

A photograph of three young Scouts in a forest. In the foreground, a campfire with bright orange and yellow flames is burning in a wooden fire pit. Three children are standing around the fire. On the left, a boy in a dark blue jacket and dark trousers looks towards the camera. In the center, a boy in an orange Scout jacket and dark trousers holds a long wooden stick. On the right, a girl in a pink Scout jacket and grey trousers is seen from the side, looking towards the other two. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and dappled sunlight.

26th Leicester (Blaby) Scout Group

Annual Report Sept 2021

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Chairman's Comments

We have all experienced a time which many of us never could imagined outside of a Hollywood blockbuster.

We encountered fear, loss, uncertainty in our daily lives and our young people have experienced massive disruption to their education and social interactions.

That the Scouts have been able to survive the restrictions and emerge to carry on fantastic work providing the experience, life lessons and social interaction for our young people is testament to the Beaver, Cubs, Scout and Explorer leaders and helpers who have put aside their own fears to keep our group going.

I would also like to thank the parents for their trust and financial support and the young people for not deserting the movement and returning in great numbers with great enthusiasm.

We have now at this moment a healthy number of young people involved in the section, a strong leadership team and behind the scenes and the support of a great committee, which we are looking to strengthen further with a Beaver parent representative (volunteers gratefully received).

We have in our building a fantastic facility at the heart of the community which we have extended to other groups such as the MacIntyre charity, a drama group, dance and yoga classes as well as other causal hut bookings.

Scouting taught me a lot when I was young, gave me experiences I will never forget and I made friends I still have today. I believe we owe it to all of our young people to open up opportunities for them and to help them uphold the values of scouting, to which we can surely all relate, and pass them on to future generations.

Integrity.
Respect.
Care.
Belief.
Co-operation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ashley Bown

Chairperson 26th Leicester (Blaby) Scouts

Group Scout leader and Assistant Group Scout Leader.

Well what a year it has been, here goes a brief review of the last year.....our membership has increased to 90 young people within the 4 sections we have 14 Beavers, 31 Cubs and 31 Scouts and 14 Explorer Scouts and no not any Squirrels yet!

New leaders include Adam Bailey (Scouts) who has joined the Scout leadership team as a Sectional Assistant and Teddy Marshall (Beavers) has joined Beavers as Sectional Assistant we hope they will both enjoy their leadership role.

The Scout Association introduced a traffic light system in relation to Covid -19. Red, Amber, Yellow, Green therefore during this past year we have moved through the various alert levels and finally I am very pleased we are at Green which means there are no restrictions in place. Our year has mainly focused on completing Risk Assessments and preparing to return to Face to Face Scouting. Obviously meeting face to face when we were able in between all the restrictions.

This past year has been very challenging for us all and our leadership team have shown a huge amount of dedication in supporting our young people in the different sections. I would like to give a special mention to Gemma Taylor, Arran Smith and Sam Poynton for providing excellent Zoom sessions during lockdown for Cubs. I know not all Cubs felt able to join the sessions however those that did gained a great deal of knowledge fun and enjoyment by joining in. Even on the Science night when parents/ carers were asked to provide 30 different items!!

In my role as Group Scout Leader I feel very privileged to be part of such an amazing Scout Group with such caring and hard working leaders and adults who support your children / young people to develop skills for life and have lots of fun.

Scouting has never been so important in terms of enhancing health and well being if you would like to get involved with the Scout Group please get in touch and you never know you might enjoy being part of the adventure.

I look forward to reporting at next years AGM when it will be jam packed with numerous activities and adventures!

Yours in Scouting

Jane Young GSL
gsl@blabyscouts.org

Mark Chamberlain AGSL
assistantgsl@blabyscouts.org



Finance Report

Financial Summary for the Year ended 31 March 2021

Our financial position at the end of the year is satisfactory and this will enable the Group to move forward with confidence in the current year. The budget for 2021/2022 estimates a break even position at 31 March 2022. Our resources are now at a level to cover any major expenditure for potential costs on buildings and grounds maintenance.

There have been limited meetings and activities in the Scout Hut during the year with Groups being supported, where possible, by virtual meetings at a small cost. Our rental income was at a similar level to previous years. Appropriate COVID-19 restrictions were implemented and we received a grant of £1000 from Leicester County Council towards these costs.

A grant from Blaby District Council of £10,000 enabled the Group to continue with minimal parental support.

Sue Wyllie

Treasurer

Capitation is our annual membership fee the group pays to cover the cost of each members membership. Capitation covers contributions for insurance, district costs, district campsite, county expenditures and membership of the Scout Association.

