



2016
Biggleswade Scout Group
Trustees Report and Annual Review

Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444

Contents

Contact Details.....	3
Trustees' Annual Report.....	4
Charity Trustees.....	4
Structure, Governance and Management.....	5
Objectives and Activities.....	5
Achievements and Performance.....	6
Statement of Accounts.....	8
Receipts and Payments Accounts	8
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	9
Notes to the Accounts.....	9
Independent examiner's report on the accounts.....	12
Annual Review.....	14
Biggleswade Gangshow.....	14
Fundraising Committee	15
Apollo Beaver Colony	16
Gemini Beaver Colony.....	17
Mercury Beaver Colony.....	18
Jupiter Cub Pack.....	19
Mars Cub Pack	20
Neptune Cub Pack.....	22
Armstrong Scout Troop	23
Irwin Scout Troop.....	25
Biggleswade Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit.....	26

Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Jan Brooker
Tel 07889 981 356
Email JanB2312@gmail.com

Group Chairman — Vacant

Group Treasurer — Mike Thompson
Tel 07778 931011
Email treasurerbiggleswadescouts@gmail.com

Group Secretary — Anna Bourn
Tel 07914 049923
annabourn@yahoo.co.uk

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk



Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Jan Brooker
Group Scout Leader	Mike Thompson
Treasurer	Anna Bourn
Secretary	Chris Wells
Apollo Beaver Leader (Acting)	Mick Danson
Jupiter Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Neptune Cub Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Explorer Scout Leader	Alan Dansey
Executive Committee Members	Nick Gurney
	Sam Conder

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 (January 2015).

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 Association's 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 up slightly at 239 members.

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 nearly 200 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 near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have up to 19 people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over 90 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 50 hours of activities to over 200 young people—this is over 10,000 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 persons achievement in each section.

The Group have maintained their profile in the local community by taking part in parades to mark St George's Day and Remembrance day and having representatives at other events like the Mayor's Annual Civic Service.

We continued our relationship with the Developers of the Kings Reach estate this year by holding an event for the official opening of Baden Powell Way to mark the completion of the new road on 27 June 2015.

The Scout Group had its most successful year in Biggleswade Carnival. Our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed float won first place. The Beavers and Cubs enjoyed dressing up as Oompa Loompa's and the adults played the parts of many of the other characters in the story including Mr Willy Wonka. The float was designed and built by Michelle Chappell and John Higgins assisted by a team of other

volunteers.

One of the greatest achievements this year was the Biggleswade Scout and Guide Gangshow 2016. The Scout Group comes together with a number of local Brownie and Guide units to put on a Gangshow. In 2016 we did 2 shows to sell out audiences at Stratton Upper School on Saturday 19 March 2016. This was Nick Gurney's last year as producer and we thank Nick for all of his hard work over many years.

Biggleswade is growing—with a significant new housing development on the east 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 need to ensure we are ready to meet this challenge in the coming years.



Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2016

Receipts	31 Mar 16	31 Mar 15
Membership Subscriptions	18,796.50	21,251.50
Residential Experiences, Trips and Activities	14,177.25	18,982.74
Bank Interest	45.10	43.40
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	2,645.82	5,416.30
Gift Aid	2,631.66	4,025.74
Other	441.42	225.00
Total Receipts	<u>38,737.75</u>	<u>49,944.68</u>
Payments	31 Mar 16	31 Mar 15
Scout Association Capitation	6,699.50	7,520.00
Residential Experiences, Trips and Activities	16,053.42	25,582.86
Fundraising Costs	306.70	134.50
Headquarters -Utilities	56.41	1,131.53
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	2,295.31	2,615.64
Events	731.13	0.00
Leader Uniform	113.99	64.99
Insurance	1,682.40	1,625.46
Rent	537.00	543.00
Equipment	1,469.81	1,672.25
Resources (including Badges)	4,808.86	6,678.43
Volunteer Expenses	414.49	187.15
Donations	168.00	18.00
Bank Charges and Professional Fees	0.00	54.00
Total Payments	<u>35,337.02</u>	<u>47,827.81</u>
Net Receipts/Payments	3,400.73	2,116.87
Cash Funds Last year end	42,776.24	42,385.40
Less Explorer Funds		(1,726.03)
Cash Funds this year end	<u>46,176.97</u>	<u>42,776.24</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2016

