



THE TRAILBLAZERS



AGM Pack 2022

Supported by



Charity Registration No 267534

Agenda for AGM 2022

Date: Saturday 9th July 2022

Venue: Trailblazers Den

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM.
4. Acceptance of annual report and statement of accounts.
5. Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson.
6. Nomination and election of officers and Executive Committee.
7. Appointment of Scrutineer.
8. Presentations.
9. News from TSA

Minutes of previous AGM

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM ONLINE

5TH JULY 2021

Attendees:

Nichola Jones; Liane Frydland; Naomi Treanor; Adam Frydland; Anthony Nash; Fiona Ward; Tim Ford; Clive Aylen; Dave Farthing; Olly Nash; Daniel Treanor; Helen Jordan; Karen Ford; Marie Banfield; Paul Thompson.

Welcome and introductions

1. Apologies

Karen McCormick; Liz Cranny; Martyn Jones; Tony Nash;

2. Approval of previous minutes

The AGM pack had been circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Proposer: Dave Farthing,

Secunder: Tim Ford

The previous minutes were accepted without correction.

3. Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts:

Trustee's report – Dave Farthing (DF), Chairman

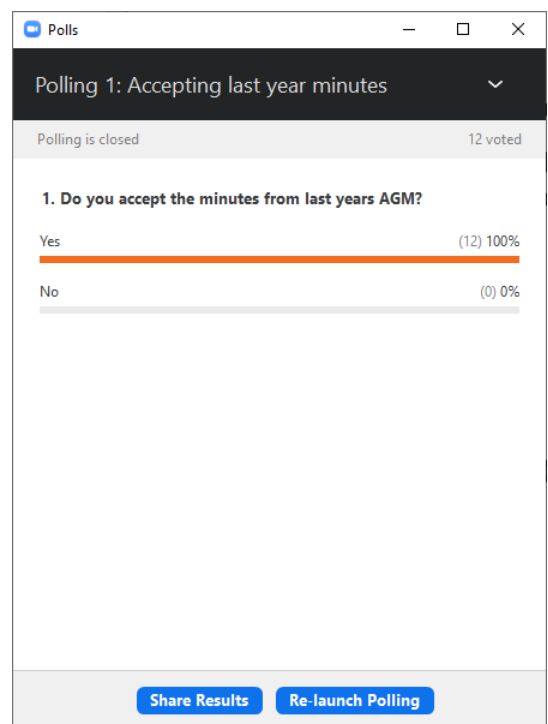
Please see AGM pack for full report.

Dave went through his report as per the pack. He especially thanked the leaders for their sterling work through lockdown, and the phased returned to face-to-face Scouting.

We have been unable to fundraise this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we have been fortunate with grants we've been able to apply for.

He thanked all the leaders for their work – especially with adapting programs to online formats when we haven't been able to meet in person. It's not easy to switch to online Scouting and keep it engaging for children, but they have preserved and found ways to do so.

Plans to replace the garage have been delayed, but certainly not forgotten! We have planning permission to replace the garage with some shipping containers, and will hopefully get this sorted over the summer, as we now have the funding to proceed!



He thanked the Committee for all their work over the last year and for sticking with it all during COVID-19.

Dave then put a plea out for volunteers to help with the committee, and to help keep the hut tidy. Even if it's only 10-minutes to help tidy up at the end of a meeting it all helps to keep the hut clean and safe for use.

Treasurer's report – Oliver Nash, Treasurer

Please see AGM pack for full report.

Olly gave a run down of the state of affairs of the accounts as per AGM pack. We have been fortunate with Borough grants this year. The money from the Council has really helped the group during COVID-19 and taken away a lot of the worry the committee had. We still have to pay capitation to HQ and District, which is around £2,500, and £1,000 for our insurance of the hut etc. We have been able to do this without having to dip into the money for the garage replacement.

We have replaced our old alarm system for the hut, and it is now a burglar alarm, and fire alarm system.

We have also removed the old BT phone line which wasn't being used – saving us some money!

