# CESTRIAN SCOUT GROUP Annual Review 2018

Registered Charity Number 514106



**Chief Scout Bear Grylls** 



Chamboree closing night



Meal time on camp!



BP's "Jamroll"!!





# **Cestrian Scout Group**





## **ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING 2018**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 @ 1.00pm At Gladstone Scout campsite, Hawarden, Chester

#### **AGENDA**

1	Welcome by Group Scout Leader	Keith Harding
2	Apologies for absence	Denise Huxley
3	Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes	Denise Huxley
4	Approval of Accounts for year end March 2018	Nigel Browning
5	Group Scout Leaders Report	Keith Harding
6	Chairman's Report	Denise Huxley
7	Nomination and approval of Chairman*	Keith Harding
8	Election of Group Secretary	Denise Huxley
9	Election of Group Treasurer	Denise Huxley
10	Election of Auditors	Denise Huxley
11	Election of Group Executive Committee Members+	Denise Huxley
12	Approval of Group Scout Leaders nominations to	
	The Group Executive Committee+	Keith Harding
13	The District Commissioner / Representative	Joanne Turner
14	Presentations / Awards	
15	Vote of thanks	

#### Note:

- In accordance with the rules of the Scout Association, only the Group Scout Leader may nominate a person to the position of Group Chairman.
- + Nominations to the Group Executive Committee should be representative of all sections of the Group.

Cestrian Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account				
				•
	For the year from	1-May-17	T o	30-Apr-18
Possints and nayments				
Receipts and payments		2017/18		2016/17
		Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds
		£		£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions		9,965		10,543
Less:Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Are	a/District)	3,390		3,970
Net membership subscriptions retained		6,575		6,573
Donation - Great Boughton Council (JOTA)		-		-
Donation - Pennies		750		-
Donation - Waitrose		325		-
Donation - Centurion Club		-		185
Donation - others		-		20
Group Activities		3,274		9,345
Gift Aid		2,299		2,375
Sub total		13,223		18,498
Grants				
Maintenenace grant		-		-
Sub total		-		-
Fundraising (gross)				
Plant Sales		2,207		2,629
HQ Hire - Gang Show		450		398
HQ Hire - Explorer Scouts		-		600
HQ Hire - Totally Aktive		664		-
HQ Hire - other		762		1,065
Necker money		90		110
JOTA activities		10		88
Other fundraising activities		117		654
Sub total		4,300		5,544
Investment income				
Bank interest		-		-
Building Society interest		-		-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		2		1
Bank adjustement		-		-
Other investment income		-		-
Sub total		2		1
Total Gross Income		17,525		24,043
Asset and investment sales, etc.		0		

17 525

24 042

Cestrian Scout Group					
Receipts and Payments Account					
•		Year start date		Year end date	
	For the year from	1-May-17	T 0	30-Apr-18	
Receipts and payments					
· ·		2017/18		2016/17	
		Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
Payments		£		£	
Charitable Payments					
Youth programme and activities		4,562		9,644	
Music Licence (two years subscriptions)		-		428	
Great Boughton Parish Council & Cheshire & Chester West ground rent		-		420	
Water and Sewerage		213		120	
Electricity and Gas		1,202		125	
Insurance		1,209		1,196 1,121	
Radio batteries		-		1,121	
District Shop		1,113		558	
New Tents and associated equipment, projector		512		336	
Sundry expenses		257		-	
AGM and trustee expenses		257		788 152	
HQ Cleaning		211			
Bank charges				6	
Replacement water boilers		318		12	
JOTA expenses		53		222	
HQ general maintenance		838		213	
Sub total					
Fundraising expenses		10,554		14,770	
Plant purchases		1,416		1,516	
General		1,410		-	
Other fundraising costs		40		400	
Sub total		40 1,456		186 1,702	
		1,430		1,702	
Total Gross Expenditure		12,010		16,472	
Asset and investment purchases, etc.		-			
Total payments		12,010		16,472	
Net of receipts/(payments)		5,515		7 [74	
Cash funds last year end		28,234		7,571 20,663	
Cash funds this year end		33,749		28,234	
		33,749		20,234	

