

Registered charity number  
1019814

1st Bramhall Scout Group

Report and Accounts

31 December 2016

**1st Bramhall Scout Group**  
**Trust Information and Administration Details**  
**For the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016**

Charity Name	1 <sup>st</sup> Bramhall Scout Group
Principal Address	The Bramley Centre, Bramley Close Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2DT
Charity Number	1019814
Group Registration Number	4861
Scout District	Ladybrook Valley
Scout County	Greater Manchester East

**TRUSTEES**

<b><u>Trustee Name</u></b>	<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Dates acted if not for whole year</u></b>
David Pechey	President	
Julie Bottomley	Vice President	
David Wyld	Vice President	
Geoff Goose	Vice President	Up to 23 May 2016
Malcolm Wilkinson	Vice President	Up to 23 May 2016
Richard Baker	Group Chairman	Up to 23 May 2016
Sir Peter Fahy	Group Chairman	From 23 May 2016
Matthew Hack	Group Secretary	
Vanessa Kellaway	Group Treasurer	Up to 23 May 2016
Richard Baker	Group Treasurer	From 23 May 2016
Andrew Corrie	Group Scout Leader	
Barry Aitken	Assistant Group Scout Leader	
Paul Winterburn	Explorer Scout Leader	
Geoff Twiss	Transport Manager	
Val Ashton	Hirings Manager	
Phil Pine	Committee Member	
Nick Cavill	Scout Parent Representative	
Judith Henshaw	Explorer Parent Representative	
Max Rose	Cub Parent Representative	From 11 July 2016
Fiona Hull	Beaver Parent Representative	From 21 October 2016

**Accountants:**

GJ Wood and Co.  
 263 Buxton Road  
 Great Moor, Stockport  
 SK2 7NR

**Bankers:**

Royal Bank of Scotland  
 50 Bramhall Lane South  
 Bramhall, Stockport  
 SK7 1AJ

# **1st Bramhall Scout Group. – Trustees Annual Report**

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Introduction**

Tracing its origins back to 1909, only two years after the founding of the Scout Movement, 1st Bramhall Scout Group is one of the oldest Scout Groups in the country. The Group is part of the Ladybrook Valley Scout District, which itself is part of Greater Manchester East Scout County. The Group is registered with The Scout Association under Registration Number 4861 and is established as a Trust under its rules which are common to all Scout Groups. The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (POR).

### **The Group Executive**

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee. Collectively, they act as "Charity Trustees" of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. They are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Group Executive Committee consists of:

- "Ex-Officio" Members, appointed by virtue of their role. These are the Group Chairman, Group Secretary, Group Treasurer, Group Scout Leader (GSL) and Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL). In addition, the Explorer Scout Leader and the Section Leaders are members if they have indicated as such to the AGM.
- Elected Members are persons elected at the AGM. Generally they are appointed to fulfil specific roles such as Transport Manager, Hirings Manager etc.
- Persons nominated by the Group Scout Leader, eg Parent Representatives for each section.

The Group Executive meets approximately every two months and take on much of the administrative burden of the Group, including looking after the Bramley Centre, our Headquarters building, leaving the Leaders to plan activities and run the Section Programmes.

The Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting his responsibilities and is specifically responsible for:

- The protection and maintenance of Group property and equipment;
- The raising of funds, the setting of subscription rates and the administration and management of the Group's finances;
- Approving the Annual Report and Accounts and presenting it to the Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting;
- The payment of Capitation Fee to District and County;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Developing local scouting and promoting a positive local image of scouting;

- Ensuring that safety and safeguarding procedures are implemented and operating effectively;
- Group public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

### **Risks and Internal Control**

The Group Executive Committee has identified the following major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate them.

**Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.** Through payment of the Capitation Fee to the District and County, the Group contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities and communicated to all adults taking part. There are nominated trained First Aiders on all activities. The Group has a Safety Adviser who also fulfils that role at District Level. The Group has a Fire Safety Officer who undertakes Fire Safety Assessments, provides Fire Training to Adult Volunteers and Hirers and conducts practice evacuations. The Buildings sub-committee reviews and updates the Buildings Risk Assessment. All adults in the Group are required to complete the Scout Association Ongoing Safety Course and are expected to be familiar with the Purple Card 'Safe Scouting: A Code of Conduct' and to understand that Safety is a joint responsibility of all adults in the group, irrespective of their role.