While we are in a good position at the moment financially, we will need to return to some serious fundraising in the near future once we pay for the garage replacement. Olly mentioned the various online shopping fundraising links we have, and asked people to please use them. It won't cost you anything, and the group will get some money for qualifying items purchased via the links (see pack for link details)

GSL and Section reports

Please see AGM pack for full report.

Tim thanked all the leaders for their work over the last year despite the lockdown and limited face-to-face meetings. We have had virtual camp in the house and garden, and sat around a virtual camp fire singing camp songs. Leaders organised visits from organisations such as the Guide dogs to and "Shiny kitchen" give talks over Zoom

Due to lockdown – all district events were sadly cancelled, so there was no swimming gala or sports day this year. In addition both our own 50-year celebration and the District 20-year celebrations were put on hold again – meaning the children weren't given opportunities to meet other Colonies, Packs, and Troops from around the District..

Tim thanked all the committee, leaders, children who attend, and at District for the work they have done over the last year.

Beaver Section report

Our two Beaver Colonies have now merged into one colony meeting on Monday nights. There have been three new Leaders join the group – Liz, Dan and Louise. We also have a new young leader – Jakala..

Had a few camp a home sessions. Deer thanks her team for all their support over the last year.

Cubs section report

Akela thanked her team as she had stepped down and taken a sabbatical at the end of the last AGM due to studying for a qualification. And the rest of the leaders in Cubs have really stepped up and created a wonderful programme in person and online.

She also thanked the Cubs for their commitment during the zoom sessions as they had a lot of people turn up to each session which she was really pleased about. They had some amazing sessions such as talks from the Shiny Kitchen, a virtual tour of the Farnborough airport fire service, and a talk about space!

We had a pirate virtual camp! Which was great fun, and she thanked parents for helping make that a reality.

We have welcomed Chil (Adam) as a Young Leader who has been a great help, and coming from Scouts he's just fitted in nicely.

Akela commented that the Cubs have been very good with regard to social distancing – and automatically sitting a distant apart on the field when they went outside for an activity!

Scout section report

Like the other sections they have had to adapt their programme with a mixture of in -person and online meetings. They've had a talk from someone at the British Observatory, scavenger hunts, a cook along with Bear and playing battle ships, and even an escape room!

He thanked all the leaders with helping put on their programme – even if he still doesn't understand Among Us or how to play it!

The question was asked : Do people accept the accounts and reports from the group?

