We started the year in lockdown where we all had to continue to learn to use different skills by doing Scouting online. All I can say is a huge thanks to all the 1st Halesowen Leaders who accepted the challenge and produced amazing programs which still allowed members to gain badges. We even managed to do remote sleepovers, all we asked was for parents to supply the appropriate evidence.

April - June saw the return to face-to-face Scouting albeit in smaller numbers. The leaders stepped up and placed all the appropriate Covid measures in so that members could finally enjoy more traditional Scouting activities. This added more time to a meeting with the added cleaning required.

We have continued to join in with any District Activities. By Christmas we were back to 'normal Scouting' even taking the risk and booking camps for the coming year.

I would like to thank all Leaders and Executive Committee for all their support during the past twelve months. Thank you to all parents and members for their continued support meaning that our membership numbers have returned to pre-Covid levels and are still growing.

Sarah Reynolds

Beavers Colony Report

Beavers have thoroughly enjoyed almost a full year back at face-to-face Scouting. We wound up our online meetings (which had become a fabulous success, particularly the regular scavenger hunts) at the end of April and restarted normal meetings in May, complying with Government guidelines by splitting the Colony into two bubbles. In order to provide some kind of meeting and contact each week for every Beaver, we co-ran an online meeting at the same time as the face-to-face meeting, providing all Beavers with the opportunity to "see" all of their friends each week, even if they weren't in the same bubble. Whilst hard work for the Leaders, this option was appreciated by a good number of the Beavers, and we had good engagement in the online meetings as well as enthusiastic attendance at the face-to-face meetings.

As Leaders we were very conscious that the young people had missed out on a lot of outdoors activities and skills during the lockdowns through the Pandemic. We made sure to quickly dive into park trips, outdoors fire building and cooking, cycling safety and maintenance, and basic cookery skills. We also focused on the Safety badge early on, trying to ensure the young people were equipped with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe whilst out and about. A session on First Aid went down very well, as did communication and navigation.

There was much excitement when Covid restrictions eased enough to allow us to plan our first sleepover in two years. 16 Beavers joined in on a Wild West themed sleepover, although Cathy created a lot of inconvenience by getting Covid on the Friday morning, thus having to miss the whole thing. Thank you Caroline for stepping in to help out.

After half term we have spent time exploring the national Saints and have focused on Teamwork as a major theme, again conscious of the kind of things the young people have missed out on in the past couple of years.

There is no doubt that the Badges at Home facility was invaluable throughout 2020 and 2021. It enabled all Beavers to access information on the badges available to them, upload evidence and to receive feedback from their Leaders. Overall, Beavers earned a total of 320 badges in the 2021-22 year, which is a fabulous achievement. We awarded two Chief Scout Bronze awards, and special mention goes to Ben Gill, who became the very first 1st Halesowen Beaver to receive the special necker from County for earning all of his Activity and Challenge badges.

We have welcomed new Sectional Assistants this year in Dean, and Chad, and for a while, Fatima. We welcomed Carys and Helen as Young Leaders, and a valuable asset they have been. We have also been really well supported through the Parent rota which has seen excellent support from a number of regular helpers. Thank you all.

And of course, thank you to our regular Leaders - Sarah R, Sarah S, Hannah and myself. We have formed a strong team which has grown stronger through the Pandemic and the challenges it had posed to us and long may it continue.

Shackleton & Tromans Cub Pack's Report

Face-to-face Scouting has returned with a vengeance.

Over the past 12-months the cubs have earned over 300 badges and have shown amazing determination to earn these.

We would like to thank the parents for the support that you have provided us by volunteering on the parent rota and also thank the children who have joined us at our weekly meetings.

We have certainly enjoyed getting back to face-to-face scouting activities, and doing things the proper Scouting way!

This started with an Activity Day at Blackwell Court, where 34 cubs (and some leaders!) completed a number of activities including zip wire, fan descender and archery. This day culminated in a good old -fashioned barbecue and camp fire, including the traditional camp fire songs. Due to government guidelines at this time, an overnight stay was not permitted, so we all camped out at home instead.

The Cubs have also enjoyed a number of activities away from HQ including a visit to Clent and Walton Hills to try different ways of communicating, games at Huntingtree Park and walks through Uffmoor Woods.

Activities at HQ have included visits from the RNLI, WMAS Paramedics and a trainee Police dog!

In April 2022 we FINALLY managed to get to camp and spend a night under canvas at Rhydd Covert, where the cubs enjoyed rifle shooting, archery, climbing wall and many traditional scouting activities such as wide games and a camp fire sing-a-long with other scouting friends. I am not sure if the Cubs heard the lions roar at 03:00 in the morning, but it was the closest to being on safari that some of us have experienced.

We would also like to send huge thanks to Sarah M, Caroline B, Paul T, James T, Malcolm W, Kieran T, and Iestyn G who give up their evenings and weekends after hectic days at work or college in order to provide a balanced programme of activities for your children.

If you are interested in helping us either on pack evenings or joining our Exec committee team please contact Tim Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds or myself to discuss how to get involved.

Yours in Scouting

Darren Betteridge & Tim Reynolds
Cub Scout Leaders

Scout Troop Report

We have completed numerous activity badges over the year through lockdown including Digital Citizen, Digital Maker, Emergency Aid, Chef, Photographer, Creative Challenge Award, Personal Challenge Award, Skills Challenge Award..... to name but a few.

We had two fantastic days sailing at Burton Sailing Club in Leicestershire, one in September and another in October, which was a bit chilly at times but everyone toughly enjoyed it. Thanks to SarahJane and Steven for organizing the activities through their contacts in their home County.

We did our first of three training camps at Kinver Camp in October teaching the Scouts basic camping skills including cooking only on open fires - everyone who attended did really well,

Once again, several of the Scouts helped tidy up the War Graves in Halesowen church yard for Remembrance Day, and just before Christmas we had a brilliant turn-out to help the Rotary Club with their Santa Sleigh.

On the Sunday before Christmas the Scouts helped to prepare and deliver a two course meal for almost one hundred elderly, vulnerable or living alone people in and around Halesowen - a fantastic effort and achievement. Thanks must go to all the Scouts, the parents and all the leaders who made this such a great success.

We went to Rock Up indoor climbing wall Birmingham in December for our Christmas treat. It was fantastic to be able to do something so 'normal' once again.

Outdoors, we took part in the District Scout Hike, walking about 12 mile over Clent ,Wasley and Walton and several Scouts also completed their Expedition Challenge Award.

Several Scouts completed their Chief Scout Gold Award during the year. Congratulations to Leo Vicoli, Carys Grice, Emily Perrins, Helen McCann, Louie Green and Oliver Jones. A great effort

Thank you to all our Troop Leaders for their continued enthusiasm and commitment. A special mention to Ellie Johnson and Elliot McKenzie who joined the leadership team during the year. Elliot was a member of the Troop until the end of 2017 and has rejoined to 'put something back', a sentiment we so often hear. It's so nice to have some more 'younger' Leaders on-board to keep us old-hands on our toes!

Yours in Scouting,

Roger P