Statement of assets and liabilities at the		
	2017/18	2016/17
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
Cook firm do	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account (includes £246.05 funds ringfenced for JOTA (2016/17 £289.04))  Bank deposit account	31,653	26,140
	-	-
Building society account	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	2,081	2,079
Cash/Floats	15	15
Total cash funds	33,749	28,234
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	_	_
Quoted investments		-
Other investments - detail	_	_
Sub total	_	_
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock		
Shop stock	-	-
Land and buildings		-
Motor vehicles	232,018	224,172
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-
	36,699	35,458
Steel container	4,583	4,428
Steel container contents	2,780	2,686
Sub total	276,080	266,744
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	323
Loan - detail	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	323
	·	
Signature	Print Name	
		Chai
		Treasure

## **Chairman's Report**

Thank you for joining us for our annual review, presentations and group fun day and barbeque.

I, as chairman would like to thank all the leaders, assistants and helpers who are here every week for all their hard work during the year. They have organised lots of interesting and fun activities for the young people to join in and enjoy. This year we have several new young leaders helping.

During the last 12 months, we have held several fund-raising events. The main one being our annual plant sale in May. This year again raising over £800. Slightly down on last year. I would like to say a big thank you to Peter Lloyd-Brown for Co-ordinating this event again this year including the website for it, a lot of hard work goes into this. As Peter is resigning from this post this year we will require a new co-ordinator for next year. So, if you think you could do this he is willing to help anyone would be willing to take over. Just let one of us know so we can get you in touch with him. Thanks also to all who sort out orders and deliver them.

More help would be much appreciated next year to do this.

At the end of October, we held a Halloween Party. Unfortunately, it was poorly attended but those who came really enjoyed themselves.

As we have for many years, during February some of our young people and leaders were involved in Chester and District Gang show at the Kings School both on stage and behind the scenes. Well worth a visit if you have never been to see the show.

In April we held an Easter Bingo. A great success. Children and adults alike had a great time. Keep in mind we will hold a Christmas Bingo in November.

In July, our group joined other groups from all over the world at Chamboree,a scout camp organised by Cheshire Scouts. The Cubs stayed the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, Beavers attended on the Wednesday and the Scouts and Explorers stayed the week. Excited Scouts and Cubs braved the weather on the Sunday morning to meet Bear Grylls.

I would like to thank Keith Harding, our group scout leader, Grahame Polley, assistant group scout leader, Shirley Polley, our minutes secretary, Sarah Oliver, our treasurer, who took over from Nigel Browning this year and the members of the executive committee for their hard work this year. Mark and Janet Ware resigned this year as members of the committee. I would thank them for their support.

If you have any fund-raising ideas don't hesitate to come forward. We do need your help and support. and hope that every young person in the group will continue to enjoy coming and joining us and that we will be successful for many years to come.

Thank you to anyone I have forgotten to mention.

If you are interested in joining our executive committee and support our group which is an important role in the running of the scout group have a word with one of us later. We hold our meetings at the Centurion Pub every 6 to 8 weeks.

**Group Chairperson** 

Denise Huxley

### <u>Cestrian Scout Group</u> <u>Group Scout Leader's Report for AGM 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018</u>



I am pleased to welcome you all today to our "Family fun day and BBQ and awards presentations incorporating our AGM", I hope you are all having fun and enjoying the activities so far.

Our numbers this year slipped slightly at the date of the census due to how we record who is invested in the group at that time, and over the course of the year numbers fluctuate due to our members moving on, leaving to pursue other activities or school work and new members joining. Many thanks to Grahame Polley our AGSL for keeping track of all this. Also a huge thank you to everyone connected with Cestrian Scout Group for collectively achieving this continuity, it is down to great teamwork and just goes to prove we are providing great scouting for our young members ......You may of seen or heard nationally that there are over 51,000 young people waiting to join and start their scouting career... WE could do something about that if only we had a couple of adults to volunteer to open up a second Beaver colony ....... this could lead to opening a second scout troop, so you see, it's not impossible to help these young people achieve, it just needs **YOU** to volunteer and help us! PLEASE give it some thought.

