

# AGM – 13<sup>th</sup> May



## Group Scout Leader Report

Welcome to our AGM for 2022, a celebration of Scouting at the 308th. This is our first full AGM since 2019 due to Covid and as you can imagine a lot has happened in the last three years.

One of the main changes is that we have started a new section – Squirrels which is for 4- and 5-year-olds. – Eve and Kim and a team of parent helpers and young leaders have done a great job, and already we have seen the first squirrels move up to Beavers.

However, before Squirrels we did have Covid and I want to thank every leader, helper, young leader for all their efforts in maintaining section meetings by zoom- I watched and attended many of them myself and the programme planning, entertainment and commitment made was amazing – but to do that for over 18 months before we could meet face to face again was outstanding and ensured that when we were able to meet that there was a group of scouts still around – so thankyou again to everyone who made that happen.

Please read through all the reports from the sections, all have been very active in the last year and since we have come back all sections are showing growth – long may that continue

Finally, congratulations to all the Scouts who win awards tonight, but also to all the leaders who will be presented with awards – leaders put in a lot of work and time, so please thank them as without them there would be any meetings.

Mike Dolan GSL

### THE SHACK

The Shack is the Groups home and we have continued to maintain the building over the last few years. We were successful in getting a grant for a new floor – as the old one was badly needed of replacing. We have had several days at weekends where volunteers have come down to help clean and tidy the shack and we have a number of days coming up as well.

There are many projects on the horizon, such as replace the heating, paint the fences and toilets, and maintain the grounds. Jackie was also successful in getting a grant for large planters which have now been put up at the back of the building, they are now ready for the soil to be added and then for the sections to start growing flowers and veg

# Agenda

1. Welcome (Deborah – Chair)
2. Apologies
3. Statement of Accounts (Steve - Treasurer)
4. Group Report – (Mike - GSL)
5. Awards
6. Thank You & Close of Meeting



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# Squirrels

## Squirrel Scouts Annual Report – 2022



Wow! What an amazing first year the Squirrel Scouts have had! As one of the very first Squirrel drey's to open in the country we are so proud and honoured to have the opportunity to provide Scouting to children aged 4-6 years old. And being one of only two drey's in the whole Greater Manchester East area, we have certainly been very busy!!

When our drey opened in September 2021 we welcomed in 20 bright faced young Scouts into the Shack. The excitement and engagement by our young children have

been fantastic from the get-go! Our Squirrel evenings always start off with a welcome song, where we can individually say hello to everyone who joins us, this has been a great source of routine for the children as well and making them all feel welcome and comfortable from the beginning. Each time a new young person joins us it's wonderful to see how welcoming our Squirrels are to them and how helpful they are at teaching them each of their new friends' names. During each session, we play some games (duck, duck, goose being a firm favourite!) but we also work on badge work with our Squirrels. Using the guiding principle of Scouts, "Skills for life", our badge program runs at an age-appropriate level to ensure our youngest members are having fun and developing their skills for when they move on up to the Beaver unit.



In our first term we wanted to settle into our drey and make our new Squirrels as comfortable as possible, so we took on the About me challenge badge and the feeling good badge! These badges involved us making friends, exploring how to talk about our feelings with each other and our adults and working together in teams. We had lots of fun doing these badges and it led to our Squirrels making lots of new friends! As the term went on there was lots to celebrate! We enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween party where we were wrapped up as mummy's! We also learnt all about bonfire safety for Bonfire night and well as drawing some amazing firework pictures! Soon after was

Remembrance, where we discussed the importance of remembering the people who have been brave in all the wars, for this the children made some amazing Remembrance Poppy's to go up on the wall. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> November when our new Squirrels were settled in and comfortable, we invested everyone into the 308<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout group. What a proud night we had, with parents all coming to watch and all our Squirrels looking beautifully smart in their new Uniforms! All our Squirrels made their promises to do their best, to be kind and to love their world.





As we moved into the new term in January and were more settled as a unit our badge work has continued. This term we focused on the Around Us challenge badge and the Altogether Challenge badge. The Around Us badge was a wonderful way of teaching the Squirrels about the different levels of Scouting, and we even had an exciting trip up to visit the Monday Beavers for a week! We have learnt all about the Jamboree next year and we made some wonderful

campsite designs that we think the Explorers should use when they go to South Korea! We also learnt about looking after our surroundings and making them nice, for this we have planted some plants, which are growing big now!! To end the term, we visited Plant Hill Park to explore our local area and learn about the things we have in our local community. Throughout the term we also worked on the All Together

badge, this continued to solidify our friendships and helped us welcome new

Squirrels in a positive and friendly way.