Due to the pandemic we did not charge the full amount of subscriptions over the financial year. *The income does cover a number of subscriptions for April 2021 that came into the bank in March 2021.

Income

Subscriptions	£1742*
Less Capitation	£4223
Net Subscriptions	-£2481
Donation Scout Shop	£1395
Hut Rental	£7742
Grants	
Blaby District Council	£10000
Leicester County Council	£1000
Sundry Income	£547
Total	£18203

Expenditure

Group Activities	£1062
Hut Costs	£4214
Minibus Costs	£871
Covid-19 Costs	£975
Sundry Costs	£483
Total	£7605

Net Receipts over Payments for year

£10598

BEAVERS

A year in the life of Blaby Beavers

All was well in Blaby Beavers until March 2020. We had an full programme of activities and we were looking forward to our visit to the fire station which was due to happen the following week.

Lock down happened!

Feeling very sorry for all the people who were affected by covid all our plans ground to a halt!

As weeks went by we kept on hoping that lock down would end, but it didn't happen.

September 2020 came along and we thought we must do something for our Beavers as our Cubs section had already started doing Zoom sessions.

After some careful planning and a bit of training we had a parents meeting then we went live with our first Zoom session on 28th October.

The session was titled Planes, trains and automobiles. We did some junk modelling had a quiz and was all about transport. It went really well!

Lock down lifted briefly and after having a risk assessment signed off we managed to get a face-to-face Campfire on 4th November. A fabulous time was had by all.

Two days later another lock down started!

We then got into the swing of doing Zoom sessions. With a bit creative thought we were able to do lots of badges this way, Experiment

badge, Cooks badge, pet care badge, Emergency aid, plus more.

On 8th June 2021 we were finally able to get back to full face-to-face.

On a new night Tuesdays now! New time 5.30 – 6.45 being a slightly later time means that we are even more prepared for our lovely Beavers.

On our first session back we did our Global Activities badge, which was great fun!

We have now got a full programme of activities planned up to Christmas.

We must say we are so incredibly proud of our Beavers. They have shown immense commitment joining in the Zoom sessions every week with great enthusiasm and have soon got back in to the face-to-face meetings adapting to the new routines and a different night.



cubs

We ran Cubs almost non-stop during the covid pandemic lockdowns from April 2020 - July 2021, via Zoom virtual meetings and OSM badges @home and programmes @home.

When Covid hit and the country was told to lock down, we kept calm and carried on!

We turned to our true scouting values and showed how they work...

We faced up to the challenge; we found new ways; we learnt new skills; we worked together; we achieved as much as possible.

It was difficult and very different but we never gave up and we made it work.

Over the four months our Cubs achieved over 150 plus badges covering areas :

- Gardener
- Entertainer
- Pioneer
- Navigator
- Astronomer
- Scientist
- Disabilities
- International
- Fire Safety
- Artist
- Community Impact
- Environmental Conservation
- Global Issues

Also worked towards parts of Challenge Badges.

We also got in two virtual sleepovers.

We are so pleased that a number of Cubs even managed to still complete their Chief Scout Silver Award (the highest award they can get in Cubs).

Thanks to the Leaders, our amazing Cubs and their supportive parents.

When we eventually take time to look back and reflect it will seem quite incredible what our pack achieved over the past year and a half, but now we are already looking to and planning for the future with even better things to come.

We are all excited and looking forward to being able to hold more normal meetings face-to-face and getting to know each other properly again. We can't wait for a proper camp, and all our other adventures.



Quotes from CUBS

"I enjoyed the zoom meetings like the mental health ones with the balloons and happy/sad faces, the Remembrance Day one when I read out a poem, the Christmas party and the Mardi Gras virtual sleepover. I looked forward to cubs every week and had a great time."

Sofia

"I obviously enjoyed the pancake sleepover and Easter sleepover. It's been different to me because we've not been able to socialise with the other Cubs and Leaders. I also enjoyed growing herbs and making a sock puppet and making chocolate nests. Cubs has helped me through the year and a half, now 18 months. Thank you Cub Leaders for an amazing job to keep Cubs going virtually."

Logan

"I love anything outside so my favourite was growing the herbs."

Max

"I have really enjoyed doing cubs on zoom. The activities I have enjoyed the most are doing the rafts, the science experiments were fun, the cooking, the gardening badge was messy but fun. I also enjoyed the herbs and wormery and guide dogs. The sleepovers were great because I either got to eat pancakes or chocolate the whole time!"

Adam

"I liked all of the zoom meetings but especially the virtual sleepovers! They were really different because I was at home with my family but it was good to see people on the screen."