**Safeguarding.** Keeping young people safe is a paramount responsibility of all adults in Scouting. The AGSL, together with the District Appointments Advisory Committee, ensures that adults are checked through the DBS (formerly CRB) and the Scout Association's systems before appointment and that renewal takes place prior to expiry. All adults in the Group are required to complete the Scout Association Safeguarding Awareness Course. The Yellow Card which contains essential information on safeguarding is given to all adults. The GSL is the appointed officer responsible for safeguarding issues.

**Leader Competence.** In order to underpin safe quality Scouting for young people it is very important that all adults holding Scout appointments receive training that is appropriate to their roles. Undergoing training within a stated period is a requirement of all appointments. The Scout Association's module-based training scheme for adult volunteers is managed at County level in Greater Manchester East Scout County. In the District a nominated Assistant District Commissioner working with line managers and the Appointments Advisory Committee support and assist adults to fulfil their training commitment within the time allowed. The AGSL works with the District personnel to ensure that all training is up to date. Furthermore, as all appointments are for a limited period, a system is in place for reviewing appointments and identifying any further training needs.

**Damage to buildings, property and equipment.** The Group has sufficient insurance cover in place with Unity Insurance for the buildings, contents, public liability, vehicles, trailers, canoes and equipment. Appropriate training is given to all users. Certain items of equipment have been identified for regular checking, testing or maintenance.

**Reduction or loss of leaders.** The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section, or the group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group. A similar risk exists from a reduction or loss of young people.

**Reduced income.** The group is reliant upon income from both subscriptions and the hiring of the Bramley Centre to third party organisations. Hiring income could fall due to reduced demand or due to reduced availability as a result of more section activities. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee has the option to increase subscriptions and/or increase income from fund-raising activities.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the group are as a unit of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote 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 method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 6 and 25. The Beaver Section covers the ages from 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10½, Scouts cover 10½ to 14. 14 to 18 year olds are in the Explorer Unit which is administered by the District. 18 to 25 year olds are in the Scout Network section which is administered by the County.

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.

## **Group Chairman's Report**

This has been my first year as Chair of the Group which is a real pleasure and a honour. The Scout Association is remarkable in the way it provides so many challenging and enjoyable activities for young people building on tradition but also constantly adapting to the world outside. I think the most amazing thing is that these activities are provided almost entirely by volunteers. 1st Bramhall Scouts is going from strength to strength and you can read in the reports from each section the full range of opportunities the leaders have been providing. The highlight of my year was participating in the 100th birthday of the Cubs and again I thought it was really striking how much Baden- Powell, the founder of the Scout movement, would have recognised if he had returned.

I am so grateful for the service provided by all our leaders and adult volunteers and fellow members of the Executive Committee and indeed their families who support them. They give so much of their time, their dedication and expertise.

Moving forward, the Executive Committee wants to see the number of adult volunteers increase so that we can create even more opportunities for even more young people. We want to continue to provide activities which are fun, but also relevant, to the changing world around us. We want our young people to have a stronger voice so that they can influence the issues that affect them in Scouting and beyond.

The Executive Committee are in the process of reviewing the development plan for the Group so that we can make sure that our Scouting remains relevant and enjoyable for our young people. Having addressed the issue of large waiting lists by opening a new Beaver Colony and a new Cub Pack, the Group will continue to review the numbers in each section and look for opportunities for new ones. This will be dependent on attracting new leaders and adult volunteers but we also want to create an Active Support Group of parents to assist with particular events. We will continue to improve the communication to parents and section members through the use of Newsletters, a new website and social media.