Our current membership numbers are outlined in Grahame's report, but needless to say we are still providing lots of great scouting and activities that our young people enjoy and want to be part of, as do many more indicated by our waiting list – there is no reason why you also shouldn't be a part of this great movement, there are roles for everyone, either uniformed as a leader or in many helper roles, please ask me or the team for more details – we all do what we do for the benefit of the young people (your children), so please give some thought to volunteering what skills you can offer to help your children and others like them to develop into well balanced young members of their community and society to equip them with #skills for life.

We continue to operate one Beaver colony run by Kristy, Sam and Sharron assisted by Katherine and other members of our leadership team and one of our Young Leaders Bradney, two cub packs, Tribuni Pack on a Tuesday run by Gill, Paul, Brandon and Chris assisted by Danielle and Alastair, and Centurion Pack on a Wednesday run by Rachel, Vicki, Alec and Jonathan assisted by myself, and four of our Young Leaders James (now moving on to University), Daniel, Anna and Fiona. The Scout section has grown over the past year and is run by David who is ably assisted by Jay and Alex, with the help of Connor one of our young leaders (Joseph and Ben have now moved on). So my thanks to you all for keeping the sections very much alive and kicking and the young people enthused.

I am very proud and privileged to work with such a fantastic dedicated bunch of people here at Cestrian and although we operate for the benefit of our young members none of this is possible without the total dedication and commitment from all the leaders and helpers and executive committee members who make Cestrian Scout Group the group it is, so I would like to say a very **big thank you to you all** as I know it is not always easy juggling scouting, work and your own family lives. I would like to thank Denise Huxley our Group Chairperson for all the support she has given me as GSL and for all her catering expertise on camps and group functions, to Grahame Polley our AGSL who tirelessly works away in the background doing all those jobs I ask of him, and for keeping things on the right track, and also to Rachel my wife for her continuous support and encouragement.

I do not wish to steal the thunder from any of our sections, so please read their reports as attached.

Members of the group took part in numerous activities and events over the year as outlined in the sectional reports including our long running JOTA weekend, a BIG beaver sleepover. We also had our annual cub christmas Turkey and Tinsel camp, and cubs christmas bowling trip and the scouts attended the county winter camp, Bbbrrrr!

We also had a very well attended Cestrian group carol service at St. Peters Church, Plemstall in December when we were entertained by members from each section punctuated by some verygood carol singing. The group held its annual plant sale in May as a major fundraiser: the plants were "Bloomimg lovely"! .....BUT we do need a new co-ordinator to take on this fundraiser for us, could it be you? The group also attended Chamboree 2018 at Tabley at the end of July, the cubs for the first weekend, the scouts all week and the

beavers on a day visit. 9 Leaders gave up their time to ensure our young people had the best experience possible, and a visit by the Chief Scout Bear Grylls made it all the more worthwhile.

Sadly we say goodbye to Sam Farrington ABSL who along with Kristy, took up my challenge 7 years ago to run the beaver colony, it has thrived ever since. We wish Sam a "happy retirement" from beavers but hope she will still have some input with the group.

We also welcome this year Sarah Oliver as our new treasurer having taken over from Nigel, thank you, you are doing a brilliant job and our finances are in great shape.

We wish Alec Stokes all our best wishes after being selected as part of the IST for the World Scout Jamboree next year in the USA – an opportunity of a lifetime!

Many of our Cestrian team have a role in helping me with my other hat on as producer of Chester Gang Show, so my thanks to them all for that **extra** commitment – I think we had 16 members of our group involved with the show this year either on stage or in various supporting roles - if you have not seen Gang Show then book your seats early next year, February half term. Our 62<sup>nd</sup> show this year was again a great success, or so we were told, again with standing ovations!!

Finally a big thank you to all our young members for turning up each week and enjoying your scouting, long may it continue, you will be thankful in years ahead for the skills for life you learnt (whether knowingly or not) during your scouting career. And lastly a big thank you to you their parents for supporting and encouraging your children so that they can enjoy their scouting and develop into well balanced young members of their community and society.

Scouting does make a difference.

Thank you all for coming and enjoy the rest of the day.

# Keith Harding Group Scout Leader













We prepare young people with skills for life

#### **Group Review 2018 - Assistant Group Scout Leaders Report**

The Cestrian Scout Group has been fairly stable number wise over the last year. New members are still joining us in all sections but due to other commitments we have also lost a few. We now have 84 young people, 17 full time leaders and 6 Young Leaders. As of August we have 24 Beaver Scouts, 35 Cub Scouts and 25 Scouts. Unfortunately due to other pressures we have also lost a few from all sections.

