

# Group Lead Volunteer report

January 2025 to March 2026

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2nd Beeston Sea Scouts continues to offer a wide range of activities for young people, with an emphasis on water activities at our Barton Island base. During the summer months, our Scout and Explorer sections take part in water activities at Barton Island every week, with our Beaver and Cub sections spending as many weeks as they can on Beeston Canal.

In Beavers to Scouts, the emphasis is on achieving the Chief Scout Awards, which ensures a well-balanced programme. At Explorers, our involvement with the local district enables our young people to engage with the Duke of Edinburgh, Young Leader, and King Scout Award programmes, giving our young people impressive entries for their CVs and a flavour of volunteering. Outside the regular meetings, all of our sections have taken part in several of the district events, such as the NESST challenge hike and the Big Weekend.

The numbers in the group have slightly increased from 76 to 81 Young People, and from 46 to 51 adult volunteers.

## People:

Throughout this financial year, we have had strong sectional teams led by our four fantastic section leaders.

During this time, we welcomed 9 new volunteers:

- Haydn Jones (Scouts)
- Kathy Agashi (incoming Squirrels Lead)
- Liz Rodrigues (Treasury Team)
- Mark Stewart (Water Team)
- Megan Janasiewicz (Beavers)
- Michael Gillie (Beavers)
- Mike Edmond (Water Team)
- Sarah McLaughlin (Water Team)
- Skye Bottomley (Water Team)

## Number per section (January 2025):

|                  | Young People | Volunteers |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Beavers</b>   | 17           | 4          |
| <b>Cubs</b>      | 23           | 3          |
| <b>Scouts</b>    | 22           | 7          |
| <b>Explorers</b> | 19           | 4          |

|              |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>18</b> |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|

## **Activity highlights for 2025/26:**

### **Beavers**

The Beavers began 2025 working through a spread of activity and challenge badges. They worked on the Builders badge (hot-wheels building challenges), Air Activities, healthy eating, and a Health & Fitness badge, alongside seasonal fun like pancake day, bird feeders and an Easter egg hunt. They also enjoyed a district sleepover at Conkers in March. The summer term earned progress toward Gardening, Book Reader, World Challenge (Matariki/New Zealand New Year) and Skills badges, decorated the maypole for the May Day fundraiser, and went boating on the canal in two groups across July.

The autumn term involved communication and community, with a Navigator badge, semaphore and morse code, a Disability Awareness badge, and a Community badge session maintaining the group's boating kit. Seasonal and faith-themed evenings ran through Halloween, Remembrance Day, First Aid, problem-solving, and a Hanukkah & Christmas Faith badge to close the year, plus a memorable "meet the Otters" mocktail evening.

In early 2026, the Beavers held a New Year party, attempted world-record challenges, explored the Beaver Promise, and gained Skills ("Express Yourself") and Experiment (science) badges. They finished the reporting period learning about Fair Trade, Ramadan and Eid, the Vikings, and disability awareness (fingerspelling and Makaton), capped by a train trip from Beeston to Nottingham on free EMR tickets to explore station accessibility.

### **Cubs**

The Cubs opened 2025 with an enterprise theme: a Quiz Night, Trading Night and Money Skills, alongside a Chef badge, Scouty Skills sessions, and Easter crafts. The summer term moved outdoors with the Cubs Olympics, Leyton Crescent games, an Attenborough hike, a Teamwork badge, backwards cooking and camp skills, building up to a four-week block of paddling sessions on the water through late June and July, introduced by a paddle-safety session.

Autumn covered core scouting skills of knots and semaphore, pioneering, a campfire, and Taskmaster and badge nights, plus a Diwali celebration, gingerbread-house building, a night hike with hike prep, and an end-of-term party.

The new year brought teamwork games, First Aid and Personal Safety, a Chef badge and pancake night (both with investitures), Chinese New Year, and two "4 Bases" badgework evenings. They completed a night hike from Highfields to the hut in March and did Easter baking before the break, which closed the reporting period.

### **Sea Scouts (Troop)**

Through the first months of 2025 the Troop met at Lilac Grove HQ for the winter programme, working on a DIY badge, emergency aid, and pioneering (including preparing for a

pioneering competition), plus knot tying and "Captain's Orders" sessions on being part of a Royal Navy—recognised unit. They swam at the RN swimming gala in February and performed incredibly to win the Otter Trophy. They finished the land season with water-safety training and buoyancy-aid issued, ready to return to the water.

From May the section moved to Barton Island for its main water-activities season, meeting most Friday evenings from Beeston Marina through summer and into September. Highlights included a paddle session to open the year, a Barton Island Camp in July, a Family Activities Day in June, and rock-climbing and walking days across the summer. As daylight shortened, departures were brought forward, and the season ended with "The BIG Capsize" and the traditional water fight and "Domino Salute" in September.

Back at Lilac Grove for the winter, the Troop ran a Survival Camp in October, and covered fire safety, emergency aid and map skills, alongside a Fun Family Quiz Night and a Christmas party at Nottingham Climbing Centre, and supported group fundraising through Christmas bag packing. Early 2026 brought a Winter Walking Weekend in January, a pancake challenge, and a return to the RN Swimming Gala at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth in February and won the Otter Trophy for the second year in a run.

## **Explorers**

The Explorers started 2025 with a varied skills programme of tower-building, fire-building, archery, survival skills (with investitures), teamwork and problem-solving challenges, a "Great Discovery Cook-off," and pancakes. They also did a cycling trip and an Easter egg hunt around Beeston. In January they took part in the annual NESST Challenge Hike and helped with the boats at Lilac Grove, and in March joined the Nottingham Gang Show.

From late April they returned to Barton Island, with camp planning and water-safety checks followed by weekly evenings at Barton Island from May through September, ending with a water fight. It was a busy summer on the water: an eight-week sailing course and a run of sailing weeks through July and August (with extra sailing-course and youth days at the sailing club), and The BIG Hideout camp in July.

The autumn term featured Taskmaster and wide games, pioneering, music, a chippy hike with geocaching, cooking and board games, and community service helping with the Beeston Round Table Santa Sleigh, before a Christmas party; the term also included Blackpool Camp in October. In early 2026 the Explorers planned expeditions and camps, tried backwoods cooking (pitta pizzas and orange cakes), orienteering and geocaching, an RNLI presentation, a democracy session, and a walking "chip shop survey," rounding out the period before the Easter break.

## **Group-wide**

Beyond the individual sections, the group came together for a number of shared events through 2025 and into early 2026. The year's calendar included the AGM in September, a Fundraising Concert in October with Carlton Male Voice Choir, and participation in the Nottingham Gang Show in March. Fundraising was a strong group effort, with a May Day fundraiser, a summer fête, plant and cake sales, race nights, and Christmas and Chamboree bag packing all helping to support the group. Members also marked Remembrance Day

together and joined district events such as the RN Swimming Gala, the district quiz, and various camps. These occasions brought Beavers, Cubs, Sea Scouts and Explorers together and connected the group with the wider district and local community.