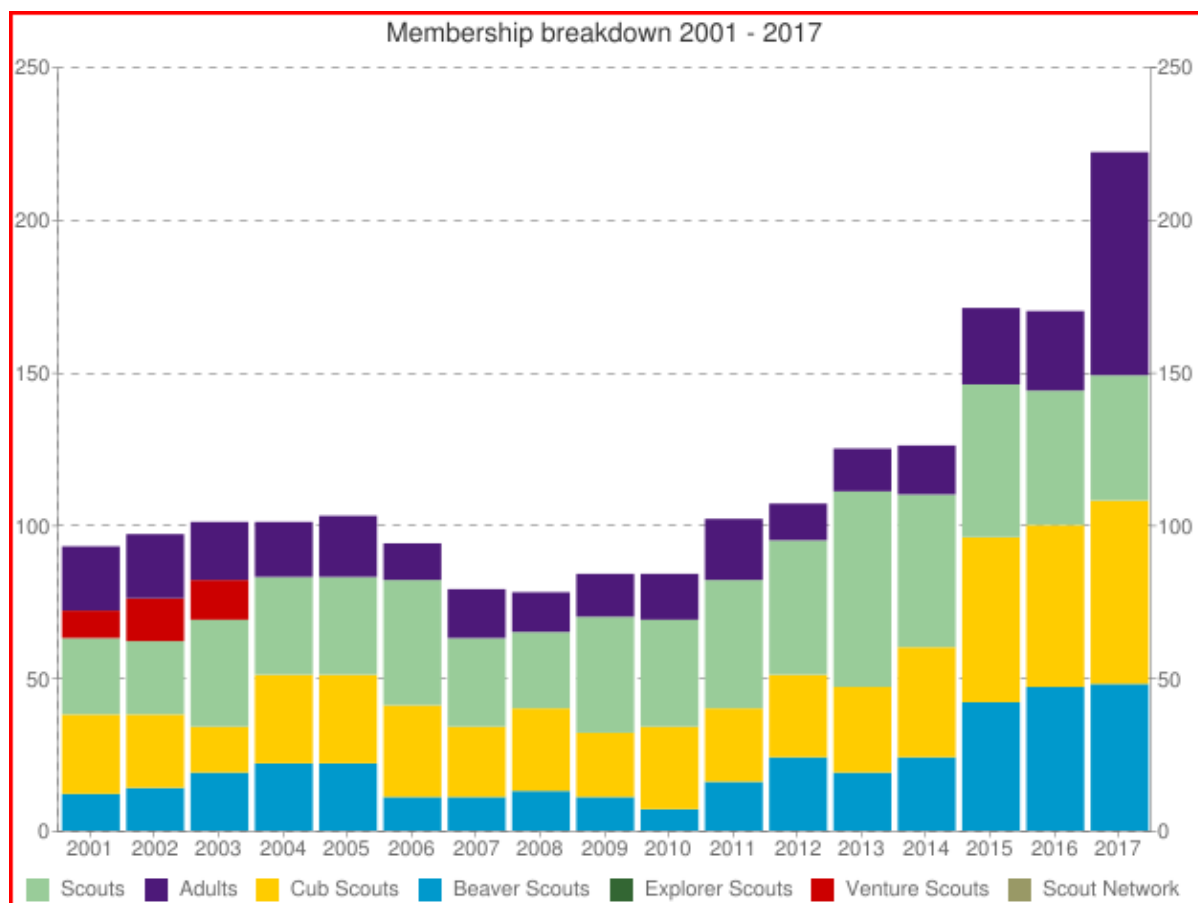
The Executive Committee will also be giving time to its own development and training and making sure the Group complies with new fundraising and information management regulations.

In terms of the Bramley Centre building, it is planned to refurbish the toilets in the coming year. The Group will also review the layout and contents of the Stores. General repairs and maintenance will be carried out when required.

The Executive is committed to giving a stronger voice to our young people not just in terms of consulting them on activities, but also in helping them to think about and influence those issues which will be affecting them as young citizens. One of the strengths of Scouting is its international reach and impact and we will continue to seek links which will help our young people understand challenges in other parts of the world and appreciate the culture and experiences of others.

Every week we see the enormous talent, respect and energy in our young members and the great way they work together. I hope all those reading this will consider what more they can do to help Scouting in 1st Bramhall continue to develop as part of the worldwide family of scouting - building on tradition but excited about the future.

## Annual Census



**The annual census**, taken at 31 January 2017, showed 149 (prior year:144) young people in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with a further 39 (prior year:47) in the Explorer Unit, which is a District Section. Most sections are full and operate waiting lists.

31 Jan 2017		Male	Female	Total	Leader/Sectional assistants
Beavers:	Colts	22	2	24	3
	Kits	22	2	24	3
Cubs:	Pine	33	0	33	4
	Fir	19	8	27	5
Scouts		33	8	41	10
Total		129	20	<b>149</b>	27

31 Jan 2016		Male	Female	Total	Leader/Sectional assistants
Beavers:	Colts	21	1	22	8
	Kits	23	2	25	6
Cubs:	Pine	24	0	24	4
	Fir	24	5	29	10
Scouts		27	17	44	9
Total		119	25	<b>144</b>	37

<b>15 Feb 2015</b>	Male	Female	Total	Leader/Sectional assistants
Beavers	41	1	42	6
Cubs	43	11	54	8
Scouts	33	17	50	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>31 Jan 2014</b>	Male	Female	Total	Leader/Sectional assistants
Beavers	23	1	24	2
Cubs	29	7	36	5
Scouts	30	20	50	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>16</b>

These numbers don't include all the Occasional Helpers and Young Explorer Leaders who are so valuable in assisting on section nights and other activities. (The adult numbers in the graph above include Group Executive members)



## **SECTION REPORTS**

### **Colts Beaver Colony - 2016**

2016 was a fantastic year for Colts. We celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Beavers with a fun packed programme of activities run as a Colony, as part of the wider 1<sup>st</sup> Bramhall Scout Group and with other Beaver Colonies in the Ladybrook Valley District.