Yumi



Scouts

The past year has been a challenging time for the Scout Troop as our “normal” programme has been largely on hold due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However with a number of Zoom scout meetings helping to retain our numbers, when regulations eased up we were able to start Face to Face meeting again. This was still not “normal” for scouts as we were limited by the physical numbers that we were able to fit in the Hut at 2 metre distancing! 16 was the magic number and so we met with half the Troop, repeating the evening’s activity the following Friday.

As much as possible we met out of the Hut, with hikes, bike rides, Village Quizzes, building Paper Pylons to balance a golf ball, featuring on the programme. One highlight was our visit to Hollowell Sailing Club for two evenings of Raft Building. This is a fun, and often very wet, activity that puts into practice the pioneering skills that the scouts learn at Friday meetings.

The Troop has now returned to everyone meeting together and this is so much more rewarding! We have built Ballistas (in small groups, masked), hiked and had an evening of water based games where the scouts stayed remarkably dry!

We have welcomed a number of Cubs to the Troop during the year and they are settling in well. Several of our older and experienced scouts have moved on to Explorers and to other activities and we miss them but wish them well. With the effect of the pandemic, this means that we now have a Scout troop of 32 young people who have had little time to acquire Scouts “scouting skills” but we are confident that they will soon catch up! We are hoping that the year to come will give the opportunity for the full range of activities, including Frostie Camp and of course Summer Camp!

Our thanks go to all our parents for their support and forbearance over the past year.

**Helen, Shaun, Mason,
Eloise and Adam**



EXPLORERS

As with all sections of Scouting it's been a difficult year. The leadership team would like to thank the Explorers and their parents for sticking with scouting during those difficult times.

During lock down's the unit did many and varied activities on Zoom. After the various and suitable Risk assessments were completed and passed by the district, the unit returned to face-to-face scouting and have had the following activities:

- **Camp fire and getting back to face to face**
- **Hike**
- **Table tennis competition**
- **Tie Dyeing**
- **Woggle making**
- **Team budling and BBQ**

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Ian Gambrell for his time with the unit and all the hard work he has put into it. I hope you enjoy your break Ian and hope it's not for too long! In the meantime, the search goes on for leaders for the unit.

Kind regards on behalf of the unit

Mark

Group AGSL & Explorer Admin



Looking to the year ahead.



Having reviewed this past year we now look to the future. 26th Leicester (Blaby) Scouting certainly has not stopped as shown in this annual report.

All sections have continued to offer a wide variety of activities even during this difficult past year.

The dedication of our Executive Committee, Leadership teams in all sections, parental support and most importantly attendance of our young people is to be commended.

Hopefully we will look back on this past year of Scouting 2020/21 and remember the positive aspects, building on the skills for life that Scouting brings and enabling us all to reach our potential.

We look forward to the coming months with excitement and anticipation. Getting involved in Scouting activities in each section and embracing all opportunities, especially those provided by our District team.

We sincerely hope we all stay safe and well during the period of returning to face to face Scouting.

Updates

Historically we have always collected subs termly, pre Covid the fees were £37 per term per Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer, this increased to £40 per term on 1.4.2020 however due to Covid was not collected. This amount included the annual membership fee to payable to the Scout Association, this amount increases each year in 2020 it increased from £46 to £51.50

It was decided by the Executive Committee subs was not adequately covering the running of the scout group and also termly payments were not in line with most subscriptions and it has not been changed to monthly payments.

Parents were informed of these changes £12.50 per monthly starting in Sept 2021 increasing to £15 per month in April 2022

This includes the annual membership payment to The Scout Association.

Although the increase appears dramatic I would encourage you to appreciate the subs have not increased since 2014 and it is very good value and is comparable to other youth membership organizations.

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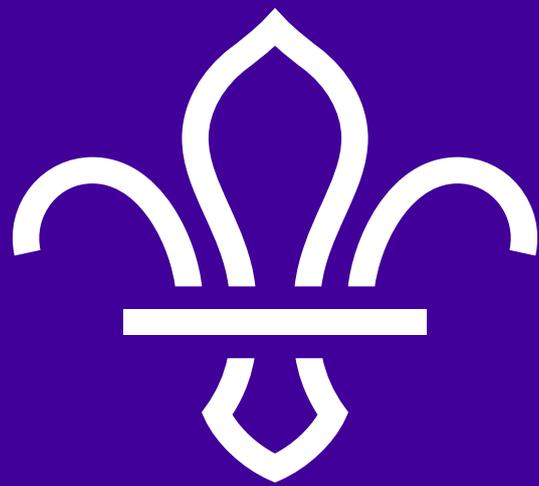


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Scouts

If you want to become involved in our amazing Scout Group please contact
Jane Young Group Scout Leader gsl@blabyscouts.org or register your
interest on scouts.org.uk



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