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 16	31 Mar 15
Bank Current Accounts	30,157.68	35,622.41
Bank Deposit Accounts	647.72	644.75
COIF Savings Accounts	8,901.48	8,861.43
Cash in Hand	837.36	1,509.51
Cash in Transit	5,632.73	(3,861.86)
Total	<u>46,176.97</u>	<u>42,776.24</u>

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2016

This was another successful year for the Group. While membership is down slightly on last year—due mainly to falling Cub numbers—and this has resulted in lower income. We have also seen a similar reduction in expenditure. This has resulted in a small surplus and a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Down slightly due to falling numbers in Cubs.

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

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 donations to the Group from the Retreat (£500), Biggleswade Carnival (£150), the Biggleswade Calendar (£550) and M V Kelly (£385).

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. During 2015/16 we completed the 2013/14 claim.

Other—other income—this consisted mainly of a refund from Eon of funds held on account for the utilities at the Scout Headquarters.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2015/16 this was £ 6,699.50 which is less than it was in 2014/15 due to a change in the way that Capitation is calculated and slightly lower membership numbers.

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

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.

Events – This shows the total expenditure for any group events.

Leader Uniform – cost of uniform for the Group's volunteers.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping and disco 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 £115 that was still owing to St Andrews Church following our use in Autumn 2014.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g. paper, glue, paint etc. We saw a significant increase in the amount spent on resources during this year – particularly in Gemini Beavers, Mercury Beavers and Armstrong Scouts.

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

Donations - donations made by the Group.

Bank Charges and Professional Fees – costs incurred as a result of running bank accounts, legal fees, and fees incurred in relation to the independent examination of the annual accounts.

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 and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

COIF Savings Accounts — are two investment accounts managed by CCLA in their COIF Investment Fund (An "all in one" diversified long-term fund designed for charities.).

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 2016, 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 2016 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

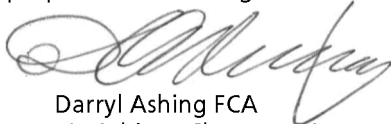
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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: 19 July 2016

Name:

Darryl Ashing FCA

Address:

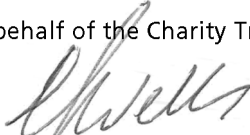
c/o Ashings Chartered Accountants, Northside House,
Mount Pleasant, Cockfosters, EN4 9EB

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature



Full name **Christopher Wells**

Position **Executive Committee Member**

Date **21 June 2016**



Annual Review

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Biggleswade Scout and Guide Gangshow

Biggleswade Gang show 2016, three years in planning, two shows, one day!

Celebrating Cubs 100 years, members of Biggleswade Scouting and Guiding came together, to put on our best show to date. With performances sold out, VIPs from both Scouting and Guiding and the audience sat back to enjoy the talents of our young scouters and guiders. The stage was dressed with jungle book characters and Cub Scout bunting, the audience were treated to the cast singing songs from the Jungle book. With cub leaders dressed in hired jungle costumes, the show began.

This year all three Beaver colonies and three Cub packs took part. Our two Scout troops assisted the front of house activity whilst our Explorer unit managed the car park and filmed the Gang show DVD.

The stars of the show are the cast, leaders and helpers and it is them that give us memories of a truly great show.

Gang show is a real Biggleswade Scout Group event to be proud of and is a fantastic show case of the young people.

All of the Scouting sections within the group who performed songs, sketches and dances showed off their talents to their very best.

Many people, all volunteers, came together to put on the Gang show 2016 and huge thanks should go to everybody involved.

We are looking forward to the next show in 2019.