We started the year with the District Panto trip to Stockport Plaza and we followed this up with the District Fun Day in March where we made new friends with Beavers from other Colonies in the District.

We spent a beautiful sunny afternoon in May hiking from Poynton to Bramhall as part of JOTT, ending the day with fish & chips and games with other Sections from the Group at the Scout Hut. We cheered on Bubbles, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bramhall Beaver Duck, as he valiantly took place in the Scout & Guide race at the annual Bramhall Park Duck race.

We spent a fun filled day at Linnet Clough with the rest of the District, formally celebrating Beavers' 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We showed the true spirit of Scouting as we climbed, completed the Low Ropes course and went caving in the torrential rain! In September, 12 Colts families took part in our Family Camp, taking part in lots of adventurous activities as well as a traditional camp fire, and the Beavers bravely slept as a Colony on the Saturday night, a big adventure when you are 6!

In between the trips and activities we managed to earn and award 213 badges, including 4 different Challenge badges and 16 different Activity badges. Proudly, 5 of our Beavers earned their Chief Scout Bronze Award before they moved up to Cubs.

Planning and running the Beaver programme is a real team effort and huge thanks should go to all the leaders who helped deliver such exciting opportunities for our Turquoise Ninjas in 2016: Darcy (aka Vikki O'Neill), Woodie (Caroline Noone) and Dizzy (Claudia Gristwood), as well as our regular Young Leaders and Parent help – we couldn't do it without you!

### **Kits Beaver Colony - 2016**

The past year at Kits Beavers has been a busy one. 2016 saw the Beavers celebrating their 30th birthday. We attended a birthday party organised by Ladybrook Valley at Linnet Clough and a County day out at the Gauntlet Bird of Prey centre near Knutsford. Some of our Beavers joined the Group for "Jamboree on the trail" and did really well on the "hike", enjoying the fish and chip supper followed by a game of water-balloon catch.

15 Beavers and their families attended the Family Camp weekend, spending 2 nights under canvas and having great fun trying new activities during the day. On the Saturday night some of the Beavers earned their 1st nights away badge by sleeping in a sub beaver camp.

During our Wednesday night meetings we have done lots of different activities including a visit from a dentist and puppy training to be a guide dog. We also made catapults, paper airplanes, bird feeders and structures out of marshmallows and spaghetti. We had a fun night learning Scottish dancing and trying shortbread.

We welcomed a new leader to Kits: "Buddy" aka Anna Higham. She's a great member of the team and has now been appointed an Assistant Beaver Leader. "Rikki" aka Dawn Aitken has also joined us this year, bringing lots of valuable scouting knowledge to the "Kits" team.

## **Fir Cub Pack - 2016**

This has been a packed year for Fir Cubs. The year started with some very excited Cubs making bird feeders from old plastic pop bottles and wooden spoons; you may well wonder why this would cause so much excitement but whilst they were doing this activity the Cubs were also filmed by Skip and his team as part of a BBC project. The rest of the Winter Term was equally exciting with a visit to Cheadle Fire Station (which got cut short when the fire team were called out on a shout), a trip to the Happy Potter to make their own mugs and a visit to Rainbow 88 to celebrate Chinese New Year; the Cubs tried a range of Chinese food and got to perform as a Chinese Dragon and be a lucky Buddha. The term ended with a Street dance night, a visit from the Volunteers from Walthew House to help us learn more about the blind (this was in support of our Guide Dog sponsoring project) and finished with a fabulous craft night organised by our young leaders.

In the Spring and Summer terms we had two fantastic nights run by two cubs as part of their Chief Scout Silver Leader Challenge: Oliver ran a night based on the senses and sensory perception and Nathan ran a team-work night based on rocket building and paper cup stacking. Both Cubs took on the role of being Akela for the night; they planned and ran the meeting, including the opening and closing ceremonies and did a fantastic job. They thoroughly deserved their Chief Scouts Silver Award. We also had a night in Carrwood doing a Bear Grylls Mission Survive challenge; the Cubs found the equipment they needed to build a stretcher and then each six carried one of their members out of Carrwood – In true Bear Grylls style, they ate Witchetty grubs, dried flies and fish eyes for sustenance!