One of our previous Young Leaders has now taken on a full appointment with the Cub section and two others, hopefully, will be taking on Leader roles within the Cub section within the next month. This is excellent news. Unfortunately Ben Taberner, who was a Young Leader with Scout Troop, has moved on to help with the Waverton Scout Group. We wish him well in his new role.

We still have a waiting list of children that wish to join the Group, mostly in the Beaver age group, 6 to 8 yrs. We are restricted by safety rules and leader/child ratio levels to a maximum of 24 in a Beaver Colony. Unfortunately we have 10 on our waiting list that are old enough to join but we do not have space for them. The only way we can overcome this issue is to start another colony or increase the size of the existing colony, but that requires extra Leaders. This year we have welcomed the services of Sharron James as an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader.

Our intention to join list, i.e. those that wish to join but are not old enough, is currently at 30 with new ones being added almost daily. It is encouraging that parents still feel that Scouting is an youth movement that they wish their child to join but we still need adult help to make it flourish. If you could help or wish to know more please speak to one of the Leadership Team.

I have continued to assist with the Beaver Scout Section and with our very keen leaders, Kristy Collins, Sam Farrington, Sharron James and Katherine Hoey who are doing a wonderful job with quite a keen age group. Under their leadership there have been several Beavers that have gained their Bronze Award this year. Kristy is ably assisted by two Young Leaders/helpers, Bradney and Cara. Unfortunately Sam has decide to hang up her woggle after a wonderful seven years of service. We all wish her well and hopefully Sam may be able to help the Group in other ways.

I also help run Paddle Power Kayaking courses for the District on the River Dee during the summer months, and I was pleased to see some of our Scouts taking part and have achieved their Paddle Sports passport and Canoeist Badge. We also had the Cubs from both packs on the water on the Bell Boats ably helmed by David Broady, our Scout Leader and Alec Stokes, Assistant Cub Scout Leader.

Other Group activities during 2017/2018 have included adult support and cast members for the Chester Gang Show, supporting the Jamboree On The Air weekend in October by running various activities and raising funds through the annual plant sale. (A new coordinator for this activity is urgently required.)

Maintenance of the building is always ongoing. There are still a number of other projects that we are considering, e.g. sorting out the storage container, repairing the front entrance etc. If you could help with any of these projects or have any special skills i.e. joinery, building etc. please let me know.

I would especially like to thank the Cheshire View Benevolent Association for their donation of a new hot water boiler for the Scout HQ kitchen.

Last year we applied for Gift Aid from HMRC which resulted in a refund of £2372. Thank you to all of the parents who have signed and returned the gift aid form. By paying your subs each term this has helped enormously in the collation of the information required by HMRC. If you pay tax and haven't returned your form we encourage you to do so. The application to HMRC is quite easy although time consuming but there is a good reward at the end of the process. Returning the subs payment slips each term helps considerably with the Gift Aid application and also essential in making Sarah, our new Treasurer, job a little easier consolidating the accounts.

The Group is registered with the website <a href="www.easyfundraising.org.uk">www.easyfundraising.org.uk</a> If you purchase goods online and register yourselves as a supporter of the Cestrian Scout Group then providing you order goods via the easyfundraising site, we get a bit of commission. It doesn't cost anything to use but we could receive a lot of easy money.

The new Group website, started six years ago, can be accessed by using the URL <a href="www.cestrianscouts.org.uk">www.cestrianscouts.org.uk</a> There are links to Scout District, County and National websites. I would be grateful for any feedback relating to the presentation and content. We do have a diary page of main Group activities and a page showing hall bookings. Our hall is available for hire for children's parties and other functions. We also have a Group Facebook page

Finally I would like to thank all the other Leaders, Executive Committee Members and occasional helpers who support all of our young people. As the Group's Training Advisor I would like to thank all that have completed their training modules with special congratulations to Brandon Hone, a former Young Leader, who is now one of our Assistant Cub Leaders. Brandon has completed all of his training in almost a year and was presented his Wood badge recently.