Nick Gurney
Producer

As a guide leader of 30 years and now retired! myself and my husband met Nick at a Gang show meeting in the Chapter House; we were then recruited as stage managers for the Gang Show, and the rest as they say is history!

Although the Gang show was a different format to my previous involvements we found there to be a great team of Back stage crew and helpers along with teams that did the Lighting and Sound. Overall despite the sometimes challenging rehearsals and last minute changes we felt the show went off really well, the key thing is the children and

the audience really enjoyed the show which makes it all worthwhile. There is clearly some great talent in the groups which would be good to encourage. One of the challenges to this is the three yearly cycle of the Gang Show which is understandable due to the limited resources in the rural Biggleswade area.

In terms of moving forward we feel it would be good capitalise on the enthusiasm to do a mini, informal "gang show" on a more frequent cycle, this could just be a few acts for parents in a smaller setting without the technical and stage aspects. Furthermore as Nick has stepped down from his current role in Gang Show there is a need to get a larger team together and spread the workload amongst them for the next show. We also think it would be helpful if the team developed some of the acts needed as some of the gangs find it harder to put an act together than others.

Nan & Dave Rowland
Stage Managers

Fundraising Committee

Last year we saw the departure of our current fundraising team members. In the near future we hope to resurrect the Committee and welcome anyone who is interested in joining the team or who has some fundraising ideas. We are a small group who hold informal meetings about six times a year.

This year we have focused our attention on Gift Aid. We would encourage all parents who are UK tax payers to sign a Gift Aid declaration so that we can reclaim back 25p for every £1 paid in subs.

This year we are looking to claim back £2560 which is a tremendous amount however 34% of our parents had not completed a form meaning we are unable to claim back a further £1305. If you have not received a Gift Aid form please speak to your section leader or email us at Biggscoutfund@gmail.com. Alternatively forms can be downloaded from the website <http://www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk>

This year we have also been lucky enough to receive two grants. We accepted £150 from Biggleswade Carnival Committee who we support each year on carnival day and help to deliver the carnival programmes. We also made an application to Biggleswade Town Council for £300. We decided the money would be used to help the cubs celebrate their centenary, paying for commemoration badges for all cubs and contributing to a series of activities and events during their 100th year.

We received over 400 Cashpoints from the Biggleswade Chronicle and await final donation. Thank you to everyone who collected. We continue to collect used ink cartridges using Recycle4Charity. Thank

you to everyone who collected over 8000 Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. We have been able to purchase sports equipment and cooking utensils.

We have also signed up to Easyfundraising, a simple search tool that you can use to shop online and make money for your nominated cause. For more information go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/biggleswadescouts>.

The fundraising team can be contacted by emailing biggscoutfund@gmail.com. To keep up to date with news and events go to Biggleswade Scout Group Facebook page or follow Scout Group @BigglesScouts on Twitter

Sam Conder on behalf of the Fundraising Committee

Apollo Beaver Colony

The last year has been a good one for the Apollo Beaver Colony. The colony continues to be popular and with a long waiting list for Beavers we expect to continue at our maximum of 24 Beavers.

The Colony have enjoyed a varied programme during the last year with many highlights including the visits to Biggleswade Fire Station and Pets at Home, as well as our bug hunt evening, water games evening, a number of hikes and Christmas and Easter edible crafts. Right at the beginning of the year we had a visit from Explorer Scout Emilia to tell us all about Japan in preparation for the World Scout Jamboree. We have also done some work towards our Community Impact Award by joining in with Scout Associations A Million Hands project and finding out about Dementia. Our Beavers enjoyed participating in the District Beavers Teddy Bears Picnic and Biggleswade Carnival – where the Scout Groups Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed float won first prize. We also enjoyed taking part in the Gangshow where the Beavers sang “We’re altogether again, we’re here, we’re here” by Fischy Music. We have also had a very successful Beaver Sleepover with Mercury Beavers – our Minions themed Sleepover at Wymondley Wood in December - and we are looking forward to our Superheros themed sleepover in May at Haverings, Luton.