We helped the community by putting up Party tents for a Tea Party and we finished the term with our annual Middlewood way bike ride and family BBQ. The highlight of the term was the joint Summer Camp with Pine Pack where we celebrated the Cubs 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday by spending the day in Trentham Monkey Forest – at certain times it was hard to tell the visitors from the natives! We also said goodbye to two leaders Tabaqui and Ko as they left to go to university and a new job. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and hope they will come back and visit.

In the Autumn term we had three Cubs do their Chief Scouts Silver Challenge: Jacob ran a fabulous science night where we made silly putty; Harry ran a Murder Mystery Night; and Oliver ran a fantastic cooking night – the Cubs made Pizzas and Krispy cakes. The cooking theme was continued later in the term when we had “Fir Cubs do Bake Off”. The Cubs did a biscuit technical challenge and we were visited by our very own Mary Berry (Kappa) and Paul Hollywood (Pedal) who were quite rightly impressed by the Cubs talent. We visited Manchester airport Visitor Park and were really lucky to be allowed on to Concorde; two of our newest Cubs had a supersonic investiture stood underneath! The “Create your own Board Game Night” was a great success with the Cubs – they came up with some amazing ideas including the TRUMP game (about Trump and Clinton)! We did a Road Safety night and finished the term with the very popular Young leaders Christmas party. The highlights of this for me were Skip being wrapped in wrapping paper and the Santa’s Beard game.

This year we awarded a total of 343 badges which included the Chief Scouts Silver Award, All the Challenges badges, Swimming, Hikes, Nights Away, Digital Citizen, Musician, Martial Arts, Air Activities, Fire Safety, Scientist, Entertainer, Backwoods Cooking, Disability Awareness and Artist.

## Pine Cub Pack - 2016

Overall we've had another great year with a wide variety of activities and trips. The cub pack remains full, with membership ranging from 24 to 33 over the course of the year representing the normal fluctuations we see as Beavers move up to Cubs and our older Cubs make the move up to Scouts. We are likely to hit our ceiling of 36 Cubs later in 2017. This is a large number to manage in the Scout Building on a Tuesday evening and we take every opportunity to break the pack up a bit and get out whenever we can. The limiting factor is always the numbers of leaders but I am very grateful for parents who step in and help when needed.

In common with other sections, our waiting list is hugely oversubscribed and has now been closed. The only way that we can accept new Cubs, other than from Beavers, is if parents agree to become a uniformed leader.

Below, I've outlined just some of our activities during the year. The Cubs have been a pleasure to be with, they are never without an opinion and are always up for a new challenge but are always a credit to themselves and their families.

### ***Camps***

We love camping and this year the Cubs had opportunities for 5 nights away, one on the winter expedition, two on summer camp and then a further two on the family camp in September.

#### Winter Expedition

This was a personal highlight of the year for me. The Cubs spent Saturday morning at the headquarters drawing their own maps of the Dane Valley before being dropped off by



*drawing maps before setting off on the expedition*

minibus in small teams at secret locations from where they had to navigate to Gradbach Campsite in Staffordshire. There were many hazards and challenges along the way, including all four young leaders falling over and spraining their ankles and needing urgent first aid from the Cubs – what are the chances of that?! The Cubs had to overcome these challenges to win the ingredients they needed to cook their tea but luckily they managed this admirably and cooked their own meals before we spent the evening playing games including setting a new record for the

Werther's Original game (ask the Cubs!).

The following day we all hiked out together, overcoming even more challenges and making



emergency shelters, before being picked up by the minibuses and returning to Bramhall.

### Summer Camp

We joined forces with Fir Pack again for the summer camp and went down to Kibblestone Campsite for a great weekend. On Saturday morning we went to Trentham Forest and carried on our tradition of investing Cubs in unusual places by investing four Cubs in the monkey enclosure. As we left Akela was tempted to swap some of the Cubs for the better behaved monkeys but thought that parents may object. We also did some great activities including rock climbing and raft building. The Cubs particularly enjoyed seeing both Akelas getting dunked as their raft collapsed completely.