We even made a giant poster to welcome new friend and show them all the fun things we do here at Squirrels!

As we move towards the summer term, we are looking forward to exploring the outdoors more. This started at the end of April where 13 of our Squirrels joined us in Heaton Park to celebrate St. George's



Day with all of the Greater Manchester East Scouts.



This was an amazing day for the Squirrels who took part in the treasure hunt, and their wonderful behaviour and attitudes were a credit to the 308<sup>th</sup> and to the new Squirrels sections.

Since we opened in September last year, we have gained two more helpers, Lina and Sharron and we have had the wonderful support from our older Scouts and Explorers week-on-week, Josh, Charlotte and Niall.

These older Scouts take the time out of their own weeks to volunteer to help the younger children and we would like to thank them for all the work they put into the section. Finally, we would just like to say, we feel absolutely privileged to be able to work with these wonderful young children and they make us smile and laugh every week. They show great kindness to each other, and their behaviour is always wonderful. They are a credit to their families and wonderful part of the 308<sup>th</sup> Manchester.

We cannot wait for another year of Squirrel Scouting!

Eve, Kim, Lina & Sharron

# BEAVERS

## Monday Beavers



Since taking over Monday Beavers in November. Our beavers have done lots of fun activities, lots of different badges including my builder, cycling, my world, faith, book reader and many more. I also attended my first ever beaver camp.

We currently have 16 beavers in our group with many ready to move up to Cubs soon. We have 1 beaver who has achieved his bronze Scout award, which is the highest award in Beavers and many

who will get them in the next couple of months.

We have had Halloween and Christmas parties. We have been on many fantastic days out to the Manchester Jewish Museum, Bogart hole clough doing our cycling badge, pond dipping and den building in Alkrington woods and had a fantastic day in Heaton Park celebrating St Georges Day.



St Georges Day.



Our beaver of the year this year has fantastic attendance, they try their hardest with everything and even though they don't like running games they are getting better and better at joining in. They are a fantastic friend and always help our new beavers. It has been a pleasure to see their confidence grow every week.

I would like to thank Michelle and Daryl for all their hard work helping me each week. Also, Jackie who has helped we with everything regarding becoming a leader.

**Leanne - Beaver Leader**



# BEAVERS

## Thursday Beavers



And so, we are back after 2019/2021 being Covid Time – but 2021/2022 we have achieved many badges including Adventure challenge badge and My World challenge badge. We also did several activity badges like – Gardener, Experiments, Disability, Cyclist, Faith, Cooking, Safety and Animal Friend

We don't just meet in the Shack and when we venture out, we make sure there is plenty of adventure and we went to –

- Blackley Forest (den building)
- Heaton Park - Summer party in the park
- Boggart Hole Clough - cycling on the track
- Manchester Jewish Museum
- Alkrington Woods -Hike
- Ashworth Valley – October Camp



We have 25 Beavers on a Thursday night – 9 have moved to Cubs with a Bronze Award

We have introduced Lodge Leaders and Assistant Lodge Leaders

We held a 'Celebration Evening' – hoping to make this an annual event during the month of February - A

BIG shout out to Leanne our new Monday Beaver Leader who is doing fantastic

Thanks to all the leaders who support and lead the team on a weekly basis.



We have picked 2 Beavers of the year, these 2 have been inseparable since meeting each other. They have both worked hard, one has achieved their Bronze chief Scout award the other is not far behind.

**Jackie – Beaver Leader**



# cubs

## Monday Cubs

Our last year has been a tough one. We all came back in May 2021 after a long break because of Covid and we had lots of brand-new cubs, as lots had moved up from Beavers during lockdown and a couple who had just joined cubs as lockdown hit.



All cubs were new to me though as I only took on the role of Cub leader during lockdown with my first meeting as a cub leader being the first meeting after lockdown.

I am so proud of our Monday cubs, not only had they missed lots, but they also had many new rules to follow on starting back at the shack. They also had to get used to leaders wearing masks and get used to me as many of them had never met me before. The cubs faced any challenges head on, and we all helped each other in getting used to our 'new norm' and achieving as much as we can at cubs.



