



THIS IS

1st CUFFLEY

SCOUT GROUP

2016 – 2017

Registered Charity Number 302555

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and LEADERS
As at 31 March 2017

Chairman	David Holt
Secretary	Lisa Toye
Treasurer	Elizabeth Ward
Group Scout Leader (GSL)	Maureen Ward
Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL)	Diane Cracknell
Explorer Scout Leader (ExpSL)	Paul Kaye
Scout Leader (SL)	Steve Rowsell
Cub Scout Leader (CSL)	Jean Holt
Beaver Scout Leader (BSL)	David Gill
Scout Active Support Manager	Peter Cracknell
Committee Members	Denise Young
	Tony Mayo
	Lynn Samuelson
	Sarah Payne

Honorary Scouters
Ken Stroud

We invite you to attend
1st CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Sunday 10th September 2017 at 1st Cuffley Scout Group HQ at 4.30pm
This will be after the Treasure Hunt. After the AGM there will be a BBQ.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held September 2016
3. Reports (circulated)
4. Adoption of the Accounts (circulated)
5. Election of the Executive Committee:-
 - Approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Section Leaders' Confirmations:
 - Existing Committee members available for re-election
 - Elect any new members and approve any nominated members
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Any Other Business.

The following are entitled to vote at the meeting:-
Leaders, Recognised Supporters, and the Parents or Guardians of Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Minutes of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group AGM

2.30 pm Sunday 11th September 2016 at 1st Cuffley Scout Group HQ

1. Introduction & Welcome to the AGM, apologies for Absence

- i. David Holt (Group Chairman) formally opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.
- ii. The names of those attending were recorded.
- iii. Apologies for absence were made for: Denise Young, Tony Mayo, Lisa Toye, Margaret Roper, Emma Cracknell, Matt Lodge, Pam Staunton and Barbara Charlish.

2. Minutes of the last 1st Cuffley Scout Group AGM (6th September 2015)

- i. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM, the reports from each of the sections and the accounts had been circulated by e-mail before the meeting
- ii. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were adopted without objection.

3. Reports

- i. Reports from each of the sections were as circulated before the meeting.
- ii. The Chairman referenced the sections of the report relating to the activities and the journey of progress through the various Scouting sections. This included:
 - Group Chairman's Report 2015 – 2016
 - Group Scout Leader's Report 2015 - 2016
 - Treasurer's Report for year ending 31/3/2016
 - Beaver Colony Report 2015 - 2016
 - Cubs Pack Report 2015 – 2016
 - Scout Troop Report 2015 – 2016
 - Explorer Scout Unit Report 2015 - 2016
 - Cuffley Service Crew Report 2015 - 2016
 - The Queen's Scout Dinner April 2016.

4. Adoption of Accounts

- i. The accounts were presented by Liz Ward (Group Treasurer) and adopted as presented.
- ii. The highlights of the published Treasurer's Report were presented by Liz Ward.
- iii. David Holt thanked Liz Ward and Christina Knight (Independent Examiner) for their contribution.

5. Election of the Executive Committee

- i. As is the custom the Group Chairman, David Holt, stood down and was re-appointed, un-opposed, by Group Scout Leader, Maureen Ward.
- ii. Christine Parker the previous Group Secretary had stood down due to pressure of work commitments.
- iii. The following Ex-Officio Executive Committee members were elected:

Group Secretary	Lisa Toye	Appointed
Group Treasurer	Elizabeth Ward	Appointed

Leaders who had agreed service as an ex-officio member of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group Executive Committee:

Maureen Ward	Group Scout Leader
Diane Cracknell	Assistant Group Scout Leader

Section Leaders holding a Beaver Scout Leader, Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader and Explorer Scout Leader role expressly indicated to the AGM (orally) that they were willing to perform such a function.

David Gill	Beaver Scout Leader
Jean Holt	Cub Scout Leader
Steve Rowsell	Scout Leader
Paul Kaye	Explorer Scout Leader

- iv. *Existing Committee Members Available for re-election:*

Denise Young	Appointed
Tony Mayo	Appointed
Lynn Samuelson	Appointed
Sarah Payne	Appointed

- v. *Executive Committee Nominated Members, nominated by the Group Scout Leader.*
The following nomination was approved at the Group Annual General Meeting:

Peter Cracknell, Manager, Scout Active Support Unit (Cuffley Service Crew).
Nominated for the post of Deputy Chairman

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

- i. Christina Knight was approved as the Independent Examiner.

7. Any Other Business

- i. Graham Woolley (Acting District Commissioner) addressed the meeting:
1st Cuffley's membership is approximately 100 which is a significant proportion of the Potters Bar numbers (600). The Scout Association is pushing the initiative for all sections to participate in outdoor activities. Scouting relies on leadership at all levels and 1st Cuffley is currently one of the strongest in the District with a good team including young leaders. GW talked about the District development day due to take place in Potters Bar on the 5th November 2016. He is encouraging Groups to consider what they need to do going forward and invited leaders and Group

Executive members and parents to attend. GW, as Acting District Commissioner for Potters Bar, asked for nominations to fill the District Commissioner role permanently.

- ii. Awards were made to:
 - Diane Cracknell Wood Badge (Assistant Explorer Leader)
 - James Cracknell Diamond Award (amended)
- iii. Peter Cracknell summarised the achievements made by the 5 Cuffley Service Crew members, achieving the Queen Scout Award. This included a formal dinner hosted by Hertfordshire County at Gilwell Park, and a National St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle where they met members of the Royal family and the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.
- iv. David Holt asked for a moment to remember John Parkes who had recently passed away. John had supported the group over many years in a number of roles and had done a lot for 1st Cuffley Scout Group.
- v. A presentation of flowers and a Thanks Badge were made to Christine Parker for her years of work as Group Secretary.
- vi. The Cubs sang a song and the Explorers described some of the activities they had enjoyed at summer camp and in their meetings.

David Holt reiterated his thanks to all those who gave their continued support to the running of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group and formally closed the AGM.

Group Chairman's Report 2016 - 2017

It's been another successful year for The Scout Association and for the 1st Cuffley Scout Group. We continue to adapt our programmes to ensure Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with the adult leadership. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The activities offered continue to inspire many and to be a foundation for future generations' positive contribution to society.

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Sections have strong membership and are enjoying a wide range of activities. The 1st Cuffley Service Crew is actively providing key Scouting skills assistance and supporting the Group. It is a pleasure to see how young people's individual contributions evolve as they undertake their journeys through the sections.

During the year, we have been able to make significant improvements to our facilities. The most visible and highest priority was to provide a new kitchen. With the help of a Grant from the Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council we have been able to provide this with new durable stainless steel units. It will provide a more usable, more hygienic and more welcoming space for all HQ users.

There has been significant work on painting, tidying the ground and making general improvements. This all based on people offering their time or subsidising improvement activities. Two new Field Maple trees were planted this year. One is in memory of John Parkes and will be a reminder of him and many years' service he gave to 1st Cuffley Scout Group. The other, an approved replacement, was generously sponsored by a member's family.

We have a strong team of very proactive volunteer leaders driving the vision of Scouting forward with enthusiasm and creative new ideas. They do a tremendous job in delivering an excellent Scouting programme on behalf of the Group. We are fortunate to have young members supporting the leadership roles to provide continuity and a vibrant programme. The challenge as always is to uphold the aims of the Scout Association and promote fun, friendship and ultimately self-sufficiency for our Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The Group continues to be financially sound. This is due to the hard work of a relatively small number of people who have supported successful fundraising activities in addition to subscription fees, donations and grants. I offer my thanks to all who have supported the Group this way.

We have an ongoing plan to continue to improve the facilities on site and provide better services to the members. To continue to thrive we need significantly more involvement from the younger parents to bring new ideas and continuity to the group. To maintain standards, in these challenging times, we must find new help from those who can contribute some time, money or a skill or inevitably subscriptions will have to rise to cover costs. A stronger support system will allow leaders to focus more of their time delivering Scouting to young people.

The Scouting adventure comes in many forms. It's through everyday adventure that we enrich lives and help our communities. I offer my sincere thanks to all the 1st Cuffley Executive Committee, Section Leaders and supporters who provide an excellent service on behalf of the Group.

David Holt
Group Chairman
1st Cuffley Scout Group

1st Cuffley Scout Group - 90 years old and still going strong.

This is a special year for 1st Cuffley and we give thanks for a certain Mr and Mrs Bainbridge who started Scouting in Cuffley back in 1927. Mrs Bainbridge was Wolf Cub Mistress and her husband was Scout Master and they were also assistant leaders for each other. So to slightly misquote Baden-Powell 'from a little acorn a large strong oak tree grew'. Our main event this year will be the re-introduction of the Group Camp in celebration of this milestone.

We have now re-instated Work Days twice a year to carry out maintenance to buildings and land. Although these 'days' are hard work they do forge useful alliances between leaders, parents and older members of the Group and the payback comes when comments on the condition of said premises and grounds are made.

We are so fortunate to have an enthusiastic parent who went through the hoops to enable us to secure a Grant which in turn has made it possible for us to replace our 55 year old "Make do and mend" kitchen with a smart stainless steel model which gives pleasure to all. Many thanks to those who were involved in this project – they know who they are.

All sections have enthusiastic youngsters who tackle whatever is asked of them to the best of their ability with verve and vigour and mostly the end result is what the leaders hoped for. The young members of the different sections are blessed with leaders who provide interesting, imaginative and ingenious programmes whilst attempting to adhere to the required training programme of the Scout Association.

The Group has as usual attended the St Georges Day Parade in Potters Bar and also the Remembrance Day Service in Northaw. For the latter we were joined by 1st Northaw Scout Group and 1st Cuffley Guides and Brownies plus a large number of Parishioners.

As ever I would like to thank those at District level who provide activities and competitions regularly for all age groups and this in addition to their other responsibilities within the District.

GONE HOME

All Groups are sad to lose one of their own and so it was when last summer John Parkes passed away. John had been with the Group for 50 years, Assistant Scout Leader, Chaplain, Deputy Chairman and Honorary Scouter. Before that his main scouting involvement was in Palmers Green from cub to leader. He was also a Rover Scout and during his National Service he was stationed in Kenya and joined a party attempting to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and he succeeded. He was a keen photographer and created a tremendous archive of photographs and films of all sorts of Group activities. He loved to record as many events as possible. The fun really came when he would do a film show for the Group and we could all laugh at the madcap things we had been caught doing. We have planted a tree in the grounds in his memory.

Maureen Ward (Group Scout Leader)

TREASURER'S REPORT for year ending 31/3/2017

As you can see from the attached accounts, we have an excess of receipts over payments this year. As previously reported, the majority of works relating to the new buildings at the Scout hut premises have already been completed. During this financial year, however, we have increased maintenance costs which included spending nearly £1k on tree-work in our grounds which is a much-needed improvement. We have undertaken work to provide a new kitchen in the main hut. The result is a very practical, fresh, efficient space which is proving of great benefit to all. We spent in excess of £5k but this was almost completely offset by the Grant we received for this project of £5k from Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council. Our subscription income has increased slightly this year, and Explorer income and expenditure continue to be amalgamated into the Potters Bar District reporting. We also had another donation from HSBC of £500 via Peter Cracknell and two donations re Cuffley Crew totalling £330 of which £230 was used for Crew wear. Unfortunately our investment income continues to be low and this is, of course, due to the continuing low interest rates available. Brownies are paying their subscription for the use of our hut in one lump sum but we have agreed to accept instalments from the Guides at this stage. We also had three very kind donations; one from Alan Chaston re the jumble sale of £48, another from the German Scouts of £56 and also from the Kyriacou family of £75 towards the cost of a plaque and one of the Field Maple trees.

As you can also see from the accounts, expenditure and income relating to activities and trips continues to be high and this is due to much being organised for the benefit of all our young people both in terms of days out and also camping expeditions.

Camps/hikes/activities included (for Explorers) an expedition, the Chiltern Challenge, the Monopoly Challenge and Gilwell 24, (for Scouts) a Scuba trip, sleepover, Mid-Herts night hike and PAW weekend, (for Cubs) a Bushcraft Day, Campers' badge camp, Summer Camp and trip to Whipsnade, (for Beavers) an in tents sleepover, Tolmers' Camp and a Fun Day. In addition, there was the Gilwell Fun Day, the Christmas Panto and the forthcoming Phasels' Wood Group Camp in July.

Our fundraising activities continued throughout this year with the Jumble sales being particularly successful as all related takings amounted to £2,222 (an increase on prior year of nearly £500) and net proceeds came to £1,500 so, as always, a very worthwhile exercise. Nevertheless, ongoing extra help at the jumble sales can only mean extra revenue so do try to volunteer if at all possible. Many thanks to those who have worked so hard in this regard. We continue to generate some income from the use of the scout hut including donations relating to table tennis, rangers, guides, brownies and karate. In addition to this, we also raised £1,250 from helping at the Point-to-Point at Northaw, £1,356 from the snack bar at the Elm Court car boot sale, £200 from Lisa Toye's matched funding with the Post Office, £257 from Cuffley Village Day, £199 from the Camp Fire with Carols and £252 from Carol Singing at Cuffley Station. Another excellent year for fundraising activities; thank-you so much to everyone for contributing and working so hard to raise such a large sum of money for the Group.

In terms of expenditure this year, we have seen a slight increase in the cost of insurance, utilities have remained much the same, and unit funding includes costs of running our section meetings each week and providing activities at the Scout hut that are both rewarding and stimulating for our young people. We also made a donation to Isabel Hospice re John Parkes of £75.

Overall, a very pleasing year in many ways; the continuing high level of activities and trips has been well received and enjoyed by all concerned. In addition, we have funds carried forward of £37,067 which is an excellent end to the year and gives us the financial scope needed to continue with further upgrading and maintenance of the existing buildings and grounds at our premises as necessary; we have a number of committed, approved projects in the pipeline which we shall start to undertake in the near future. Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard to generate income and support the work and aims of the group.

Elizabeth Ward
Treasurer, 1st Cuffley Scout Group

1ST CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP EXECUTIVE
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 302555
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	8,181	7,859
Investment income		
Barclays Bank	10	14
Donations		
1st Cuffley Guides	267	400
Brownies	600	400
HSBC	500	500
Table Tennis	88	138
Cuffley Lodge	0	0
Karate Club	360	360
Scout shop	99	68
Cuffley School	0	0
Other	5,715	233
Fundraising		
Jumble sales	2,222	1,737
Other	3,462	2,907
Activities and Trips	4,488	4,253
Scarves & handbooks	471	55
Other income	0	23
	<u>26,462</u>	<u>18,945</u>
PAYMENTS		
Scout Association subscription(net)	3,403	3,040
Premises		
Utilities	1,274	1,480
Insurance	2,719	2,633
Maintenance	2,561	1,644
Projects	5,931	
Fundraising		
Jumble sales	722	446
Administration expenses		
Unit funding	851	2,261
Activities and trips	5,268	4,801
Sundry payments (badges, books etc)	595	371
Donations	110	30
Building Project	0	0
Other	35	41
	<u>23,468</u>	<u>16,746</u>
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	2,994	2,199
Funds brought forward from previous year	<u>34,073</u>	<u>31,874</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>37,067</u>	<u>34,073</u>
Funds per Balance Sheet	37,067	34,073

1ST CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP EXECUTIVE
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 302555
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2017

		<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
ASSETS				
Balances at				
Barclays Bank:	BPA	26,658.48		26,648.52
	Current	10,177.43		6,886.07
	Building Project	1,241.55		1,241.55
		<u>£ 38,077.46</u>		<u>£ 34,776.14</u>
(Surplus)/deficit on				
Explorers' account		(1,010.85)		(703.48)
		<u>£ 37,066.61</u>		<u>£ 34,072.66</u>

The above accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

D Holt
Group
Chairman

Elizabeth Ward
Honorary
Treasurer

Dated

Signed versions
will be available.

1st Cuffley Explorer Scouts. Report 2016/17

This has been another good year for the Explorers. The Unit has grown to 24 members, with further new members welcomed from both the Cuffley and Northaw Scout Groups, the new members find a more relaxed regime that is fitting for their age group.

Key events for the year included:

- A summer camp in Dorset, the timing coinciding exactly with the Pokemon app craze which meant that we made many additional stops and trips to achieve some very high scores.
- A Cardboard City Evening in which several Explorers slept out in a shack that they made from cardboard boxes.
- Gilwell 24 – 24 hours of non-stop action at Scout Adventures Gilwell Park that includes numerous adventurous and exciting activities, including fairground rides, bands, zip wires, water slides and much more. Some of the Cuffley Explorers did stay awake for the full 24 hours.
- The Chiltern Challenge – the Cuffley Explorers did an excellent job of finishing well in the very muddy conditions.

Other activities have included Explorer Challenges, attempting to build a soapbox out of bikes, computer gaming sessions, bike rides, bowling evenings, cinema trips, mixed with the traditional scouting activities such as fires, cooking and games. The Explorers have benefitted from speech evenings organised by the Scouts, as well as some great evenings organised by the Service Crew.

Paul Kaye (Explorer Scout Leader)

1st Cuffley Scouts 2016 – 2017

This has been another adventurous year for the Scouts, trying out various activities.

The Remembrance Day Parade was also very well attended by the majority of the troop

We attended the Potters Bar Pantomime along with other sections of the group. All had a great time.

In March we took part in the Mid Herts Night Hike, an Annual competition run by Mid Herts Scouts (The theme this year was "Pokemon"). We entered 2 teams as visitors, with the route being about 12 miles and taking part in 4 x activity bases on the way round gaining points at each one. Both teams did well.

There was also an Easter Egg hunt over the Easter Holidays, with groups of Scouts being driven around to take part in the Potters Bar egg hunt, followed by a hunt at the hut for all the hidden Easter eggs, we think they got them all!

In the last year we have gained further skills in rock climbing, abseiling, hiking, map reading, First Aid and rope work.

We have been carol singing, observing different noises identifying hidden objects, and team building. The Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders also have regular meetings and training sessions.

We are still working on the new Scouting Programme with different badges and tasks to be completed.

Many thanks to Diane, Pam, Kate, Pete, Matt and all the other crew members who help us out when they can.

And 'thank you' to all the parents, relatives and also the Scouts for supporting us this year.

What will we do in the next year!!!

Steve Rowsell (Scout Leader)

1st Cuffley Cubs Report 2016 – 2017

In Cubs we have a varied program of activities. I am going to outline the highlights of the year to give you a feel of what we have been doing.

April

1st Cuffley attended the St Georges Day service and parade and practiced putting up tents



May

Some of the older Cubs took part in a joint camp with 4th Potters Bar to improve their camping skills and climbing.

Scouting skills were developed by playing a wide game at Tolmers, practicing orienteering skills and learning to light fires.

Going out and about in Cuffley they learnt about Road safety



June

At the county Water Activity Day several Cubs took part in Bell Boating, Kayaking & Canoeing to achieve their Paddle Sports and Nautical Skills badges.

Tolmers held an activity evening giving an opportunity to try new activities.

The district held a competition to build a model with matchsticks.

1st Cuffley won 1st prize.

A massive County camp was held at Tolmers to celebrate 100 years of Cubs. There were an amazing amount of things to do and lots of fun.



Curling ,DIY style, was practiced at the hut.

July

We went on a trip to the Potters Bar Fire station, and visited a German Scout troop camping at Tolmers.



Sept

A group went to Whipsnade Zoo for a special 100 years of Cubs takeover Day.

Autumn wide games at Tolmers were enjoyed by all and cardboard boxes were used to make shelters.



Oct

Some Cubs hiked from Cuffley to Morven, and then watched the Jungle Book film together with hot dogs and popcorn.

An evening of making their own tie-dye T-shirts proved very popular



Nov

We learnt about fire safety, made ballisters and went for a walk in the Great woods in the dark.

Dec

There was a Christmas party to celebrate the 100 years of Cubs and for everyone to simultaneously renew their Cub Scout promise.

Over a period of several weeks we completed the Scientist badge



Jan

1st Cuffley team won the indoor games in the district competition.