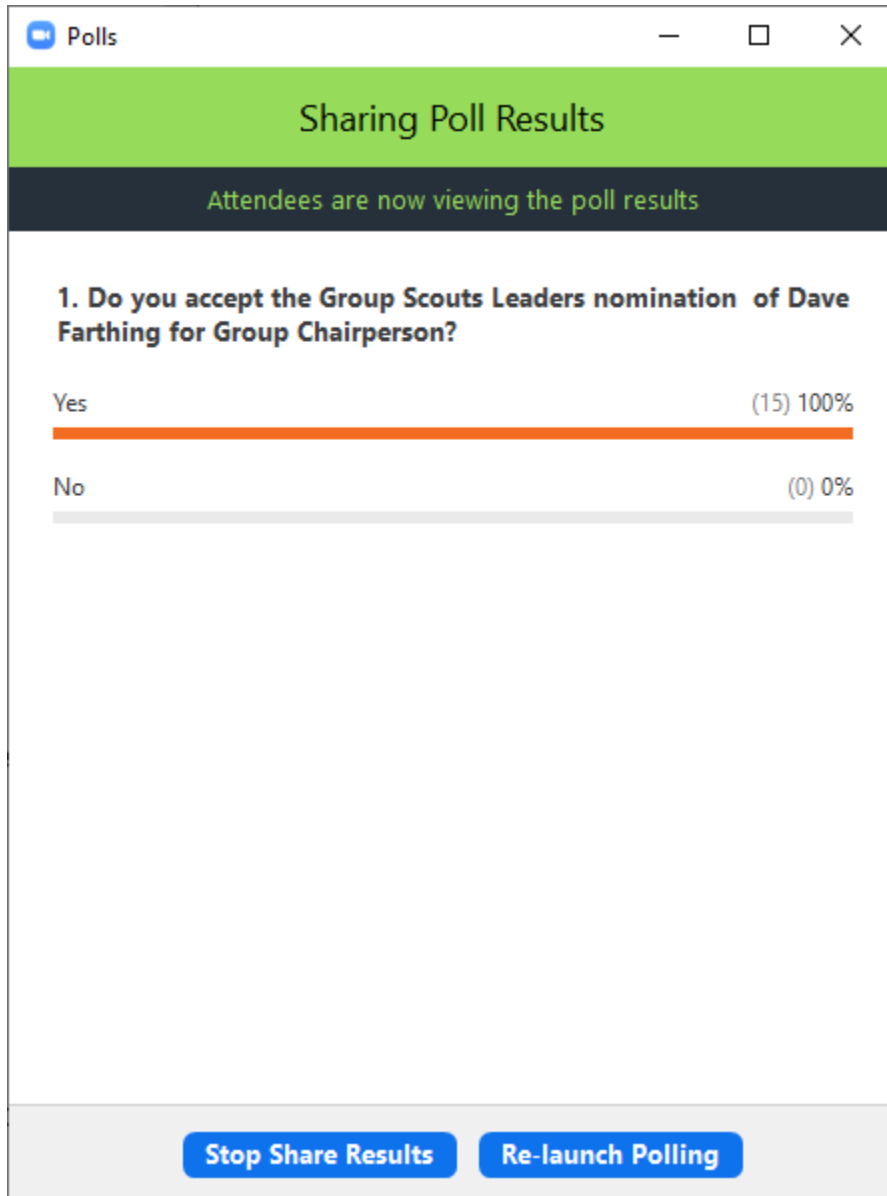
Proposer: Dave Farthing,

Secunder: Liane Frydland



4. Approval of Chairperson:

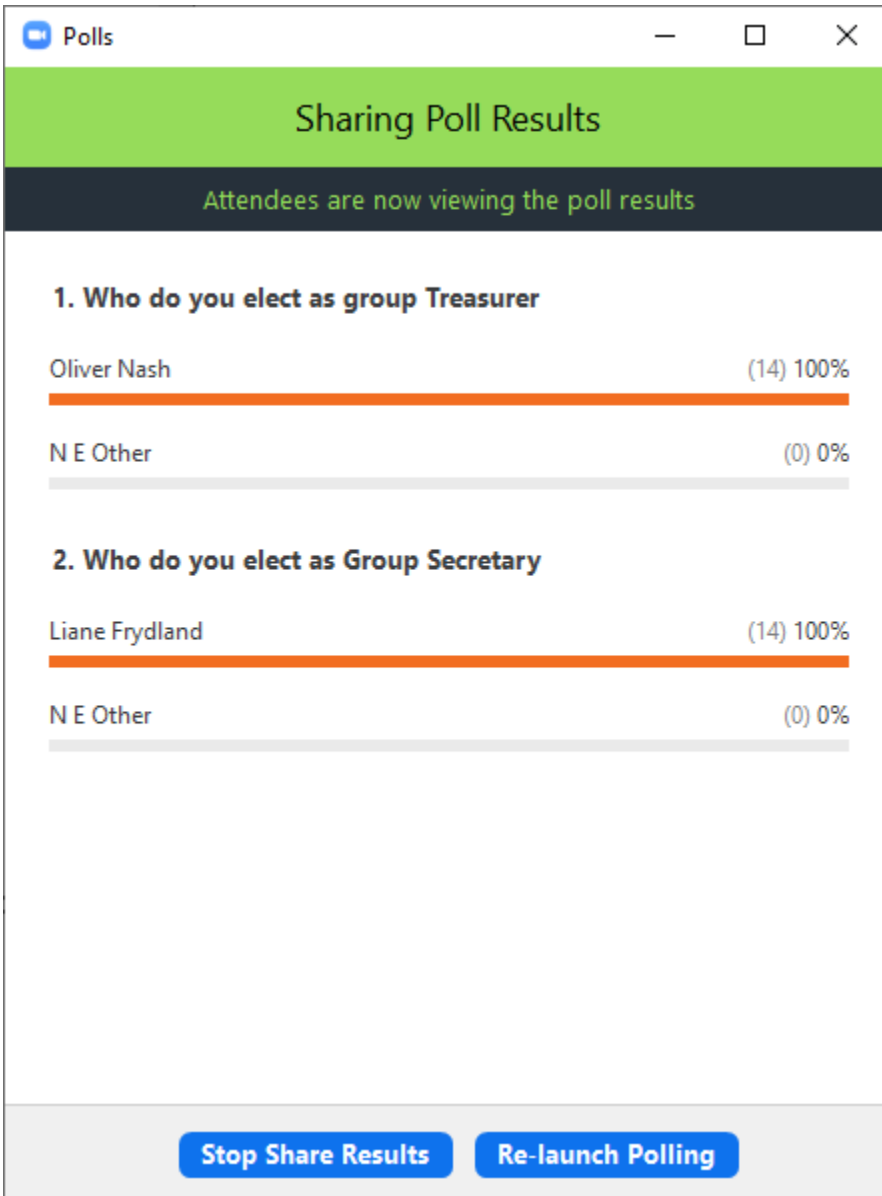
Tim Ford Nominated Dave Farthing for the position as Chairman, seconded Liane Frydland. All attending voted in favour.