We all got through it though and this past year we have had lots of fun. We have visited Treetop Nets in Heaton Park, Summit Up in Oldham as well as various walks, hikes, and litter picks.

We have earned so many badges including Gardener, Astronomer, Athletics, Disability Awareness and Navigator badge to name a few. I also earned my Nights Away Permit this year by planning my first ever camp. I am certain there will be many more to come.

I would like to give a massive thank you to everyone who has helped me this year whether it was helping me get to grips with everything entailed in being a Cub leader or helping me with planning my first camp,

Kim, Brad, Lee, Leanne, Jack, and Peter - If I have missed anyone, I am sorry. I appreciate each one of you and couldn't have done this without you all

**Gemma - Cub Leader**



# cubs

## Thursday Cubs

Since my last AGM report, 308<sup>th</sup> Cubs have lasted a pandemic, Cubs on Zoom and an influx and outflow of Beavers moving up to Cubs and Cubs moving up to Scouts. Recently, we have seen a lot of direct entries from a variety of local schools, along with Beavers who started their Scouting journey in our newest section, Squirrels!

April and May last year saw our return to face-to-face Scouting after more than a year. To keep everyone safe and involved, we ran a joint Zoom program and rotated the Cubs between face to face and zoom to manage group sizes and complete more badges! We completed the World Challenge Badge, Gardener's badge in person, and the Digital Citizen Staged Activity Badge over Zoom.



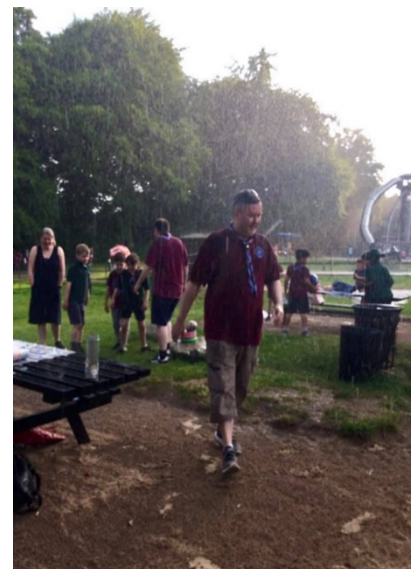
Moving into the Summer Months saw the start of The Gardeners Activity Badge. The Cubs had to understand what minibeasts are and research the best seasons for growing fruit and veg. This was completed over Zoom with the support of Rachael. Whilst Lee and I helped the Cubs learn about Gardening tools, make some plant labels, and help them look after a newly planted sunflower.



June saw the end of a Cub Journey for some of our oldest Cubs. Tom, Wiktorija, Magdalena and Noah all achieved their Chief Scout Silver Awards, finishing the last part by teaching another Cub a skill. Some excellent skills were demonstrated, such as drawing, teaching Polish, and teaching Chess and Origami. We also squeezed in some Navigating Skills accumulating with a hike around the local area.

July brings an end to our Cub year. We hoped we could have a fun evening in the sun with our annual last night of Cubs in Heaton Park. How wrong could I be?! Even though the weather had been scorching for weeks, not long after reaching the playground, the black clouds rolled in, and the heavens opened! We, unfortunately, had to finish the night early and hide in our cars until all the Cubs were picked up! Just look how drenched Lee is!

September brings the start of a new Cub Year. We kicked off with the Cubs Adventure Challenge Badge and some teamwork to Complete the Teamwork Challenge Badge. We aimed to spend as much time outside as possible after the pandemic. Cubs learnt how to light and set up a fire and completed a litter sweep around the local area. The Cubs also set up their obstacle course in three separate teams and then worked their way around together. Well done, Cubs!



October continued with the Teamwork Challenge Badge with the Cubs taking part in a Pack Forum to discuss what activities they would like to do in our upcoming Winter Camp. We completed the Astronomy Activity Badge by making a fruit salad solar system as the nights rolled in and had a guest speaker from our friends at Heaton Park Astronomy Group. We also visited Treetop Nets in Heaton Park, let the Cubs run wild in the nets, and made some great memories.



November was a hectic month, and it allowed us to complete the World Faith Activity Badge. We watched some videos to help us understand the holy places of Hinduism and used some air-dry clay to create a Diwali Lamp. We also enjoyed a Halloween where the Cubs had unbelievable costumes. Remembrance Day also fell on a Thursday this year, so we discussed scouting history during world conflicts and produced some paper poppies to participate in this.



Cub's annual Winter Camp at Ashworth Valley deserves a special mention. We had a fantastic Cub Camp planned with activities including crate stacking, archery, first aid and making a catapult. Unfortunately, the campsite suffered a power cut early on the first night morning! No power, no lights, and no heating! That meant we had to head home early Saturday morning, but we promise to make up for it in 2022!

December ends the calendar year with the Cubs enjoying a Christmas Party and another two Cubs time in Scouts. After completing their Chief Scout Silver Awards, we said goodbye to Emme and Celestyn. Their skills involved teaching martial arts and origami butterflies.



January saw the start of a new year. Cubs started completing the Skills Challenge Badge. We started with learning about the body's organs, where they are in the body and what jobs they do. The Cubs loved drawing around themselves and labelling them up. We also completed activities to be healthy with lots of exercises, including a HIIT session from a Monday Cub parent helper!



We were continuing with the skills badge into February. We completed some home skills such as sewing, making a cup of tea and cleaning windows. This also contributed to the Home Help badge, which the Cubs completed at home. We also completed the brand-new Money Skills Activity Badge, including budgeting and understanding foreign currency.



Well done to the 20 Cubs who completed this! Halina and Demarhlea also gained their Chief Scout Silver Awards, with more skills being taught. Moving into March, we visited Summit Up Climbing Centre in Oldham. This involved the Cubs climbing up various walls with very little leader input. Great bravery and

teamwork were displayed here, and we are sure to go back! Also, William gained his Chief Scout Silver Award and moved to Scouts by teaching paper origami Whales.

April allows us to take a break over Easter, and we look forward to planning the rest of the year's program. We have a fantastic Summer Camp planned for June 2022 at Bradley Wood Scout Campsite.



I want to take a minute to thank my other Cub Scout Leaders, Lee and Rachel, who have been supportive as always. Our Young Leaders, Matt and Chrissy, for attending Cubs and helping us run our program each Thursday and our Parent Helpers, Sian, Anna and Dave.

**Bradley - Cub Leader**

# SCOUTS

## Annual Report

It has been a difficult couple of years for everyone and it's nice to be getting back to normal. May saw the return of face-to-face scouting which was very welcome



In June we practiced our pioneering skills by building and racing Sudan chairs

In July we had a massive water fight in the shack grounds everybody got soaked.

Summer Camp this year was Morecambe and was joint camp with 1<sup>st</sup> North Manchester Explorers. The highlights included a day a water play area in a lake, hiking, wide games,

volleyball and visiting Morecambe and its fun fair.

We started back after the summer break we focused on traditional scout skills, fire lighting, knots etc in preparation for the Blackley shield. The patrol that entered did really well and were able to bring back the trophy.



In October we visited Summit up which is a new climbing centre in Oldham where scouts had good fun climbing, racing each other to the top.

We also all got fancy dressed for Halloween, there were some spectacular costumes. We did the usual Halloween games ending the night with a classic bobbing for apples.



In November we ran the legendary assault course where all the scouts improved for their second runs. we went ice skating in Manchester next to the football museum and spend some time at the Christmas markets. It was a successful trip with most scouts managing to spend more time on their feet than their bottoms. There was only a couple of meeting in December, the highlight was the Christmas party which was a black tie casino themed night, some were very lucky but most ended up with less than what they started with but everyone had fun.



We brought in the New Year in with scouts Winter camp at Ashworth Valley, we did air rifle shooting and the traditional rope bridge crossing of the river to earn our Christmas dinner. We also focused on outdoor skills and cooking on fires.

In February we had pancake night which included the return of the pancake relays and freestyle pancake flipping and finally some very tasty pancakes. We also did a board games evening playing each other at our favourite games.



March was a busy month with the scouts visiting Kick Air and a ready steady cook night where patrols competed against each other by cooking 3 course meals, katsu curry, steak with sauce and chicken burgers were the highlights. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank leaders and helpers which make running this scout group possible.

Looking forward to the rest of this summer's program especially the spring and summer camps.

Thanks to all the Scout leaders, Sophie, Andrea, Jack, Andy and Lea and everyone who has helped out this year

**Adam – Scout Leader**



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