Many congratulations to Rachel Harding, Cub Scout Leader, for receiving the Bar to the Medal of Merit. Also congratulations to Jen Biggs and Chris Huxley-Clowes for 10yrs of service and David Broady for 15yrs of service.

If you have any queries or questions about any of the comments made above or wish to volunteer in any way to support the Group, please contact me or any of the team. We would welcome any parent to come and join our small Executive Committee or form a supporters group to help on an occasional basis with fund raising, HQ and equipment maintenance etc.

Next year we are looking forward to another District Camp at Tatton Park. Also supporting Alec Stokes who has been chosen to be on the International Service Team for the World Scout Jamboree in the USA in 2019.

Grahame Polley Assistant Group Scout Leader Cestrian Scout Group August 2018



#### CESTRIAN SCOUT GROUP

We had a great year last year full of adventure while we learned skills for life.

The autumn term [2017] included a night identifying leaves in Hoole Park, making bird feeders, lighting and cooking on fires, a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester as well as a Christmas sleepover... just to name a few of our activities.



Not to be put off by the long January nights we celebrated Robbie Burns night with the cabre toss, welly wanging as well as Hagis hurling and concluded the month with a trip to the local Library. This was a favourite!



The spring term concluded with our Global Issues activity badge, learning a bit about Fairtrade along with saving energy and endangered animals. It was great fun building water filters and watching muddy

water turn clear...a drink anyone? Thanks Grahame!

Lottie participated in this year's Chester Gang Show! She put in many hours of





rehearsals for the week on stage in February. Well done!



We were fortunate with the weather this summer and tried to make the most of it. Pond dipping at Caldy Valley was a success with nobody falling in! Our local PCSO's came to visit and discussed cycle safety with us. A great

safety with us. A great demonstration with an egg showed us the importance

of wearing a helmet. Beavers received a reflector sticker and keyring to put on their bikes and bags to 'Be Bright, Be Seen'.

This year concluded with a 4 mile cycle on



the Greenway, a Litter
Pick around Vicars Cross
[with the support of the
local council], a water
fight night, a Space
Sleepover and a trip to
Chamboree 2018 the
local International Scout

and Guide camp!

We would like to thank Grahame, Gill and Denise for always being there to help. Thanks as well to the parents and Young Leaders who have helped us during the year as we couldn't do it without all of you. Sadly, we said good-bye to Sam in July as she 'retired' from Beavers. Thank you, Sam, for all your support over the past 7 years and we wish you all the best. Brandon has joined the Beaver Leadership team and we thank him for volunteering and we look forward to working with you.

Kristy, Sam and Brandon



#### **TRIBUNI CUBS REPORT 2018**

#### We have had another busy year again this year

October we had a visit to the Science Museum Manchester. Where we enjoyed a the day with hand on activities





We also did our D.I.Y Badge in October and all the cubs made a sweet container. There was a lot of sawing hammering, measuring and our thanks go to Gary Lloyd for coming along to do this badge for us

November we made lanterns With everyone busy making their own patterns When lit they were amazing





December We had our Turkey and Tinsel weekend with Wednesday cubs. The weekend was packed with activities and a visit from Father Christmas The camp fire was great fun with lots loud singing





April We were kept busy doing the Gardening Badge planting Sunflower seeds and everyone made a miniature garden.



May There was visit to R.A.F Cosford and the cubs who went earned their Air Activities Badge





We had a visit from the World Jamboree Contingent. They gave us an exciting evening of Circus skills and decorating T. Shirts. There were lots of smiles when they had achieved some of the circus skills



June We had meeting at Caldy Valley Park to complete our Naturalist Badge. The activities we took part in was looking for as many minibeast ,insects and we also did pond dipping





We had a very exciting evening on the river Bell Boating there was lots of shouting and some very wet leaders by the end of the night. A very competive race at the end



We had 14 Cubs join us at the Chamboree camp. It was shame the weather was so wet but some of the cubs managed to get close to the Chief Scout Bear Grylls. The cubs took part in a wide variety of activities and we had a great week-end

These are just a few of the activities we have done this year. We also had a Bugs evening run by our young helpers. There was a visit from the P.S.C.O., Bowling an end of year cowboys and Indians Party, A water games evening where everyone went home very wet.