The meeting was handed back to DF.

5. Election of Officers and Committee:

- Treasurer: Oliver Nash was nominated by Dave Farthing, and seconded by Fiona Ward.
- Secretary: Liane Frydland was nominated by Tim Ford, seconded by Nichola Jones



Appointment of Scrutineer:

We have found a new scrutineer for the accounts. His name is Robert Frood.

6. Presentations and awards:

The following awards were given out.

- Most improved Beaver : Erica
- Best Beaver : Dylan
- Most improved Cub : Henry
- Best Cub : Seth
- Best Scout Award : Joseph

Also we celebrated the following Chief Scouts awards:

Bronze Award – Eleanor and Stanley

Silver Award – Viktor, Chris, and Jude

Trophies have been ordered for the above winners, but unfortunately they had not arrived in time for the AGM. These will be posted out to the winners as soon as we can after the AGM.

7. Update from The Scouts Association (TSA)

It has been a difficult year for all groups in the district and trying to keep young people engaged with Scouting. 6th Farnborough were one of the first groups in the district to get their COVID-19 plans in and approved to enable a return to face-to-face scouting (albeit socially distanced)!

Mike announced that Scouting is launching a new Section called *Squirrels* for 4 to 5-year olds. This is an optional section designed to be run mainly by parents.

TSA have also launched the #GoodForYou campaign to try and help recruit adult volunteers. We are in desperate need of them across the district as there are large numbers of children on waiting lists to join groups.

Mike then announced that Bear (Tim Ford) had been awarded The Award of Merit by the District Awards Committee for all the work he does in Scouting, not just at the local, but at the district level too. The whole group congratulated Bear, and Kala (Karen Ford) presented him with the award, which had been sneakily dropped off at their house earlier!

8. Q&A

1 – Are there any dates for the garage clearance, it would be nice to put them into our diary?

We do not have any dates as of yet.

9. Final word from Bear...

Thanked everyone for volunteering their time and being engaged. All the children who come along each week and engage in the activities; all the young leaders who could be out with their friends and playing Among Us or chatting on WhatsApp – but instead choose to give up their time and volunteer in the group and give something back to the Group; All the parents helpers, and Committee who keep things ticking over behind the scenes; and finally to District who offer support to all Scout Groups.

Some other awards for adults!