During this year we have presented 77 Activity Badges and 57 Challenge Badges to the Beavers and I was very pleased to be able to present 1 Chief Scouts Bronze Award to Harry.

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

- Recruit some additional volunteers for the Colony leadership team, including at least one more uniformed leader.
- Achieve more Youth Involvement by holding regular Beaver

Scout Forums (known as Log Chews)

I am very grateful for all the help I have received from the parents that have supported me this year by taking a turn on our helpers rota or coming along on trips, fundraising events or other activities. I am also very grateful for the help and support of my colony assistant Melanie Walker – Melanie was new to scouting when she started helping me last year but has developed quickly and is now confidently planning and running activities at Beavers.

Chris Wells (Sparrowhawk)
Acting Apollo Beaver Leader

Gemini Beaver Colony

This last year has been another great one for Gemini Beavers. The colony has remained full to capacity with the maximum 24 beavers. The Colony has maintained a varied programme working on; challenge, activity and staged badges. This year we have awarded a whopping 345 badges in total!! Covering indoor activities such as craft and experiments through to emergency aid, gardener and explore. The colony has participated in the St Georges Day Parade; supported the annual Biggleswade Carnival, in which two awards went to the Cubs and Beavers float; visiting the Biggleswade allotments; supporting the St. Andrews church fete; attendance at the town's Remembrance Parade; a (planned) visit from a Police officer and participating in fairtrade fortnight. Eight of Gemini's Beavers gained their Chief Scout Bronze award during this last year.

The Colony held it's annual under canvas summer camp at Jordans Close in July which was well attended by 18 Beavers. The camp was themed around space and the Beavers were able to try out climbing, making rockets, making their own beach ball planets and had games and crafts with a space theme, as well as traditional camp fire songs and cooking. The camp was a great example of the excellent leadership and support team we have been able to rely upon and my thanks to all those involved in making a very enjoyable camp for Beavers and Adults.

Another notable event for the colony last year was participation in the Biggleswade Scout Group's Gang Show. Gemini performed a Hawaiian "Agadoo" to steal the show!

The Colony's success is 100% down to the superb team which support it. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped the Colony on the many evenings and weekend activities. I particularly would like to thank the many parents who have volunteered their time. And finally a massive thanks to the Gemini Leadership Team;

Michelle Chappell; Paul Haynes; Paul Raynham; Jonathon Passingham for their enthusiasm, commitment and willingness, it has been very much appreciated.

Ian Hall (Harrier)
Gemini Beaver Leader

Mercury Beaver Colony

Mercury Beavers had another fantastic year. We continued to be a success as the third beaver colony in Biggleswade, maintaining the record of a full quota of 24 beavers since opening over two years ago.

Whilst the colony is still run with a sole warranted leader, three parents stepped up to become Occasional Helpers in 2015 whilst our efforts to recruit an assistant leader continued. Mercury Beavers was (and continues to be) run with a parent rota in place so that we have at least two parent helpers on hut nights, and four when out and about. Our culture of welcoming siblings of helpers, combined with our earlier start time of 5pm, has meant our group continues to run successfully (with the waiting list bolstered by little ones that can't wait to be an official beavers now they've seen what their big sister/brother gets up to on a Friday night!).

With the introduction of the new badges and badge criteria in Beavers in September 2015 we have been working on these new topics over the year. We have awarded 394 badges in this accounts period. Three of our beavers were awarded the Chief Scout Bronze award this year under the old criteria and have now started on their second bronze under the new criteria. We have awarded badges in Cycling, Swimming, Cooking, Navigator, Teamwork and Personal Challenges to list but a few in our diverse and balanced programme.

We held two joint sleepovers with Apollo Beavers again this year with the themes "How To Train Your Dragon camp" and "Minions" in March and December 2015 respectively. We also held a Mercury only summer sleepover at Bromham in June 2015. One of our beavers was awarded 4 nights away which is rare (most beavers will only achieve 2 nights away whilst they are in Beavers).

