



2020
Biggleswade Scout Group
Trustees Report and Annual Review

Registered in England and Wales Charity No 300444

Contents

Contact Details.....	3
Trustees' Annual Report	4
Charity Trustees.....	4
Structure, Governance and Management	5
Objectives and Activities.....	5
Achievements and Performance.....	6
Statement of Accounts.....	8
Receipts and Payments Accounts	8
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	9
Notes to the Accounts.....	9
Independent examiner's report on the accounts.....	12
Annual Review.....	14
Apollo Beaver Colony	14
Gemini Beaver Colony.....	15
Mercury Beaver Colony.....	15
Jupiter Cub Pack.....	16
Saturn Cub Pack	17
Neptune Cub Pack.....	18
Armstrong Scout Troop	19
Irwin Scout Troop.....	19
Biggleswade Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit	20

Contact Details

Group Scout Leader — Sue Doyle
Tel 07779 817529
Email gsl@biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Group Chairman — Leigh Wood
Tel 07771 785454
Email Leigh.Wood@pielan.com

Group Treasurer — Lucy Courtney
Tel 07834 176128
Email lucykate21@hotmail.com

Group Secretary — Lorraine Bennetts
Tel 07398 182511
Email lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com

www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Charity Trustees

Chairman	Leigh Wood
Group Scout Leader	Sue Doyle
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Chris Wells
Treasurer	Lucy Courtney
Secretary	Lorraine Bennetts
Apollo Beaver Leader	Vicky Pullinger
Neptune Cub Leader	Eddie Fuller
Armstrong Scout Leader	Tracy Warner
Irwin Scout Leader	Tom Keller
Explorer Scout Leader	Beverley Lattimer
Executive Committee Members	Alan Dansey
	Nick Gurney
	Celia Ireland
	Rob Jenkins-Green
	Helen Kingerley
	Louise Preston
	Brian Lawson

Charity Number 300444

Principal Address The Scout Headquarters
London Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Biggleswade Scout Group is a registered charity, governed by our Constitution, Declaration of Trust made on 17 April 1962 and also the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association UK (January 2018).

The Group Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in the Scout Group. It is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. The Group Council consists of all adult volunteers and supporters, along with the parents of all youth members.

The Group is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are appointed and elected from the Group Council. It is their responsibility to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. This includes maintenance of the **Group's property and equipment, raising funds and managing the Group's finances, insurance of persons, property and equipment and** assisting with recruitment of leaders and other adult support. All new trustees undergo training mandated by the Scout Association.

The trustees regularly consider major risks and are currently undertaking a project to help secure a new home for Scouting in Biggleswade to ensure we have adequate facilities for the next 20-30 years.

The Group is part of the Scout Association UK and as such is guided and supported by the local Scouting District, and by teams at the Scout Associations national headquarters.

As a registered charity the trustees also give due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable Objectives are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Membership this year is up slightly at 302 including our Explorers.

Biggleswade Scout Group currently runs 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub

Packs, 2 Scout Troops and in partnership with Biggleswade and District 1 Explorer Unit. Between them these provide a programme of personal development for 249 young people aged between 6 and 18 years old who live in and around the market town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.

This programme consists of a weekly meeting during term time, a number of day trips and the opportunity to take part in residential experiences. The programme is based around three themes: -

- Outdoors and Adventure
- World
- Skills

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Scouting continues to be very popular in Biggleswade with all sections running on or near their capacity. We have an active Beaver waiting list and currently have up to 65 young people who are old enough to start but are waiting for places at one of our Beaver Colonies. We also have over a further 50 plus people on the waiting list who are not yet old enough to start.

Through our sections we have successfully delivered a programme of personal development consisting of over 540 hours of activities in a year to our 249 young people—this is over 130,000 hours of personal development for young people in the local area.

We know that our young people are engaging and benefiting from this development by a significant number of Chief Scouts Awards that have been presented this year— the highest recognition of a young **person's achievement in each section.**

We have had a number of successful Fundraising Events including our Easter Egg Hunt (April 2019 raised £227) Quiz Night (February 2020 raised £790), Halloween Disco (October 2019 raised £529). We have also raised money by car parking at Shuttleworth (£327) and through our Amazon Smile £59.

These fund raising activities have allowed for us to undertake improvements to our headquarters during this period such as replacement of our old asbestos roof which means that our hut is now asbestos free. We have also been able to refurbish our toilets and replace our tables and chairs.

The Group have maintained their profile in the local community by

taking part in parades to mark St George's Day and Remembrance day.

The Scout Group had another successful year in Biggleswade Carnival. **Our "Red Arrow" themed float won first place. The float was** designed and built by a team of volunteers made up from leaders and parents.

Biggleswade continues to grow with more housing development on the east and north side of the town. School intakes within the town are increasing with expansions of existing schools and the addition of new schools. This growth represents a significant challenge for an already large Scout Group and we are looking for ways to ensure we can meet the challenge.

The Group was impacted at the end of this year with the start of the Covid-19 crisis. All face to face Scouting was suspended and meetings were moved on line.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders, helpers, Parents/Guardians and the young people themselves for all their hard work over this past year.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For financial year ended 31 March 2020

Receipts	31 Mar 20	31 Mar 19
Membership Subscriptions	24,306.40	22,178.05
Residential Experiences and Trips	32,209.93	25,522.66
Activities	376.85	1,043.00
Bank Interest	61.35	132.60
Fundraising (Incl Donations)	19,010.75	8,597.97
Rent	368.00	304.00
Gift Aid	0.00	3,296.68
Other	397.16	1,076.67
Total Receipts	<u>76,730.44</u>	<u>62,151.63</u>
Payments	31 Mar 20	31 Mar 19
Scout Association Capitation	11,080.50	10,157.50
Residential Experiences and Trips	30,044.85	25,627.19
Activities	3,146.29	4,599.71
Fundraising Costs	3,302.49	976.82
Headquarters -Utilities	2,996.40	2,173.28
Headquarters-Maintenance and Cleaning	1,725.15	2,409.01
Headquarters Improvements	31,537.97	0.00
Leader Training	0.00	25.00
Leader Uniform	250.00	413.85
Insurance	816.51	778.11
Rent	499.00	690.00
Equipment	2,203.99	1,252.77
Resources (including Badges)	1,916.01	3,249.03
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00
Other	920.88	1,866.84
Total Payments	<u>90,440.04</u>	<u>54,219.11</u>
Net Receipts/Payments	(13,709.60)	7,932.52
Cash Funds Last year end	50,166.57	42,234.05
Cash Funds this year end	<u>36,456.97</u>	<u>50,166.57</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For financial year ended 31 March 2020

Monetary Assets	31 Mar 20	31 Mar 19
Bank Current Accounts	21,793.60	39,507.22
Bank Deposit Accounts	14,243.65	10,180.27
Cash in Hand	419.72	479.08
Total	<u>36,456.97</u>	<u>50,166.57</u>

Notes to the Accounts

For Financial Year ended on 31 March 2020

This was another successful year for the Group. Youth Membership has climbed significantly this year to 249 (inc 29 Explorers) and this has resulted in a significant increase in Income and Expenditure. We have also invested heavily in improvements to our Scout HQ—largely funded by Grants but also taking £14k from our reserves. This has resulted in a deficit for this year but still a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Receipts

Membership subscriptions – the main source of income for the Group. Up significantly this year due to growing numbers.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Additional money collected from the members for the purposes of paying for specific camps and trips. Usually these take the form of day or weekend activities.

Activities—Additional money collected from the members to pay for activities that take place as part of the weekly programme.

Bank Interest – interest earned in all of the Scout Group accounts.

Fundraising – Shows the income generated through fund raising activities. This year we have had a successful programme of fundraising events—Quiz nights, Easter egg hunts, Halloween disco—as well as grants/donations from a number of organisations to support our work.

Gift Aid – As a registered charity we are able to claim Gift Aid on donations and our membership subscriptions qualify as a donation for these purposes. We have outstanding claims for 2017-18 and 2018-19 that we have not managed to submit this year.

Other—other income—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Payments

Scout Association Capitation – Annual payment made to the Scout Association based on the number of members within the Group. For 2019/20 this was £ 11,080.50 which is more than it was in 2018/19 due to higher membership numbers.

Residential Experiences and Trips – Money spent on providing specific camps and trips for our members.

Activities – Money spent on providing activities for our members as part of our weekly meetings.

Fundraising Costs – costs incurred in the course of raising funds.

Headquarters Utilities – Expenditure on Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse collections for the Scout Group Headquarters.

Headquarters – Maintenance and Cleaning – costs incurred in maintaining the Groups Headquarters and its grounds, including capital expenditure. This has increased this year due to a number of maintenance projects.

Headquarters Improvements - Money invested in making improvements to our Headquarters building. This year we have replaced our old asbestos roof which means that our headquarters is now asbestos free. We have also been able to refurbish our toilets and replace our tables and chairs.

Leader Training—cost of providing leaders training—including on-going learning.

Leader Uniform – **cost of uniform for the Group's volunteers and** provision of Group Neckers and Group Badges.

Insurance – Costs of providing insurance for the Scout Group HQ and all camping and disco equipment owned by the Scout Group.

Rent – cost to the Group of renting rooms at Trinity Methodist Church to accommodate Neptune Cub Pack. This also included various rents for Exec Committee Meetings and other adhoc events.

Equipment – Capital expenditure on group equipment.

Resources (including badges) – Resource items purchased for use e.g.

paper, glue, paint etc. This has dropped significantly this year.

Volunteer expenses – costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer work which are reimbursed to them.

Donations - donations made by the Group.

Other—other expenditure—this consisted of a number of items that did not fall into any other category.

Assets

Bank Current Accounts—includes the Groups central Current accounts as well as the individual section current accounts.

Bank Deposit Accounts — Includes the Group Savings accounts, an Armstrong Scout Troop savings account and a very small amount in a Neptune Cub Pack savings account.

In addition to the cash assets, the Group owns the HQ building along with the land and a considerable quantity of camping equipment. These have not been formally valued and so are not included in the accounts.

Liabilities

As at 31 March 2020, the Scout Group had no liabilities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Biggleswade Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March
2020 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required
for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011
Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by
the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions
given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of
the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the
accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of
any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking
explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The
procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be
required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to
whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is
limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my
attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material
respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of
the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records
and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;
have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to
enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name: Darryl Ashing FCA
Address: c/o Ashings Chartered Accountants, Northside House,
Mount Pleasant, Cockfosters, EN4 9EB

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Wood', written over the 'Signature' label.

Full name Leigh Wood

Position Group Chairperson

Date 15 February 2021

Annual Review - 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Apollo Beaver Colony

The last year has been a good one for the Apollo Beaver Colony. The colony continues to be popular and with a long waiting list for Beavers we expect to continue at our maximum of 24 Beavers.

The Colony have enjoyed a varied programme during the last year with many highlights including the visits to Biggleswade Fire station, RSPB (Sandy) and Stotfold Mill, as well as our Bug Hunt, water games evening, Space Nights, Board Games evening, Pancake evening a number of hikes and Christmas edible crafts. Our Beavers enjoyed participating in the District Beaver Campfire and the District Beavers Teddy Bears Picnic. We had another excellent Biggleswade Carnival – with our Red Arrows themed float that won Pride of the Procession. We enjoyed the second District Beavers Camp where the Beavers got to enjoy a wide range of activities. We have also had two very successful Beaver Sleepovers - our Wizards themed sleepover in April at Haverings - Luton, our Astronaut Adventures sleepover with Mercury Beavers at Wymondley Wood in November.

With the recent suspension of Scouting due to the Coronavirus we do not know what the coming year will hold.

During this year we have presented 79 Activity Badges and 31 Challenge Badges to the Beavers and I was very pleased to be able to present a Chief Scouts Bronze Award to Ben.

Objectives for the Colony for the coming year are to:-

- Establish regular online section meetings during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Recruit some additional volunteers for the Colony leadership team, including at least one more uniformed leader.
- Achieve more Youth Involvement by holding regular Beaver Scout Forums (known as Log Chews)

I am very grateful for the help of all of the parents that have supported Apollo Beavers this year by taking a turn on our helpers rota or come along on trips, fundraising events or other activities. I am also very grateful for the leadership team of Beaver Leader Vicky Pullinger, Assistant Beaver Leaders Kara Morallee and Michael Nobbs, Section Assistant Nisha Vasavda and Young Leaders Callum Watson, Harry Hodson and Oliver Meyer.

Chris Wells (Sparrowhawk)

Gemini Beaver Colony

The 2019 -2020 year has been another great year for Gemini Beavers. We have largely maintained capacity with 24 beavers, and have maintained a varied programme working on; challenge, activity and staged badges.

We were very proud to award 11 Chief Scout Bronze awards during the last year, showing the Beavers had worked extremely hard. An additional 441 badges were awarded throughout the year for participating in a wide range of activities! Well done and congratulations to all our Beavers

Gemini Beaver colony, as part of the balanced programme, completed many activities for example the Digital Citizen, Navigator, Space, Digital Maker, Health and fitness, experiment and Disability Awareness. Many of the Beavers are well on their way to achieving the Chief scout Bronze and put in hard work for their challenge badges such as Team work, Outdoors and World badges.

Beavers are to be particularly congratulated for participating in many activities away from the Colony and bring in their evidence to enable the award. This year we have had Time on the Water and Sailing as well as Nautical Skills awarded, a first for us!

The Colony joined the whole of Biggleswade at the town's

Remembrance Parade which was very well attended and the Beavers did the Leadership proud with their excellent behaviour.

The 2019 the beavers attended the District Camp at Boyd. Beavers were able to experience a night in a tent, some outdoor cooking, and many outdoor games and activities. Gemini Colony also had their annual camp which was Space themed this year. We had mars lander activities, climbing the launch tower and of course space hopper racing! The weather was extremely kind to us and a fantastic camp enjoyed by all.

Of course from March 2020 face to face meeting had to stop. As the COVID situation continues we have resumed scouting via zoom and are pleased to say the majority of our Beavers are coping well and we are able to provide some sense of normality.

The Colony's success is 100% down to the superb team which support

it. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported the Colony on the many evenings and weekend activities. I particularly would like to thank the many parents who have volunteered their time. This year was the last year for Snowy (Michelle) who has always tirelessly produced the programme making sure we have all the resources we need for a successful Colony and

ensuring we always have sufficient badges in stock. It is very sad that she has decided to leave us at end of 2020 Summer term and thank her for being a superb leader in Gemini. She will definitely be missed.

Finally a massive thanks to the rest of the Gemini Leadership Team; Jon Passingham (Kestrel); Richard Page (Kite) and our newest addition Rachel Ryder (Merlin) for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work, it has been very much appreciated.

This will also be my last year with Gemini as I step down at the end of December. Merlin has kindly agreed to become the Beaver Scout Leader from the end of the year. I hope she will also enjoy the support **you have given me and the rest of Gemini's leadership team her in this role.**

Ian Hall (Harrier)

Mercury Beaver Colony

Mercury Beaver Colony has had yet another fantastic scouting year. Once again we ran over the 24 beavers at 28, so we could help reduce the beaver waiting list in Biggleswade. With our earlier start time of 5pm and siblings allowed when parents helped out on a night we have continued to be a popular choice. In fact some of our parents who helped out have gone on to become Occasional Helpers and Sectional Assistants with us, so helping to lead scouting in Biggleswade.

This year in our colony we awarded 16 Chief Scout Bronze awards and over 600 other badges. All of our beavers moved up to cubs this year. We also decided to become a Colony which takes part in the Scout Young Leader training scheme, which has seen Aleena and Jenna from Phoenix Explores join us and run evenings to gain their qualifications. We also helped Stratton Upper School with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards by having students volunteer with us for a few weeks each.

The Beavers took part in a varied "Scouting for all" programme with some of the nights being youth led or requested by the beavers themselves, which included the following;

- 23 beavers attending a scout water activity day at Luton Hoo with First Luton Sea Scouts
- Spring Indoor "Spy Camp" at Bromham
- Winter Indoor Sleepover at Little Wymondley with Apollo Beavers
- Biggleswade Carnival Parade
- Biggleswade District campfire night
- Biggleswade District Teddy Bears Picnic

- Mental Health Speaker
- Stotfold Mill Pond dipping
- Stotfold Mill Tour night
- Visit to our Local Fire Station
- Hike and Bug hunt with Apollo Beavers
- Night Hike using torches
- Macmillan Fundraiser night
- Fencing night
- International Night hosted by Phoenix Explorers
- Annual water fight

Due to Covid-19 we had to cancel our 3rd Sleepover of the year, and started our journey into the virtual scouting world.

Mercury would be nothing without its inspirational beavers and dedicated parents and helpers. Thank you for making Scouting fun.

Jane Thompson (Hawk) BSL Paul Kingerley (Kite) ABSL
 Myra Williams (Snowy) ABSL Rachel Ryder (Merlin) ABSL
 Joanna Bilcock (Red Kite) SSA
 Aleena Bhatti (Nightingale) and Jenna Thompson (Jay) Young Leaders

Jupiter Cub Pack

Thank you! At the beginning of the year we said a fond goodbye to Andy (Bagherra) and Libby (Oo!) who due to family commitments stepped down from leading Jupiter Cubs. Sue (Kaa), Anna (Ziggy) and Faraz (Rocky) have been running the pack since with help from Parents/Guardians, other section leaders and our fantastic young leaders Tia Williamson-Blake, Evie Bridgewater and Harry Hodson.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped and to the Cubs themselves who have been fantastic!



Its been a busy year see below for some highlights on what we've been up to...

- April 2019 - **We turned out in full uniform for St George's Day**

April 2019

- May 2019—Evening Walk May 2019 Priory Park to top up our hikes away! We did lots of badgework and caught up with our friends.
- June 2019 - Our great Carnival Float prep showed as we came first at Biggleswade Carnival where we dressed as the Red Arrows. On section nights we did Backwoods Cooking and visited Dunton Community Garden
- July 2019 - We had our second visit to Dunton Community Garden and completed part of our cyclist badge. We had a great joint summer camp with the Saturn Cub Pack with fabulous weather and activities. Finishing the term off with Family Fun Golf and BBQ July 2019
- September 2019—Our final visit to Dunton Community Garden and some badgework back at base helped us finish the naturalist badge
- October 2019 - We were bonkers with conkers and had fun competing against each other, we did an evening walk
- November 2019—The District Cub Scout Shooting Competition meant that we did a practice night and then took part. We turned out very smart for Remembrance Sunday and had a blast at Laser Tag
- December 2019—December was crafty and party time J
- January 2020—We had a fantastic night hike walking from RSPB Reserve Sandy to the Dan Albone Car Park. Wishing everyone a Happy Chinese New Year and the making crystals and experiments for our Science Badge
- February 2020- Pancake Night and more experiments were great fun.
- March 2020—We learned all about Jupiter at the District Cub National Space Centre Trip.

Sue Doyle (Acting Cub Leader)

Saturn Cub Pack

Saturn Cubs has had a successful year. The pack is still being run by Assistant Group Scout Leader - Chris Wells. We have been running this year with a full pack of 24 Cubs.

The Pack have enjoyed a varied programme with many highlights including the joint Saturn/Jupiter Summer Camp at Well End Activity Centre, our Red Arrows float in the Biggleswade Carnival, District Cub Shooting Competition, Campfire Carol Service and visit to the National Space Centre. From our weekly meetings we have enjoyed our Scientist evenings, Biggleswade Rocks, Bug Hunting & Bush Tucker Trials, visit to Fit4OCR, Treasure Trails Royston, visit to Observatory,

Board Games Night, Christmas Crafts, Fencing, Pancakes and many other enjoyable activities.

During this year we have presented 139 Activity Badges and 33 Challenge Badges to the Cubs. We have also presented 3 Chief Scouts Silver Awards to Zachary, Kaidan and Freddie.

Objectives for the Pack for the coming year are to:-
Recruit a new Cub Scout Leader and some additional volunteers for the Pack leadership team.

Ensure that every Cub has an opportunity to earn their Chief Scouts Silver Award.

I am very grateful for all the help I have received from the parents that have supported me by taking a turn on our helpers rota or come along on trips, fundraising events or other activities. I am also very grateful for the help and support of my Section Assistants Derek Revell, Sharon Wheeler, Anna Kwasniewska, Marcia Bennett and Caroline Henman. The pack is grateful for the support we have been given by Sonia Jackson (AESL), Bev Lattimer (ESL) and Sue Doyle (GSL).

Chris Wells (Acting Cub Leader)

Neptune Cub Pack

The leadership team have provided the Cubs with a varied programme of activities during the year and many badges have been awarded as a **result of the Cub's efforts.**

Our annual Dad's and Cub's camp was held at the Leslie Sell Scout Activity Centre at Bromham in May 2019. In July 2019 it was the turn **of the Mums to attend a camp at the Jordan's Close Activity Centre, Great Barford.** I am pleased to say all adults entered into the spirit of the camps and it gave us leaders the opportunity to get to know the parents better. We always try to arrange a varied programme for our camps and provide enjoyment for all those attending. The comments made to leaders at the end of the weekend make the leadership team feel their efforts were very much appreciated.

A first this year for the pack was to visit Fit 4 OCR at Baldock where Cubs were able to clamber around on various obstacles (assault course style). The highlight of this visit was when the Cubs were allowed to go through a mud bath. Needless to say they had to be hosed down before leaving for home.

In March 2020 a number of Cubs with leaders joined other Cubs from the District on a visit to the National Space Centre. According to the parents the children had an amazing time.

Our numbers continue to hold up and we leaders appreciate the support we get from parents.

A big thank you must go to Nick, Lucy, Matt, Gemma and Michelle for all the work and support given by them throughout the year.

Eddie Fuller (Akela)

Armstrong Scout Troop

Armstrong Leaders are pleased to report the section has been able to provide a varied and full program over the past twelve months. The section numbers have remained strong and constant.

We were able to run several different styles of camp over the year from Activity camps to scenario camps to indoor camps. Be that in the hot, cold or rainy weather.

Amongst some of the highlights, our young people were tasked with backwards cooking, making pizzas and cooking them in cardboard boxes.

Summer camp was in the South of France for a week of water sports. This year was slightly different as we went with a group of Shefford Scouts. The two sections worked and played so well that the instructors from the campsite were not aware that they were not from the same section. Proper scouting values.

We have continued working during section meetings on a variety of different badges. I am please to report that a group of 7 older scouts all managed to complete and obtain their Gold Award after a fun weekend away hiking around Rutland Water, fully organised and planned as a group.

Thanks go to, all the members of the Armstrong leadership team, Brian, Crim, Sam, Sue, Tara and two young leaders Miles, Ollie. For their continued support and help in running a successful troop.

Tracey Warner (Scout Leaser)

Irwin Scout Troop

Irwin scouts had another packed year of activities which all the young people thoroughly enjoyed as did the leaders. Membership of the troop has seen scouts come and go but we still run at maximum capacity, which is always encouraging.

We continue to provide a varied programme both at the hut and out and about. From teaching the scouts how to sew on their own badges,

bicycle safety and maintenance to traditional scouting skills such as pioneering, cooking and map reading, keep both the scouts and leaders busy and having fun each week.

There were the usual annual events such as St Georges day and Remembrance parades which as always were well attended. However, unfortunately, for number of reasons we were not able to camp as much as we would have like to this year but the few we have had; were great fun for all involved.

The highlight of our camping in 2019 was our first summer camp at Irwin. We took 23 scouts and 6 leaders to Hawkhurst Activity Centre in Northumberland. During the 6-hour drive to the site we had non-stop rain but just as we arrived it stopped and thankfully the rain stayed away all week. Everyone who went had a wonderful week full of activities and trips. Many scouts tried on-site activities for the first time, as did some of the leaders, pushing us all out of our comfort zone. 2 trips off site during the week include a visit to the LIFE centre in Newcastle, football golf and an afternoon on the beach.

Our annual Frosty camp in January was also a great weekend at Phasels Wood. As always we were entertained with a panto from the Scouts and this year they were also challenged to build a crossbow from bamboo cane and string. A competition followed with each group **trying to get their ammunition as far as they could...and trying and beat the leaders' effort...which they did! We always round off the weekend with a game involving various balls and a bowl which the leaders won for the 4th year in a row. We do like a bit of healthy competition!!**

In February we took part in the Rotary Club Swimathon again, and this year we entered 3 teams. This is a great opportunity for the scouts to take part in a local community activity and help raise sponsor money for a worthy cause. We managed to raise a good amount which gets split 50/50 with the Rotary Club and Irwin Scouts. We look forward to doing again next year if it can be run.

We spend a lot of time at Boyd Field each year, and in March we spent a day working on the site to prepare it for the start of the camping season. We spent a day working in groups to clear undergrowth and generally tidy the site. This is always a great opportunity to learn some skills with saws and axes, and burn what we cut down in a nice bonfire, which is always a favourite of the scouts!

It has been a great year at Irwin and we continue to run at capacity **even as we went into lockdown and had to start 'Virtual' Scouting.** All the scouts embraced the online activities that we set them. As we went into lockdown 2020 became an uncertain year but we looked

forward to the new challenges and adventures it would bring.

Finally on personal note I would like to say a few thank yous. Firstly to the scouts, they are so enthusiastic and throw themselves into what ever we are doing which is always encouraging as a leader. Thank you to all the parents for their support, and all the running around they do to get the scouts to various events. A big thank you to the entire leadership team who have supported me in what was a busy year with work and when I was unable to join them on many evenings. With David Moulton having a great time at the World Scout Jamboree in 2019, I was very thankful for the help given by Sue Doyle throughout the year and especially on Summer Camp, where we were also supported **for some of the time by Matt 'Gravey' Graves. The rest of the leaders: Faraz, 'Big' Dave, Pete continue to support me in everything they do** for which I am very grateful. And to Sue who makes sure that waiting list keeps moving cubs up to scouts so they can continue their scouting life and grow as young people.

Tom Keller (Scout Leader)

Biggleswade Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit

Biggleswade Phoenix Explorers numbered between 25 and 30 Explorers throughout the year. It was another fun filled year as an active unit with young people and leaders working together to plan an active programme across all areas of Scouting. As usual we had a team of young people of Chairperson, 2 Vice Chairs along with a Games Masters and Wellbeing rep who helped the leadership team. These were elected by members of the Unit. Explorers, with support from the leadership team helped run and organise some of our unit nights ensuring our young people had a big input into the running of the Unit. Essential for developing leadership and life skills for young people as they move into adulthood.

Throughout the year we ran nights on mental health, international, global, community, health, food, fire, safety, risk assessments, camping skills and many more.

We again supported the St Andrew's Church annual community event with running the crockery smash raising funds for their yearly charity. We supported our local community throughout the year in various ways including raising money and supplies for the local food bank.

We also raised money as part of our Community/Global programme to twin the Scout Hut toilets to fund toilets in Uganda. The certificates for these can be seen in the Scout Hut.

The Summer of 2019 was The World Jamboree in USA. We were lucky to have two Explorers; Callum and Joe and two of our Leaders; David

and Ben (as part of IST) selected to go as part of The Bedfordshire Lions Contingent. Our Unit participated in supporting their fundraising efforts for them all and thanks goes to everyone in Biggleswade Scout Group who supported them. They ran different nights before and after the event for all sections within the Group and shared their unique Jamboree experiences.

Three of the Leadership team; myself, David and Tasha went to Amsterdam to do a risk assessment visit for our planned Summer Camp in August 2020 to The Netherlands (this has sadly now been postponed to Summer 2021 due to Covid). Throughout the year we did various fundraising activities for this including running a busy Christmas Fayre, bag packing and a very successful Afternoon tea for 90 people in early March just before our world changed due to Covid.

Our Unit put in a team in The District Challenge hike and received 2nd place. Well done to Joe, Miles, Greg and Ollie for keeping going despite the various challenges along the way. You all supported and motivated each other.

We presented Chief Scout Diamond Awards to Callum and Lucy and Platinum Awards to Joe, Ava and Greg. Congratulations to them for all their hard work and achievements. Explorers continue to work towards these awards throughout the year.

We attended various camps throughout the year including Winter camp, Survival camp, Theme Park Camp and Gilwell 24. These camps are a great time to all get together and enjoy all that camping offer and the freedom of being outdoors. We held our annual This is Your Life in Scouting night for our leavers, presenting them with a book of photo memories during their time in scouting and wished them all the best for their future.

Some of our Explorers have a young leader role within the Group and have completed young leader training for this purpose. Great leadership skills for future life and their contributions to the Group as a whole enhances the lives of those young people in the younger sections so well done and thank you to all of them.

I would like to thank my amazing leadership team without whom our **Explorer Unit wouldn't be the fantastic Unit it is. Thank you to Sonia** (AESL) David (AESL), Tasha (AESL), Pete (AESL), Jon (AESL), 2 Poles (SA), Lucy (SA), Ben (SA), Lewis (OH) Charlie (OH) and Abbie (OH). Most importantly though a big thank you goes to our wonderful young people; our Explorers who make every night unique, fun and rewarding.

Bev Lattimer Explorer Scout Leader

Biggleswade Scout Group
www.biggleswadescouts.org.uk