- Kala and Badger have completed their training and got their Wood Badge!
- Won-Tolla – completed his training to get his second Wood Badge!
- Badger and Won-Tolla we also awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service for going that extra mile and for their contribution to Scouting.

Tim also mentioned the new Squirrels section and asked anyone who is interested in possibly running that section to get in touch.

The meeting closed

Trustees Annual Report for Year Ending...31 March 2022

Another year, another AGM. Thankfully this year we have seen a return to normal program as the pandemic eases and Scouting can get back to the fun and engaging activities that Scouting should be.

The 6th Farnborough Scout Group committee continues to work hard behind the scenes to support the group and help to bring to reality the plans and ideas that help to improve the group as a whole. The pandemic has certainly played a part in delaying these plans, but we are getting firmly back on track.

The decrepit garage is just such an item that we have spoken about for years now. I am pleased to announce that we have finally cut the last layers of red tape and have planning permission approved to demolish the garage and replace it with a purpose-built storage building. Work on this will commence in July and we are thrilled to see the results before the start of the autumn term. It has required a great deal of work from all parties involved and I thank each and every one of you for the time you've given.... We're nearly there.



Our current garage!



Our new storage unit!

The new storage solution will be a bespoke wooden building which the committee opted for in place of the original plan of shipping containers. The shipping container solution came with some unforeseen planning restrictions and in deliberation we all unanimously agreed that the wooden building delivers a longer term and certainly more eye-pleasing solution.

In addition to the new storage building, we will be setting aside and constructing an area for the members of the group to gather. With benches and a firepit, this will be an area where Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts can share friendship and toast a marshmallow or two. The area will be dedicated to Mikola - a former group member who tragically lost their life in the past year. Mikola's family gathered



Our new benches dedicated to Mikola

donations in his memory and very generously gave the proceeds to the group. I have written to Mikola's parents to extend the group's sympathies and gratitude at what must truly be the most trying of times.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the group's volunteers: leaders, committee members & parent helpers who continue to give their time so generously and without whom this group would not be the success that it is.

Finally, our District Commissioner: Emma Bucket will be standing down from her role as later this year. On behalf of the group I would like to offer our thanks for the time and dedication she has given to Blackwater Valley Scouts.

Dave Farthing

Chairman

Treasurer's Report

[Full accounts are attached as Annex A]

2021 to 2022 was another strange year, although glimpses of normality started to show through and events were being organised which is such a big part of what Scouting is all about.

Early in the year we had a final government grant come through. The committee then discussed at great length the plans to demolish the dangerous garage and replace it with a storage container or maybe even 2! The big sticking point was that when planning permission was granted it had a condition that it was for 3 years and then it would have to be re-applied for, with no guarantee it would be accepted again.

With the extra funds now available from the grants, the decision was made to look into alternatives that would be eligible for permanent planning permission. A purpose-built wooden structure was proposed that will have insulation and UPVC doors along with a rubber covered roof. The kind of structure you see people having built as home offices in their gardens albeit we won't have windows.

I'm pleased to say with a group effort planning permission was granted! We even had to have a survey for bats in the garage before this could happen.

This summer holiday will finally see the old garage demolished and a lovely new storage structure being built ready for everyone's return after the holidays. Then we can look into the outside space and how we can tidy it up and best use the grounds.



Our stall at the North Camp Summer Fayre

Hopefully we can now get back into a regular swing of things and resume fundraising activities. Having a face to face AGM and race night for example! Liane kindly organised for us to be part of North Camp Summer Fayre to raise awareness of the group and do a bit of fundraising. We are always on the lookout for new ideas though as any money raised will help us buy new equipment so the children can have the best experiences possible.

Please can we share and use the Amazon smile link, Rushmoor Community Lottery and Easy fundraising.



www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/



smile.amazon.co.uk



www.easyfundraising.org.uk

If you hear of any community funds that we can apply for please let us know.

Finally cost of living rising is on my mind. We have seen costs rise for us too on the basics like electricity and insurance but we will always strive to keep costs as low as we can. A smart meter for electricity was added so we only pay for what we use and we are on a fixed rate deal which has halted a rise for now, even paying via direct debit has saved us a little bit!

The date for subs is set to consider most people getting paid at the end of the month. If timing is ever an issue please do reach out so we can look at alternative payment schedules.

Thank you to the committee and leaders for their patience and understanding as my wife and I had twins back in March so I have not been as present or prompt in getting things sorted as I would want to be. Luckily they are starting to sleep a bit more now so I can keep a closer watch on my emails!

Oliver Nash

Group Treasurer

Group Scout Leader Report

A full year out of lockdown and social distancing a thing of the past has allowed the group to get on with Scouting as normal again. Sections have been meeting face to face again and having everyday adventures again.

Member numbers have managed to maintain throughout the last year even increasing in recent months, which I am really happy about.

Our sections have enjoyed activities ranging from easter egg hunts, disability awareness, group discussions, hikes, celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee, 1st aid, team building, Scouting history, a poppy installation, learnt about parliament, and Hanukkah, a chip survey, climbing, environmentalism, building bird boxes, backwoods cooking, giant board games, international cooking, night canoeing, hammocking in storms, Dungeons and Dragons, code breaking, escape rooms, axe knife and saw safety and use, orienteering and many, many more.



Our cubs with the bird boxes they made!

All of these activities would not have been possible if it had not been for the imagination, organisation, time and effort of our leaders. All of whom give up their time to be a part of this wonderful group. So, a huge heartfelt thanks goes out to all of our leaders, Clive (Skip), Marie (Dragonfly), Dan (Stag), Fiona (Akela), Paul (Won-Tolla), Helen (Badger), Karen (Kala), Jack (Baloo), Nichola (Deer), Tony (Hawk) and Lucy (Squirrel). In addition, a big thanks also goes to our Sectional Assistants and parent helpers too.



Queen's platinum jubilee badge

I also want to put out a special mention to our young leaders Jakala, Bluejay, Stag, Lex and Sloth who have given their time to help the leadership team even though they have school and exams. They have all shown that they are growing and becoming wonderful adults.

This year we have welcomed and said goodbye to a few. We welcome Lucy (Squirrel) as a new member of the Beaver Leadership team, Charlotte (Bluejay), who finished Scouts and is now a Young Leader in Beavers. Dan (Stag) who was a Beaver, Cub, Scout and young leader and has joined us as a full member of the Scout leadership team. Finally, we welcomed and sadly had to say goodbye to Jack (Baloo) who joined us as a member of the Cubs leadership team but has now been deployed overseas. We are hoping that Jack will be posted back to Farnborough afterwards and will re-join us, so fingers crossed.

I am really pleased to say that the group have finally managed to get planning permission, and rearranged the lease with the local authority to tear down the old garage and replace it with a new purpose-built timber store cabin. This has been due to the great work of our committee, sourcing funds, speaking and working with the council, finding a Scout friendly builder and scrap merchant. I am really hopeful that on the other side of the summer this will be complete. A huge thanks goes to our Chairman Dave, Secretary Liane, Treasurer Olly, and committee member Naomi for this and all they do. The backstage crew of the group, we couldn't do it without them.

Finally, a huge thanks to all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who make doing all this worthwhile, keep it up kids!

Tim Ford (Bear)
Group Scout Leader

Beaver Section Reports

Beavers is now back up and running as normal after all the COVID-19 restrictions have lifted and gone. Our numbers had dwindled due to the coronavirus slump but we are now back up to full numbers and being able to run evenings as normal.

We have done things like go on a hike this term as well as covering badges like experiment and towards the Outdoors Challenge badge. We have done the first District St George's day for 3-years and it was great to see not only the unit together as a whole but the district together too.

We have welcomed not only one new leader but a new young leader too - welcome to Squirrel and Bluejay. I would like to thank my fellow Beaver Leaders for stepping up and being amazing while my work diary has meant it's all been a bit manic for me.