We celebrated Chinese New Year with a variety of activities

Feb

In the district swimming Gala, a small team from Cuffley swam very well.

We developed our map skills and enjoyed cooking pancakes.



March

1st Cuffley won the district 6-aside football tournament

The Cubs took part in a Farm to fork experience at Tesco's and celebrated Easter by making Easter nests.

Six Cubs attended the county bushcraft day at Harmer Green.



At the end of the spring term 3 Cubs were the first in the pack to achieve the new Silver challenge awards. They were Robin Gilbert, Adam Hockett and Lily Gore. This is the highest award that can be achieved in Cubs and shows great commitment and perseverance as they have to gain all 7 challenge badges to complete the award.

We continue to thrive as a pack, gaining members as they come up from Beavers, but also some who join us new to the group. We also say goodbye to some of our Cubs as they move on up to the next section, Scouts, in the progression through their Scouting life.

As always I would like to thank all those leaders, young leaders and parents who help us make Cubs exciting and Fun. This especially includes Raksha and Hathi but also a variety of young leaders who have helped us during the year.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Cubs for their enthusiasm and energy which makes it all worthwhile. To see a small timid Beaver join us at age 8 and then to send them up to Scouts 2 ½ years later, confident and ready for their next challenge is great to see. In some cases they also come back to help us as young leaders and it is then that you can see how Scouting has enabled them to develop into the young people we should all be proud of.

Jean Holt
Cub Scout Leader.

1st Cuffley Beaver Leader Report 2016/17

It has been another crazy year at Beavers and this year Beavers celebrated their thirtieth year of existence. For interest I started scouting in Cubs well before Beavers arrived at 1st Cuffley. There is a photo on the Group website taken as part of the Group 50th anniversary as proof!

Below you will find a summary of some of the exciting things the beavers have been doing.

In April the St. George's Parade through Potters Bar went very well. As we practice the promise each week, 1st Cuffley was again noticed as being the loudest during the promise renewal.

In June there was the Gilwell Funday which we have been attending for many years now. It is a fantastic opportunity to try out activities that they might not otherwise get a chance to experience until they are much older. We usually end up with a few tame Cubs in tow so it is also a good way for the sections to mix.

In July there was a large County event to celebrate the 30 years of Beavers. It was a lovely sunny day and everyone had a lot of fun.

Thanks to Alison's nights-away permit we were able to run our 2nd Beaver Summer Sleepover in the grounds of the Scout Hut. This year we managed to get a bit more sleep as we marched the Beavers down the hill to Tolmers where they learnt to climb coconut trees. Then we marched them all back up the hill to the Scout Hut. We were lucky enough to have clear skies so some star gazing was possible before bed.

In September there was the usual District Sports Day and this year it doubled up as a 30th Birthday party for the Beavers. The team of Beavers made us proud by coming first and taking home the prize. This being to look after "Pottys Bear" for the next year. As such the beavers have been taking turns looking after Potty, feeding him, making sure he brushes his teeth and does his homework.

During the Autumn term the Beavers decorated glow-in-the-dark face marks and then played a number of zombie games under black light conditions.

As part of the My Skill Challenge Badge the Beavers were given a number of missions. One being that they had to build a structure out of spaghetti and marshmallows. Tempting though it was to eat the building materials they all did very well. All groups realised they needed to work together as a team to help hold it all together. After that a new game of sinking islands was played while leftover marshmallows were toasted and sandwiched between chocolate biscuits. A number of Beavers bought in the 3D versions of the machines they invented last week earning lots of lodge points.

In December during the lead up to Christmas nine Beavers from Cuffley joined in with sixty others from the district at the Christmas Treasure Hunt at Well End. They should now all know the names of Santa's reindeer as they had to go out and find them all in the dark and the rain. Marshmallows were then roasted over fires although perhaps some did not make it that far, getting eaten sooner. Then off into the dark dark woods to search for magical disks hanging from the trees which could be exchanged for sweets at the camp fire. Songs were sung round the roaring campfire which warmed everyone up. Then back to the hall for hot chocolate and cakes. And if that was not enough, Santa himself turned up on his brightly lit sleigh to hand out presents to all the good Beavers.

Eight beavers came along to the Camp Fire With Carols at the Scout Hut. Traditional campfire songs were sung along with Carols and more modern Christmas songs. The beavers took on a creative challenge to make Christmas decorations. These included paper chains, pipe cleaner candy canes, feathered holly leaves and various other interesting combinations. These decorations were then put on display at Northaw Church as part of the Christmas tree festival. The tree was jointly decorated with the Cubs.

The year ended with a log chew to find out what the beavers liked and disliked about coming to beavers. Quite a few said they liked everything. On the dislikes, the common theme was school and going to bed, neither of which we have any control

over. We then switched over to organised chaos, making snowballs out of paper, hockey sticks out of balloons and watched the fun until the last balloon went bang! Now into the New Year of 2017 the beavers attended the District Fun Zone in Hatfield and spent an hour bouncing about until they ran out of steam and needed refueling with drinks and chocolate biscuits.

Following on from the success last year it was a Yo-Ho-Ho and a bottle of, um, not rum, rather PVA glue as the beavers joined in with other colonies in the District at the pirate handicrafts day. All manner of pirate equipment, hats, patches, parrots, flags, swords, maps and telescopes were carefully crafted by the young artisans. With the singing of a pirate anthem those in attendance ticked all the badgework for the Creative Activity Badge and will be rewarded by walking the plank, um, I mean, the badge!

In the Spring term the beavers have been working towards their personal challenge badge. Each Beaver chose a challenge which covered a wide range of activities from helping at home to learning new skills and being nice to siblings.

Other activity badges worked on was the space activity and experiment badges. For example ...

Can you charge a mobile device with some lemons, nails and some grubby copper coins? With only five lemons it was not quite enough to charge the device, but the LED lights shone brightly to prove it was possible. Hopefully the Beavers will scale up the electricity generation at home.

It was warp-factor-one tonight as the beavers took a tour around some of the planets in the solar system and the stars in our galaxy. However due to the clouds this was done inside. Their 5-week mission, to seek out star constellations and learn the names of planets where no one has gone before.

For a different experiment it was all about magnets. The beavers were shown how to make magnetic goo which was as messy as it sounds. It was interesting to watch as the blobs of goo sucked in other magnets and ate them up. They also played with magnetic building shapes, trying to create a 3D ball to earn lodge points.

We are now looking forward to an amazing summer and especially the revival of the Group camp where all the sections will descend on Phasels Wood for a weekend of fun and adventure.

As ever, immense gratitude to those without whom, none of this it would have been possible. Alison (Chil), Maureen (Hathi), Joel (Akru) and our young leaders. We have James (Kaa) and Nick from the Explorers and Holly from Scouts. Thank you for all the help and support throughout the year.

Please remember that you can keep track of Beaver activities on Facebook and on the Group website.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stCuffleyScoutGroup/>

<http://www.cuffley-scouts.org/>

David Gill, BSL

Cuffley Service Crew

Report from 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

Throughout the reporting year our Scout Active Support Unit, the Cuffley Service Crew, have continued to afford assistance to our Group, wider scouting initiatives and the local community. Out of term time there are between twelve and fifteen affiliated members who congregate for self-organised events such as the Summer Fire Picnic, a Christmas Dinner and a Train Track sleepover. During term time four or five members can be found supporting various sections in the running or part-running of meetings. We have also provided back-up leadership for example to our Explorers competing in the prestigious Hertfordshire Scout County Chiltern Challenge competition plus skill night, hikes and events for our various Group sections.



To assist the Group the Crew have helped set-up and support several HQ Maintenance Days, and worked at other fundraising events such as Jumble Sales and the Group camp fire with carols.

In August the Crew assisted the Braunschweiger Voortrekker Group of German Scouts with their two week summer camp which was visited by our various sections.



In September the Crew supported local stall holders with tent pitching and ran two public tug-of-war tournaments at the Cuffley Village Day. In November members provided marshalling at the Northaw/Cuffley Remembrance Day Parade.

In April 2016 five members attended a formal dinner at Gilwell Park where they received their Queen's Scout Awards. Later in the month they were further honoured by being invited to attend a formal parade at Windsor Castle.



Peter Cracknell