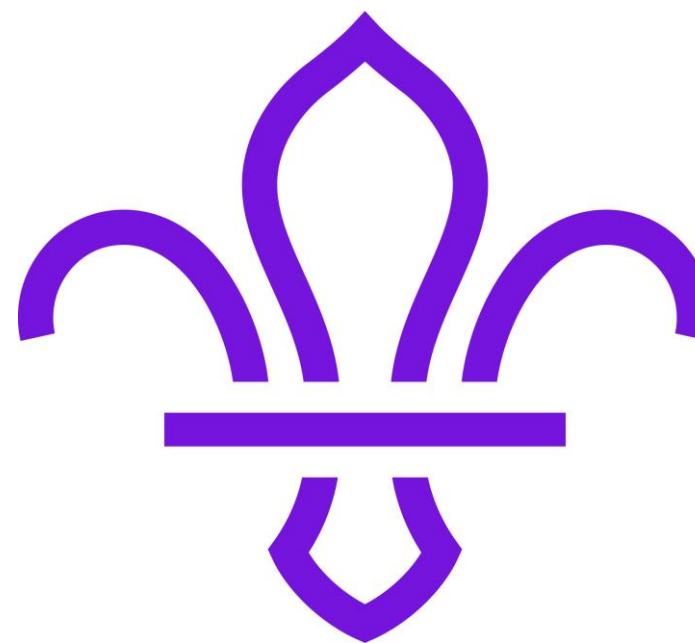


ROWBOAT  
AGLIDING PARASCENDING  
HALL QUADBIKING GRAFT BUILDING ROWING SAILING  
LLING SHOOTING SINGLE PITCH CLIMBING SKIING SNORKELLING SNOWBO  
REETS SPORTS SUBAQUA SURFING SWIMMING WATERSKIING WHITEWATER RAFTIN  
RFING ZORBING ABSEILING AERIAL RUNWAY ARCHERY BALLOONING BANDS BOUL



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# 1ST HALTON SCOUT GROUP

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AGM 24th Jan 2023

# GSL Report

As mentioned above, I am still the GSL but no longer the scout leader, however, to make my life even easier Robert Prescott has agreed to be the new Deputy GSL. Robert has been doing a huge amount of work behind the scenes anyway (Maintenance at the hut as well as a lot of the admin work) so this was more a formalising of the role he has been doing for quite a while.

## Sections

Both Cubs and Beavers are both doing well this year with good numbers of children (see individual reports attached).

There are changes afoot with who is leading the various sections. Cubs is staying the same, but Sorrel is taking over running the section with Mark and another parent, and Naomi is taking on the significant responsibility of running the Beavers section (I don't envy her in the slightest), and she will need all the help she can get from the parents.

## Money

The group finances continue to look good, however, that situation won't continue for long if we don't pursue other forms of revenue. So, we continue to raise funds from hiring the hut and the car park (Bee Adventures) and are always on the lookout for grants to cover equipment purchases and any large capital projects.

We will also be looking at increasing subs for the first time in many years. This has been unavoidable given the spiralling costs of everything this year, especially energy, although we were extremely fortunate to have gotten a three-year fixed deal in March 2021 (precognition on my part perhaps?)

The Finance report is attached at the end of this report.

## Volunteering

We are always on the lookout for parents who would like to help out in the sections on an occasional, or more regular basis. If you are interested, you can speak to any of the section leaders or me or Robert.

*John Elliott (GSL and Scout Leader)*



# 1<sup>st</sup> Halton Beavers Report 2021 - 2022

Beavers currently has 13 members and the last term has been about establishing our new members whilst introducing them to our routines and ceremonies. We have also been supporting 4 of our older members to achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award and they have recently 'swum up' to Cubs.

This last year has seen us welcome new section assistants Hayley and Naomi. Naomi has now trained as section leader, releasing Sorrel to get Scouts back up and running over the coming months. Thank you to Hayley and Mark for their regular assistance and to all the parents who help at sessions enabling us to safely run each week.

With the lifting of covid restrictions we have been able to take part in a fantastic number of activities over the past year both at the hut and off site, including:

Indoor climbing, Kayaking, and the Remembrance parade

We had Halloween/bonfire and Christmas parties, a sleepover at the hut, and another at Giggles,

We had a joint Cubs and Beavers Night at the Museum sleepover,

We became Viking Warriors at Red Rose and joined with the district for a Beavers camp at Littledale.

When we have not been out and about, we've had some great You Shaped activities planned and lead by some of our older members and it is wonderful to see their individual interests enjoyed by the whole section. We've covered lots of aspects of our Science, Digital and Building badges and we are working towards our Faith and Health & Fitness badges.

Beavers have spent time focusing on wildlife, completing a 30 Days Wild challenge over the summer, the RSPB Big Bird Watch, planting flowers for Mother's Day and joining a community tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy for her Jubilee celebrations. This focus on nature will continue into the Spring as we plan our wildlife and wildflower area in the Scout hut grounds ready to build and plant in the warmer weather.

We are looking forward to many more exciting opportunities this year and have lots of activities, as well as a few visits and visitors planned for the coming term.

Naomi (Badger)

# Cubs

## Cub Scout Report 2021-2022

Five months on from scouting re-starting after covid, things are just about back to how they were pre-covid. Cub numbers remain good with 15 cubs and 1 young leader returning back after the summer break for more fun and scouting adventures.

In the September to December term the cubs have done some first aid, planted some bulbs, taken part in some food tasting, looked at road safety, made some Christmas cards for charity and went Scottish for the night before finishing the year of with a joint cub and beaver Christmas party. The number of cubs in attendance varied from week to week due to outbreaks of Covid in the village. The main highlight of the term being a joint tubing party with the beaver section at Kendal Snowsports club which was such great fun it has been booked again for January 2023.