From September I will be stepping back a bit for the next year while I take the opportunity to study for a foundation degree. Please support Hawk, Squirrel, and Bluejay in my absence as they continue to run the Beaver section.

Nichola (Deer)

Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Section Report

It has been an interesting year for the cubs trying to return to normal activities following such a long time on Zoom. The Pack numbers however, have remained strong and we currently have 21 Cubs, we have recently leapt several up to Scouts. The pack currently has 4 leaders and we were lucky enough to have a 5th leader for most of the term, but due to his work commitments as an active member of the armed forces, Jack Bowden has had to take a sabbatical but we hope to see him return when he can.

The ability to now perform activities both inside and outside the hut due to the lifting of restrictions has meant the Cubs have been able to go on several hikes including a chip shop survey which was very popular, enjoy an evening at an indoor climbing centre and an evening at The Men's Shed where they built their own bird boxes.



Cubs on their chip shop survey



Our football team in their new strip!

Once again we took part in the district six a side football and the team did incredibly well but most importantly had fun taking part and worked together as a team in their new 6th Farnborough football strip, there was also good representation at the St Georges Day parade. There have been limited district events to take part in this year but the hope is that next year we will be represented at all events.

The Cubs have been working towards several badges such as the backwoods cooking which involved them lighting a

fire, learning about fire safety and then cooking on that fire, they worked hard towards their athletics badge and disability badge which involved writing in braille and learning sign language.

Whilst the Cubs have had the opportunity to camp at home, this summer many of the Cubs will be going on their first camp away, this is a joint camp with the Scouts and will see them add to their badge collection with many fantastic activities planned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Won-Tolla (Paul) Kala (Karen) and Badger (Helen) for their unwavering support of the Pack throughout the pandemic and ensuring that the Cubs learn new skills, take part in fun activities and continue to grow from strength to strength as a Pack whether that was virtually or physically, they ensured the Cubs developed and wanted to come back week after week no matter what restrictions had to be worked around.

Akela

Fiona (Akela)

Cub Scout Leader

Scout Section Report

So what has happened this last year now we're back to full on Scouting?

- We have had evenings of first aid covering cuts and grazes to full CPR.
- Learning to store, and protect oneself and others and whittle wood with sharp knives.
- Create characters and to play Dungeon and Dragons. Thank you to James and Quinn for being Dungeon Masters.
- Vegetarian cooking night with independent judges to taste mark and survive eating.
- Solving cryptic clues in an escape room experience. Thank you Stag and Butterfly.
- Off site activities Jump In and Night Canoeing. A chase the sun hike even if we did take the longer route.
- Finally, a very, very wet hammock camp at Hannam's Copse.



St. George's day parade

Along with the other sections of the group we attend the St. Georges Day parade. Parading at the front and doing the readings in the service. Well done to James (flag bearer) and Martha for reading.

Dick Whittington Panto (O no we didn't, O yes, we did). Singing along and investing Jack a first for the Panto and me.

Badge wise we have had several getting parts towards the Chief Scout's Gold Award. They include Outdoors, Personal and Teamwork sections. Activity badges including Hikes, Librarian, Nights Away, Navigator and Time on the Water.

Also joining in badges. Please check on Scouts.org.uk as if your child does activities like swimming, football, martial arts or does music lessons - get their instructor, coach or teacher to sign off the requirements for us to order the badge.

Some of our older Scouts completed an expedition to Brownsea Island – a requirement to achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Award. They had to plan the trip, and cook all the meals, and places to visit with leaders just there for off-hands support as needed.

Finally a BIG THANK YOU to Bear and Dragonfly for all their hard work and planning and to our newest leader Stag formerly a Young Leader now a full adult leader for his hard work, planning and training.

Yours in Scouting

Clive (Skip)
Scout Leader



Scouts visiting the statue of Baden Powell on their expedition to Brownsea Island

Annex A – Group Accounts