Mercury was also active within the community by taking part in the St. Georges Day parade and service, District Teddy Bears picnic, Biggleswade Carnival, opening of Baden Powell Way, Millennium tree planting, Green Wheel bulb planting, St Andrew's Church fete and the Remembrance Day Parade. We also performed at the Gangshow in March 2016 where we performed Baby Shark.

I must take the chance to thank Anna Bourn (Falcon), Anca Weldon (Kestrel) and Nicole Smith (Osprey) for stepping up to the scouting

challenge and becoming our new Colony Assistants.

Once again we need to say thanks to all the parents and siblings of the Beavers in Mercury for their ongoing support and in particular during this accounts period Matthew Graves, Chris Treadwell, Emma Odell, Maria Banks, Teresa Evans, James Wagland, Hilary Notley and Nazma & Faraz Bhatti.

I would also like to thank Apollo Beavers, Cub Packs, Scout Troops and the Leaders of Biggleswade Scout Group who have provided ongoing resources or support to Mercury Beavers.

Jane Thompson (Hawk)
Mercury Beaver Leader

Jupiter Cub Pack

First of all I want to thank our fab leadership team at Jupiter, you have made this year so much fun for me and all the cubs and a special memorable year indeed; so a big thank you to Oo! (Libby), Bagheera (Andy), Rocky (Faraz) and Raksha (Tina) and all our helpers especially Katherine I really appreciate your support and the fun and laughs we have together.

Jupiter's year was busy as ever; completing the Our World challenge, enjoying another Sixer and Secondar Camp at Bromham, where Bagheera organised a fun I'm a Cub Scout get me out of here camp. Another camp with a Pirate theme at Boyd in June. We had fun joining in with our carnival success. Jupiter had another success in the district bowling competition, well done Cubs! We explored Sandy hills once again, took part in the district sports day, played alternative welly-boot golf at Boyd Field once again. We had a trip to the Panto in Stevenage just before Christmas and had a great day out. Last and not least we all had great fun in our Cub Centenary themed Gangshow, after which we gave awards for performance at the inaugural award ceremony proudly named after the man who has led this special event for so many years.

Our plan to help us make things more enjoyable for cubs and leaders alike in the coming year seems to have been a success with everyone saying how much they are enjoying things now.

Thank you to all our young leaders once again, we know it been a difficult time to help for you with all your exams and we know you older ones are all moving on to new things so we wish you well and see you soon, but welcome to our new helpers especially Keego your experience in Scouting is of great help to us all.

Our best wishes to our fellow leaders Baloo (James) pleased to see you

looking so well and we are look forward to your return real soon.

Thank you to the exec committee and fundraising representatives for the work you do in support of us, especially you Anna. Thank you also to all those that have helped during the year allowing the leaders to focus on the Cubs.

Thank you to all the Cubs, it has been great fun once again and looking forward to the summer and the fun centenary year ahead. For those leaving Jupiter we wish you good luck in whatever you do. Say hi if you see us out and about.

Mick Danson (Akela)
Jupiter Cub Leader



Mars Cub Pack

Firstly, let me say on behalf of Sonia and myself, what a great honour it has been to be part of Mars Cub Pack. As we will be retiring from Mars Cubs at the end of term in July I take this opportunity of giving a report upto that point so that a new sheet can be started after the summer holidays.

It was always our intention to have the pack doing different things and going to various places. The period started with offering the night to cubs that had left, to run, which they took great delight in doing. Hikes were mixed in with Risk Assessments. A visit to the Shuttleworth Collection was made in early may last year. Tracking was carried out in Stanford Woods. Hoo Hill Maze was visited and many games played there.

The Mars artist of the year was carried out with Dominic winning best still life, Nadia the best portrait, and Samuel the best holiday scene. The common hike went well with quizzes as we walked around.

The RNLI was our charity early in the year, a worthy cause to follow. Swiss Gardens were visited, and the cubs had to think like myself, and surprise, surprise, not many did! Map work was started again, and did not go too well. Athletics training was held in the playing fields, and must have gone well as Malthe, Kai, Nadia, Luca and Samuel, along with two others managed to steer us into 3rd place in the district event.

The sixers and seconders were given a treat out at the driving range. The scouts ran a night playing a necky game along with many others. Malthe became the Mars best conker competition champion at the district event. Various bases were held on culture and countries, including stamps and food. At the Mars 10 pin bowling event, Samuel won. We pulled out of the district fishing competition as we had no Cubs wishing to enter.

A pack night was run by some of the cubs. In the Mars conker competition at the hut this event was won by Oscar. A night that also had us all watching sky lab go over the sky. Fire drill was held, always a hit with the cubs doing dark sardines afterwards. Malthe was the most knowledgeable Mars Cub in 2015.

A venture scout was invited along and carried out a very interesting talk on international scouting.

Our indoor camp was held at Bromham in November, and we joined in with the district camp in June. Our yearly visit to the old folk entertaining them with songs, sketches, and jokes went very well. December saw us doing an indoor fund raising with the cubs manning the bases, and raising £60 for RATS in doing so.

The new year started with a parent/cub party night. Over four weeks indoor athletics were held, improving their fitness, along with healthy and unhealthy eating. A police visit was held after "stealing" of a new Mars mascot. Descriptions were taken, and it was the designer boots that got me going, they were green wellingtons! Oscar and Oliver put in plan for running a night, and they carried it out very well. The collectors night was a hit and a miss. The records went down well, but no one put on appearance in with a collection up to this point.

Talks were had on Baden-Powell, and the saints of the British Isles. The gangshow rehearsals and gang show proper went well with 8 Mars Cubs taking part. Thank you to Ethan, Malthe, Rhys, Evie, Nadia, Luca,

Jayen and Poppy, who all went along with the Mars sketch "John Lewis" very well. The pre-Easter pack night saw us doing 10 pin bowling again.

I now continue with Mars up to the summer holidays. An Australian Cub and Joey Scout joined us for our welcome back games night, and had us playing some of their games, as well as they played ours. Badges were looked at and a good time had by all. Bases were held to fill in badge work gaps. A forum was held, global issues dealt with, origami cup made for a drink, and Poppy read out a prayer that she had written for the occasion. Map work was finally completed for the old style map readers badge so duly awarded. A science night was held thanks to Chris Wells initiative to pull more parent help into the pack. Its amazing how many scientific things are fulfilled with tin can candle cooking. The British schools event was a hit, with all the Cubs having at least one cane. More ink was on hands than on paper. 3 cubs invested here. Oh yes, the canes were made of Candy.

Now events still to do up to the Summer Holidays. A meeting is planned at Boyd Field to ready pack for District Sports Day the next night, which we shall attend. A shop survey is planned around Biggleswade. A tracking come scavenger night, a visit to the dovecote and riding stables at Willington, a barbeque hike, a finish off work night in the hut, and a surprise end of term do, which wouldn't be a surprise if I mentioned it now, suffice to say we shall be out, and it won't be bowling or golf driving!

Brian Maskell (Akela)
Mars Cub Leader

Neptune Cub Pack

Of course, January saw us begin celebrating 100 years of Cubs and we have enjoyed the start of celebrations and are looking forward to the continued year of partying.

Neptune Cubs have had another successful year. We continue to be a very family orientated pack with family members being invited to nights at least once a term, usually more. It is important to us that families are involved in their child's cub scouting experience and get to join in the fun too! To this end, we held our annual Dads and Cubs camp and also Mums and Cubs camp, both were a great success. Cubs and parents took part in all the activities and the camp fire sketches from the Mum and Dads were again a highlight of the weekends!

Our programme from the period April 2015 to March 2016 was very busy and varied, too many activities to mention separately. Highlights for the year include backwoods cooking nights or anything to do with fires! We held our annual model boat race down the River Ivel with

Bagheera rescuing the boats in a rubber dinghy! The parents seem to enjoy watching this as much as the boats!!

We have linked our programme to quite a few activity badges this year; one being the Science badge with lots of experiments being carried out. Cubs also made individual wormeries; a great evening and also some fantastic wormery logs kept by the cubs. We also completed home safety, road safety, DIY and first aid badges as a pack too.

In March, Neptune participated in the Gangshow with the sketch Hole in My bucket and the Cubs who took part did an amazing job. We have some very talented actors/actresses amongst us. Thank you to Amanda Pickering for helping us leaders at all the rehearsals and the show, we couldn't have done it without you.

We have presented lots of Chief Scout Silver Awards this year and are proud of all the achievements of all the cubs who work hard for these awards. Well done to you all.

The Leadership team consists of Eddie Fuller (Akela), Nick Gurney (Bagheera), Bev Lattimer (Chil), Kat Hill (Raksha), Chris Brown (Jacala) and Matt Martin (pack assistant). We also have the help of many parents especially on nights when we are out of the church hall, but special thanks to Amanda Pickering and Julia/Dave Fisher who have helped out when we are short of leaders on a particular night. Thanks also to anyone who has helped us over the year at our Pack nights or our camps.

We must also thank Trinity Methodist Church for the continued use of the Church school rooms for our Pack nights.

We look forward to another fun and action packed year of Cub Scouting.

From all of the Neptune Leadership team.

Armstrong Scout Troop

It has been another busy year for Armstrong Scouts with a varied programme of activities. It started with the usual St Georges day parade where there was a good turnout. During the summer term the better weather meant that we could take advantage of Boyd field and enable the Scouts to gain experience in various scouting activities. For summer camp over 20 Scouts, from both Armstrong and Irwin, made the trip to Walesby. Various activities ensued and there was also an opportunity one evening to go to the cinema. It was a strange site to see all the scouts in 3D glasses and I'm not sure how many stayed awake during the whole film!

Remembrance day was well supported as usual with most of the troop present. Later in November there was a camp at Boyd where the Scouts helped clean the site up in readiness for the next year. We spent the night under polythene in bivvi's and cooked on open fires. This also gave the Scouts the opportunity to use various handtools in a safe environment. Christmas came and went with the usual festivities and we welcomed a number of new Scouts at the turn of the year.

January saw the usual Frosty camp take place. This year it was Tolmers turn to host this annual camp. The weather was kind with just wind and light rain. This meant that many activities could be run outside to keep the spirits up!! The ground was quite heavy and the choice of both game and part of the site meant a big difference to how messy the Scouts ended up! There were some very amusing pantomime sketches that were planned and performed by the Scouts. These were the topic conversation over the traditional three course Christmas lunch on Sunday.

To help the new Scouts practice with the use of handtools a day event was held at Boyd. Again the weather was kind and all the Scouts learnt more about what makes Scouts fun.

Over the year the Scout numbers have remained strong with Armstrong still being full. There have been a number of achievements with all Scouts making progress with their badge work.

It just remains for me to thank my team for their help over the last 12 months. These are Brian, Crim, Emma, James, Sean, Sue and Tara without their support the troop could not have taken part in all the activities that make life fun for Scouts!

Tracey Warner
Acting Scout Leader



Irwin Scout Troop

Leaders: Tom Keller, Scout Leader
Pete Moulton, Assistant Scout Leader
David Moulton, Assistant Scout Leader
Danny O'Connor, Section Assistant
David Cox, Section Assistant

Invested Scouts: 24
Leaders: 7

This year has seen the troop go from strength to strength. Stuart left us last year after moving to Cambridge and we thank him for his help. He was immediately replaced by Faraz and this means we have a strong leadership team enabling us to keep up the wide variety of activities for the scouts.

This year saw the last of our the scouts that started with us back in 2012 moving on to Explorers and it was a great moment to see all 7 of them receive their Chief Scout Gold award at last year's AGM. We have continued to enjoy an active year with a number of camps and a wide range of activities both indoors and out. There are many highlights during the last year and we would like to highlight just a few.

We continued to join Armstrong on camps and whilst it was a little damp at times the annual summer camp in Nottinghamshire was once again great fun. Frosty Camp was its usual weekend of mud, silly sketches and a roast dinner. A number of our scouts also enjoyed the annual clean-up camp, sleeping under plastic and generally cutting stuff down and burning it, to help the staff at Boyd Field campsite in their endless task of keeping the camp site tidy.

This year saw Tom Keller and David Moulton both gain their Nights Away Permit and we have run 2 Irwin only camps this year. Both of these saw the scouts taking an active part in all aspects of camping and they all enjoyed cooking their own meals including a 'full' English cooked on a fire in a tin can. Both camps saw nearly 100% attendance which is very encouraging.

We have started to build bridges with other sections and organisations to give the scouts a wider range of activities and skills. This has included an evening run by Biggleswade Army Cadet Force (complete with camouflage paint all over their faces!), camping at the same time as the Explorers in February and we are working on the content for scouts to help run a couple of pack nights with Cubs. We are also hoping to camp further afield and work with scouts from outside the county.

With an influx of new younger members in the last six months it has been great to get back to teaching some basic scouting skills. This has been a great opportunity for the leadership team to learn as well, and also for the older Scouts to have the opportunity to teach the younger Scouts.

All in all it has been a great year and all the activities have been enjoyed by the scouts and leaders alike. We are looking forward to the next year to see the young people grow and learn within scouting. A big thank you has to go to both the leadership team and parent for their continued support in everything that we do.

Tom Keller
Scout Leader

Biggleswade Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit

Phoenix Explorers have had another fun packed year. We run very much a 'family type' unit with everyone supporting each other, leaders and explorers alike. It is an honour to be a leader to such a great group of young people. Our numbers fluctuate, especially during exam periods at school but we can have up to 28 Explorers some weeks and it is great to know young people of 14 upwards are still eager to join in scouting so we must be doing something right! We have had many new members in this last year coming up from Scouts and also outside of scouting which is great to see.

Explorers are involved in organising and running some of the weekly activities which helps with their developing independence and teamwork/leadership skills.

We have again been busy with camps, including attending the annual Gilwell 24 camp in July where most people managed to stay awake for the 24 hour challenges. A great time was had by all and it was great to see the older explorers looking out for the younger ones and the Unit going about together, sharing in the activities and encouraging each other when the going got tough! We have held a couple of other camps including a winter camp at Henlow and also a first for us with the National Explorer Thorpe Park Theme Park camp which was a great success and we will be going again this year in September.

This year in September we awarded – a Chief Scout Diamond Award to Emily, Chief Scout Platinum Awards to Jake and Will and later in the year one to Ben. We would like to congratulate these young people on all their hard work and commitment. A great achievement and we are proud of you all. You are great young people who are an asset to our Unit.

Each year in September, the Explorers elect a Chair and Vice Chair to help run the Unit. In September 2015 Emily was elected chair and Dan vice chair. They have done a superb job and led the Unit well so thank you both. They are supported by other members taking the part of secretary and games masters. New elections are held every September.

Sadly September 2015 was time to say goodbye to two of our Explorers as they headed off to university – Tom and Danny. It has been good to keep in touch with what they have been doing since September. We will be losing some more Explorers to university and other places this year too but keep in touch via technology.

Some of our Explorers are also young leaders in younger sections and make a valuable contribution helping others within the town so thank you to them.

This Summer we will be spending 8 days in Northern Ireland for our Summer camp with 14 Explorers – preparations have been going on all year and we are all getting very excited about the adventure ahead. The leadership team would like to thank anyone who has helped us in anyway this year and are looking forward to another action packed year of scouting ahead.

I would like to thank all my leadership team for all the support and assistance throughout the year – we are a crazy lot, but it works so thank you! Bev (Explorer Scout Leader)

Leadership team - Bev (ESL), Sonia (AESL), Tasha (AESL), Pete (AESL), David M (AESL), Jon (AESL) and David P (Unit Assistant).

Biggleswade Scout Group
www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk