

58th SCOUT GROUP REPORTS 2023

BEAVERS

We currently have 18 Beavers attending each week. We have been able to increase our number compared to this time last year thanks to having three Duke of Edinburgh students and of course our wonderful parent helpers. We have nearly 20 children on our waiting list. The parents of one is SO keen for them to get a place that they have signed their child up aged 8 months!

We have had a busy and varied year working towards many badges of which nearly 90 have been earned including 3 Chief Scout's Bronze awards which are challenging to achieve. Some of our highlights include the Space badge part of which was conducted on a very cold evening in Eastville Park but we were amazed that the very first object we spotted in the night sky was the International Space Station right above our heads! We also had 2 sessions with a professional fencing instructor. Beavers seemed to very much enjoy wielding swords! We also had an archery session and more recently we had a bee keeper come to talk to us about the importance of bees. He brought in all the gear he has to wear but fortunately the bees remained at home. He finished the session by offering a taste of the honey from the hive.

Last December we had a jolly time on the Santa steam train at Bitton which was a District organised event which finished with a relaxing cycle track walk and a party held in a local Scout hall.

By the time this report is published, we will have just completed a very busy joint camp with the 252 and Whitehall groups. Hopefully the Beavers will have been successful in putting up tents and taking them down again!

Looking forward, we are in discussion with the District with a view to participating in another event and we are planning our own camp in November in what will be another busy and fun Scouting year.

- Sarah

CUBS

The cub pack is at a full capacity with 24 cubs, 8 girls and 16 boys and a very lengthy waiting list. With myself, Steve and Liam and regular parental help we are managing, however at times we can struggle with coverage if one of us can't make it.

We have also been very fortunate to have assistance from Scouts who are completing their Duke Of Edinburgh award so a big thank you to Harri and Thomas who have been model scouts and really helpful with the running the pack.

The parental Whatsapp group is great for communicating and successful in getting parental help with activities. However we really could do with more permanent volunteers taking a lead. I may find it more difficult due to work commitments from September to deliver and commit the amount of effort needed to lead the pack so further involvement from parents will be most welcome! My thanks to all the parents who regularly put themselves forward to help.

We have covered many activities this year with the following badges awarded: Athletics, Astronomer, Backwoods Cooking, Collector, Communicator, D.I.Y., Entertainer, Environmental Conservation, Fire Safety, Hikes, Hobbies, Home Help, Home Safety, International Navigator, Personal Safety, Pioneering and Sailing alongside the Challenge badge work.

Due to my other commitments, and not enough volunteers, we were unable to arrange camping or attend the Jamboree this year, however we will be looking forward to joining the Scouts for a Welcome Back camp in September.

We were also extremely fortunate to be able to book onto the Sailing taster session in the harbour due to a cancellation, and Steve ran a brilliant backwoods cooking session recently. Including the camping in September we are also looking to go Scuba diving, as well as cycling, hiking, music and electronic workshops in the new term.

If anyone would like to run a session or have interests that you can share with the Cubs please get in touch!

- Clive

SCOUTS

Time flies when you're having fun and the Scouts have certainly done that over the last 12 months. We started the year off as always with our Welcome Back camp, this was closely followed by our Group Trip to Brownsea Island the home of Baden Powell's first camp. The Scouts enjoyed exploring the island and even met a Leader from an Indian Scout Group who was also visiting. We then headed off to Bournemouth where the Scouts enjoyed a leap of faith & Zip Wiring off the pier down onto the beach. We've hiked we've cooked on open fires, and more recently joined other Groups in the District for the first Jamboree since Covid. We've had a trip to Weston on the train and the Scouts have finished battling the elements on a one-night survival camp

Scouts have been awarded a total of 149 Badges since September including 1 Gold Award (the highest in the Scout Section). This is earned by Scouts completing all 7 Challenge Badges and 6 Activity Badges. Scouts have earned their Emergency Aid Badge with the help of the British Red Cross and Astronomer badge following a visit from the planetarium.

When we return in September, we have a joint camp with the Cubs booked, and activities such as paintballing lined up which was an event for this year, but we never managed to fit it into the schedule. We also have our own spring camp booked in May which will include a visit to the Lifeboat Station in Portishead.

Nick, Martin and myself have been joined by Martina our new Assistant Scout Leader who brings a wealth of experience to the role from many years as a Scout & Leader overseas.

We are always looking for activities to add to the program so if any of you reading this would have a particular skill hobby or interest you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Your support is crucial, and we rely on parents help especially when it comes to events away from the hall. We currently have 31 Scouts and are sadly saying goodbye to 3, who hopefully will continue their Scouting Journey in Explorers. Our numbers will then return to full as we welcome new 4 new Scouts from the Cub Section. There are currently 12 young people on the waiting list hoping to join us but unfortunately, we are unable to offer anyone a space without additional adult help.

So time for the annual plea. If anyone reading this would like to offer regular help in the Scout Section please let us know. The more adults we have the more young people can enjoy all the positive Scouting experiences our Beavers, Cubs & Scouts in the 58th currently do.

- Rob

Group Scout Leader

To start the leaders need a big thank you for their commitment in delivering the Scouting programme. This programme allows the young people to have fun, adventure and hopefully a bit of education thrown in the mix. This isn't just for the young people the idea of Scouting is that the leaders get this as well. We need more leaders to help us deliver the programme to more young people whilst taking the pressure off the current teams.

On a positive note Martina joined us at the start of the year as a Scout Leader after previous Scouting experience in Italy. We've had several young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award by helping in the sections plus Billy an ex-58th Scout coming back as a young leader. Hopefully there will be more to follow.

We have been working hard on the building and grounds. It's taken a while but we are getting there. We had some grants a couple of years ago to target some home improvements which hopefully will be completed by the autumn. Some of this help can be done by parents with simple D.I.Y. projects and ground maintenance. The main theme here is if we all work together whether with the sections or helping out with the building we can make lighter work of it.

Having our own hall and keeping it in reasonable working order allows us to rent it as a Community space raising money from hire charges. We have several regular hirers plus of course the one off hires for parties etc. Part of this requires time by the Trustee board and Leaders to help with viewing for potential hirers and opening and closing the hall for some of our bookings.

Six years have passed since our current Chair, Emma, offered to keep us all in check but now due to other commitments she's had to call time. On behalf of the Group a huge thank you to her not just for chairing but also getting actively involved with the running of the group, especially around hall procedure relating to safety and risk assessments.

- Simon