I would like to congratulate Chris and Brandon on receiving their Wood Badge which they have worked very hard to achieve. Thanks to Dave and Alec for giving us the great time on the river and also to Dave for his assistance in many other activities. My thanks to Paul Danielle Chris and Brandon who have always supported the Tribuni

Paul Danielle Chris and Brandon who have always supported the Tribuni Cubs and thanks to Isaac and Jake our young helpers. We look forward to another fun packed year. Thank you to the parents who have supported the activities and if there is any parents who have SKILL or HOBBIES they can share with the pack please let us know we would love you to come along.

Gill Akela



# Centurion Cub Scout Report 2018

The Centurion Pack have enjoyed 2017/18, having fun and learning lots of #skills for life. We had a visit from Megan the youth commissioner who organised a #Youth Shape evening allowing the cubs to have some ownership of the programme which we regularly do with our pack sixers forum.

Last winter we made and decorated bird boxes and also learnt how to wire a plug correctly whilst completing the DIY badge. We also had interesting visits to Pets at Home learning about how to look after our pets and even cuddling some! and our visit to Halfords taught us the skills to look after and maintain our bikes and equipment to keep us safe on the roads.

In October we joined up with other cubs from the district to visit the museum of science and industry in Manchester, a great hands on day out.



In December, we enjoyed our Christmas Camp at Beeston Outdoor Centre. We even had a visit from Santa and his chief elf "Elfie"! We walked to Beeston Castle and had lots of fun imagining what it would have been like in those days. We stopped off in the woods on our way back to do some den building before heading back for more fun activities and a great campfire and festive treats including a full Christmas dinner.





Our last meeting of 2017 was the joint cub bowling trip to Cheshire Oaks, always a favourite.

During the winter months the cubs continued to develop team skills, they also worked towards various challenge badges and may other badges being completed along the way.

At Easter we welcomed back Johnny one of our leaders who had been away working in the Netherlands for nine months.





The summer programme has included the Athletes Badge, a very good evening Bell Boating on the river, the first time on water for some, everyone had great fun but some got wetter than others! Our thanks to David our scout leader for helping Alec helm the boats and allow us to have such fun. We have also done some mapping and compass work and a short walk around Vicars Cross following the map!



We also finished off the summer term with our popular family walk and picnic in Delamere Forest and some of us attended Chamboree2018, Cheshire's own truly international camp, a fantastic experience for all who went, with the added bonus of seeing Bear Grylls on a very wet Sunday morning!





Well done to 4 of our cubs who have gained their Chief Scouts Silver Award this year.

Many thanks to our leadership team, Alec, Vicki and Jonny (and Keith), and to our committed young leaders James (now moving on to University), Dan, Anna and Fiona for all their hard work and continued support.

We are looking forward to another exciting scouting year



Rachel (Akela)



Another active year for the scouts section kicking off with our Autumn activity camp. Activities included rafting, archery and high ropes - with one scout putting in a great effort to get to the top even if it did take 45 minutes!



Just before the nights drew in we enjoyed a night of wide games out at Queen Charlottes Wood. Back in the hut we put the scouts through their paces in our own Crystal Maze challenges, explored global poverty, and finished the half term with a Ghost Tour of Chester. In the second half we got creative making matchstick rockets, hot air balloons, and some impressive stopmotion animation.



Back by popular demand, out Christmas sleepover packed in some festive activities with wrapping paper games, bath bombs making and glass engraving. As a final treat the snow finally came as we sat down to Christmas lunch for breakfast allowing us to play in the winter wonderland with snowball fights and snowman building.





As returned for the New Year we set aside some time to train in first aid learning valuable skills for life. As a conclusion Jay mocked up some gory fake wounds on the older scouts to add a special element to the practice.



At the end of January we once again attended the county winter camp. The scouts got to try a wide range of activities including bushcraft skills, climbing, high ropes, shooting, archery, segways and fencing.







Through the rest of the dark nights we continued a varied programme having a go at Light art, paracord woggles, Winter Olympics and making contour models to help learn map skills. Scouts from the troop also took part in Chester Gang show and competed in the Cheshire Hike.

As we moved into the summer our focus turned to outdoor activities. Pioneering skills were put into use as we built a monkey bridge, we trained in survival skills and concluded the half term with "I'm a scout get me out of here" challenges run by the older scouts. Several scouts took up the opportunity to develop their canoe skills with Paddlepower courses on the Dee.

After half term we went orienteering in Delamere, had a go at the athlete badge, played monopoly across Vicars Cross and made our own burgers to draw the year to a close.





Early in the summer holiday we attended the week long Chamboree International camp at the county showground. A huge range of activities were on offer and there was even a special appearance from Bear Grylls. Activities included escape rooms, inflatable obstacle courses, shooting, laser tag, creative crafts, African drumming, a circus, quad bikes, science experiments and scuba diving.

We also had a day trip to Liverpool taking in a tour of the Metropolitan Cathedral, visited the maritime museum and some shops not available in Chester including the obligatory hour in the Lego shop making the figures!





All this has once again been supported by the rest of the leadership team - Thanks to Jay, Alex and young leader Connor who will be back for more this year but also Ben and Joe who moved on at the end of last year.

Looking forward to the year ahead!

David

#### **Cestrian Scout Group AGM and Annual Review 2017**

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6:45pm

Location: Cestrian Scout Headquarters, Thackeray Drive, Vicars Cross

Attendees: Executive Committee, Group Leaders, Parents and members.

#### 1. Welcome by the Group Scout Leader (GSL)

Keith Harding welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting with a short prayer.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Gary Lloyd, Matthew Goodwin, Lee Ware, Alec Stokes and Bradney Lloyd-Watson.

#### 3. Approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes

The minutes were approved, seconded by Vicky Courtney and signed by Denise Huxley as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 4. Approval of Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Treasurers Report

The accounts were approved – see Treasurers Report.

Approval of Accounts: Proposed by Keith Harding Seconded by Grahame Polley

#### 5. Group Scout Leaders Report

Keith's report is contained within the Annual Review Document although a few other points were highlighted.

Keith appealed for two more Beaver Scout Leaders as our waiting list was quite large. The need for new cast members for the 2018 Gang Show was also mentioned.

#### 6. Chairpersons Report

Denise read out her report which is also in the 2017 Annual Review.

#### 7. Nomination and approval for the Group Chairperson

Keith has to nominate the Group Chairperson. Denise is willing to continue. Denise Huxley was nominated by Keith Harding and seconded by Vicky Courtney.

#### 8. Election for Minute Secretary

**Shirley Polley** 

Proposed: Keith Harding Seconded: Gill Owen

#### 9. Election of Group Treasurer.

As Nigel Browning is stepping down Sarah Oliver has offered to take over this role.

Proposed: Keith Harding Seconded: Nigel Browning

#### 10. Election of Auditors

Nigel Browning said that Paul Young is willing to continue as the Group's Auditor.

Proposed: Grahame Polley Seconded: Nigel Browning

#### 11. Election of Group Executive

As there were no other changes to the Executive Committee the committee would continue with is current members.

Keith asked that parents should consider being on the Executive Committee.

#### 12. Approval of Group Scout Leaders nominations to the Group Executive Committee.

None identified at this time.

#### 13. District Commissioners Review

This was conducted by Martin Relton who is standing in as Chester's DC. He praised the Cestrian Scout Group for their continuing success.

#### 14. Presentation of Awards

Beaver Bronze Awards were presented.

Cub Silver Awards were presented to Oliver Vine and Joshua Nutt from the Centurion (Wednesday) Pack and Jonny Riley and Liam Smith from the Tribuni (Tuesday) Pack. Two other Cubs have achieved the Silver Award but weren't present to receive them. Scouts Gold Awards have already been presented at Scout meeting.

Grahame presented, in his absence a Scout Thanks Badge to Mark Abbott for the donation of labour and materials to refurbish the back room. The Group are extremely grateful to the time and generosity by Mark and his colleagues.

Grahame presented Nigel Browning with a Thanks Badge and an engraved set of whiskey glasses on behalf of the Cestrian Scout Group for all of his hard work as Group Treasurer over the last 10 years.

Alex Davies, Young Leader Training Manager, presented James Dick with his Young Leaders Certificate for completing his Young Leader Training.

15. Grahame thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

A free BBQ was provided for all those who attended.

Signed:	Chair	Dated: