

Thank you for all coming to find out about the Group, how well the year has gone and what shape the Group is in for the future.

Reporting on a year (2018) for most of which I was not in post has been a little tricky, but I should point out that although I have been out of the Group for a few years I have been around to assist when asked so I have an idea of what has been happening.

I need to praise Paul Boss and David Treagus who in turn have been providing direction for the last few years. In the last year progress has been made towards the goal of having full sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) run by trained and supported Leaders, to deliver FUN, sorry a balanced programme both on land and water. Resources have been increased and opportunities for more activities have been provided. I hope to be able to carry on that work.

We could not operate without the support of the Group Executive committee, and you the Parents. Please support the fundraising efforts when you can, and keep a look out for SS Candy, in the pink.

I am arranging a Concert at our Parish Church on 29/6/19, I do hope you can come along or buy a ticket. Carlton Male Voice Choir will be performing, and it should be a great evening.

We have got some celebrating to do, as the Group has completed its 90th year! Who would have thought that Scouts would keep going that long? I am sure that there will be information elsewhere about the Picnic in the Park (22/6/19) and it is a great example of that celebration. I hope you have seen the 90th Badge designed by the young people which can be worn until September.

2nd Beeston is also proud to be recognised by the Royal Navy, and their link and support is in its centenary year; we will be using a Grant from the Navy to celebrate and bring a new activity to the Group and District. Sometime this summer we will be holding a taster day to try out Stand Up Paddleboarding. There is also a badge which the sections have had for Uniform.

As it has been over a year since the last Royal Navy Inspection, we are working towards the possibility of there being one this year, and making preparations in terms of Scouts and Explorers training. To give you an idea if the Inspection is on water or at least at Barton Island, we will be expected to provide examples of the water activities that are provided through the summer. Also we will have to bring the Officer over the water from Attenborough, and this is by a pulling crew, who must use the correct orders and strokes. We will involve the younger sections too. And in addition we still need to be smart and have a good "Colours" ceremony.

There has been a fair share of Camps and activity days. And of course there have been a good number of overnight camps at Barton Island. Some of you will remember the Beaver and Cub days on the canal, which are always popular. They have been on District activity days as well. Scouts and Explorers had their annual summer Camp in Wales, which I also attended.

This was at the Girl Guiding site of Felin Bach near Caernarfon. We have been there a few times now and it provides lots of local interest. A feature was the visit to Surf Snowdonia , which was challenging and enjoyable. Also a weekend of Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) happened in October, when Scouts and Explorers were able to “talk” to Scouts all over the world.

Really there are too many events to remember, and we get busier each year.

We had some sadness too in the last year. We lost Sue Wales a few months ago. As I remember Sue came to help with first aid at Cubs almost 30 years ago, and became a leader taking on a variety of roles. Its been hard to get used to not seeing her around.

I mentioned the support of the Exec, but without their fundraising ideas and events, we could not cover the costs of the Group. The outstanding one for me was the Race Night which seems to get better each time. Explorers helped with the Food there, under the guidance of Dan, Explorer Leader.

In the sections in 2018 we have come a long way in terms of numbers. There has been a steady build up of members in the first 3 sections. Scouts got into the 20s for the first time in a while, and most of them turn up every week! (This year we are heading towards 30 which is a challenge in terms of space, and providing activities)

Cubs and Beavers have improved too, and we have started a recruitment campaign for Leaders so that we can cope with the future demand. If you would like to know more about what they get up to please ask the Leaders if you can stay and watch. You might even decide to be a leader!

Scouting is definitely providing the right things for todays youth. Statutory youth services are very reduced, and some Groups are adding second sections to cope with the numbers. I am sure that young people (and Parents) vote with their feet, so we are doing well at 2nd Beeston.

I expect that the Big Build will be mentioned in more detail by others. This is a visionary project to set the Group up for several years to come. I am very grateful for the work that the project team have put into this and I know they will drive it to completion.

There is more information on the Group website, and the Facebook Group and Page.

(I hope I haven't left anyone out, if so I'm sorry) I want to thank all the Leaders, Section Assistants, Helpers, and Young Leader Explorers, for all the hard work they do. They choose to train in the Scouting Method and Activities to be able to provide great activities. A big BRAVO from me.

Chris Coats (Puggy)
Group Scout Leader