In the January to March term the cubs celebrated Winnie The Pooh's birthday with a giant game of teddy ludo, looked at local services and maps, welcomed the Chinese New Year, attempted the burst the balloon challenge, celebrated Baden Powell's birthday and Shrove Tuesday, completed the pioneers' badge, looked at disability awareness and made some fires outside. The cubs also had a joint sleepover with the beavers in February in the hut where we caught up on lots of badgework and craft activities.

The April to July term was just as busy for the cubs. An obstacle course, making ballista's and completing the entertainers, communicators, scientist hobbies badges as well as cooking and fire lighting were just some of the activities we took on. The cubs also joined with the beavers for a session on kayaking on the River Lune and also a joint summer party of bouncy castles and games.

Since September, I have handed out to 27 cubs a total of 56 challenge badges, 221 activity badges and 5 Chief Scouts Silver Award. We are now back to our normal weekly routine in cubs and it definitely feels like we've never been away. Unfortunately, the cubs have not been able to do as much camping as I'd originally planned for 2022 and I had to pull out taking the cubs to the county cub camp in early June due to the loss of my father and family issues.

I'd like to say a big thank you again to Lucy Stoneham, and to Daniel Simpson our two young leaders with the cubs, their help each week is greatly appreciated. I'd also like to thank Ben Pritchard too who helps out most weeks with the cubs and is a great help with the cubs. A thank you must also go to Robert Prescott, who is also an assistant cub leader with the group and has spent countless hours down at the hut painting, clearing gutters, tidying, repairing, sorting the new doors for the building, getting the shooting range up and running in fact the list of jobs he has done over the last 12 months is endless. A lot of what he's done goes unseen but it benefits the whole group greatly for years to come.

Here's to another great scouting year in 2023.

Anne Prescott (Akela) – 04/11/2022

# Scouts

We had been down to just 3 scouts for all of last year, following on from COVID, but they did at least get to do lots of different activities that would have been more difficult to manage with larger numbers.

Over last year the scouts managed a Night hike up Farleton fell in January on a very cold, damp and windy night. They did some abseiling at the scout hut, and did our annual Balsam Bashing evening along the river (larger areas of balsam are becoming more difficult to find).

They did a camp at the scout hut so that they could finish off their Outdoor challenge badge and they managed to go on a Wild camp at Bowscale tarn and hike up over Blencathra, which was a great experience but was a challenge to all of us.

They've also managed to get lots of air-rifle shooting done at the scout hut which led to them getting their Master at Arms badge.

They also did lots of minor badge work including first aid and the Chefs badge. This has allowed two of the scouts to complete the badgework required for the Chief Scout Gold award.

During the summer, two of the scouts were due to leave scouts and move on, possibly to explorers, this would have left only one scout old enough to stay on in scouts, but he would equally have been old enough to move to explorers after Christmas. I decided, therefore, that this would be an opportune time for me to step back from running scouts, and give someone else the opportunity to run it. No cubs were due to move up until the February half-term, so this would have given us plenty of time to find a replacement leader.

I'd been running scouts for many years while also being the GSL. The extra administrative burden of COVID and the introduction of lots of extra risk assessments that we now need to do made me realise that this wasn't really sustainable alongside a fulltime job, hence the decision to stop scouts, but to carry on as GSL.

Two of the 3 scouts are now helping as Young leaders in Cubs.

I'm now leaving the scout troop in the capable hands of Sorrel and her husband Mark, who have kindly decided to move on from Beavers. I will be continuing to help at scouts in the short term until the new leaders are comfortable running the section on their own.

John Elliott

# Maintenance Report

It's been a busy year with lots of maintenance and improvements at the scout hut, I suppose we can in a way be thankful for the grants received last year meaning we've not had to fundraise for things. A few things we have done in the last year include:

- New steel doors to the front and rear of the hut and a shutter and side door to the garage,
- The installation of outside lighting to light up our outside space to enable us to run activities outside in the later months of the year along with during overnight events,
- We've turned the garage into an air rifle shooting range, thanks to funding from the Co-Op, which we are also planning to let other scout groups use,
- Following a survey of the trees on our land, a number of trees have been felled due to being considered unsafe as suffering from Ash Dieback,
- The two end dens in the main hall have been painted Purple and Orange to brighten up the space with some colour and give each "six" and "lodge" their own space,

There are still lots of jobs to do and the list seems to slowly start to be getting smaller, some of the bigger things on the list include:

- Replacement of flooring in both of the toilets and cloakrooms as the tiles are starting to lift,
- Replacement of lighting in stores, toilets and kitchen which are aging and beginning to fail,
- Removal and update of the 1980s wood effect panelling in the main hall which looks dated,

Slowly the building is looking a bit more modern and inviting, the installation of B4RN fibre broadband last summer (2021) has proved extremely useful and enabling for much more than we could have imagined. Rearranging and switching the store rooms around to use what was the unused "leaders room" has made the great improvement to space making things easier to find and has opened up the main hall by moving the foam mats into the old store and returning the end den to use.

At some point we will likely look to have a maintenance day/weekend as we used to do prior to covid, likely sometime in early 2023, but if you are willing to lend a hand at any time, be it cleaning or doing some maintenance let me know, help is greatly appreciated. Finally, we welcome the use of the building by the local community and if you are looking for a space to use for an event or group activity or anything else, speak to one of the leaders, all we ask is a fairly small fee to essentially cover the running costs.

**Robert Prescott**