*spot the monkey-clue, he's wearing a green jumper*

Even though it is only a weekend we get so much done on camp that it is the high point of most cub's time with us. It's great to see the Cubs developing both their independence and their team working during camp. For some it is their first time away from home but they cope brilliantly and are well supported by the older Cubs. It is also the basis of so much that they will get to do when they join Scouts and we try to encourage all Cubs to come to camp if they possibly can.



*This is where I was invested*



### Family Camp

We had great representation from Pine Pack at the Family Camp at Hesley Wood in September. Everyone, including parents and siblings, got to try out new activities including rock climbing, canoeing and archery. For many parents it was a chance to see the sorts of activities that we do on camp and gave them a taste of camping with the scout group. Some parents have pledged never again but I think they secretly enjoyed it!



The Cubs were responsible for cooking breakfast on Sunday and rose to the challenge brilliantly. It was a baptism with fire for our new leader, Papu, who ended up cooking over 300 rashers of bacon but after that Herculean effort we had no choice but to invest her there and then in the kitchen. Welcome to Cubs!

### ***100<sup>th</sup> birthday***

2016 was the 100th birthday of Cubs. We celebrated at various points in the year including a visit to Blackpool pleasure beach in February. There is a reason that it is normally closed at this time of year but despite some pretty atrocious weather we all had a great time. We also had a 100th birthday party at summer camp but had to cancel the planned sleepover and promise renewal in December because of illness.



*Rama waves a salutary good bye before being shot heavenwards on the Ice Blast at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Never was a ride more aptly named*

### ***Some of our best Pack Meetings, and other activities***

#### **Fire station**

Visiting the fire station is a traditional cub activity and is always a favourite with Cubs, young and old, including the young leaders whom I have never seen so excited. We went to Cheadle Hulme Fire Station and got to see everything, from the engines, all the kit and of course the pole. Some of us even got to ride in the engine and all the Cubs had a go with the firehose.



The serious part is that this all counted towards the fire safety badge and was backed up with work we did in the hall about fire, fire drills and evacuations.

This is an example of the balanced programme that we use which means that Cubs should be having fun but also learning many important life skills at the same time.

First aid will be a major part of the programme in 2017

## Bell boating



Bellboating is a great sport for Cubs – imagine two big canoes strapped together with Cubs paddling on each side. We went in two groups during the summer term to the Helly Hansen centre in Salford Quays. The boats are really stable and almost impossible to overturn. That didn't stop all the Cubs getting wet though. If it wasn't a splashing competition between the blue and red boats then it was a jumping into the Quays competition. Amazing to think you can have so much fun on water right in the middle of a major city.

## Litter picking and JOTT

Jamboree on the Trail has become a huge event, with Scouts from all over the world going for a hike on the same day in May. We like it because we get a great badge too. We had



*at the end of our litter pick*

planned to walk the length of the Ladybrook Valley as a group with the Scouts and Beavers coming from east to west and the Cubs starting at the western end and walking eastwards to meet at the scout hut for fish and chips. However we had noticed that there was a bit of a problem with litter in some parts of the trail so a fortnight before JOTT we went and cleaned it up. 25 Cubs (in bright green gloves!) managed to fill 20 bin bags with litter in under an

hour. Excellent effort and it meant the trail was pristine when we

finally did the JOTT walk. Community service is still an important part of scouting and we are always looking for novel ways to help the community in addition to the bag packs which are so important not only for raising money for local charities including the Hospice and The Christie but also for giving us a visible presence in the community.



*well earned break during JOTT*

### **Barbecue with the Danes**

The link between our Scout Troop and the Danish Scout Troop from Tofflund has been going on for over 20 years and results in joint camps between the two troops every couple of years. This year was the turn of the Danish troop to visit Bramhall and they had two nights in the village before setting off on camp. This coincided with the last pack meeting of the summer term which seemed a great chance to entertain and feed everyone. We cooked a lot of sausages and burgers (thanks parents) and they were all duly devoured, but we also had the chance to do some Danish cub games and say part of our promise in Danish (top marks for initiative to the cub who wrote it all out on his arm, you know who you are!). We had a great night and the Cubs saw a little of what they can get up to in Scouts when their time comes.

### ***Leaders and Young Leaders***

Pine Pack is really well supported by four excellent and enthusiastic Young Leaders. In addition to generally helping out they have taken on the running of many of the evening programmes and we are really grateful for their input. The Young Leaders are part of the Explorer unit (age 14-18) and it's one of the really special parts of scouting to see how members of different sections interact within the family that is scouting. It's a privilege to see Explorers that I have known as Cubs coming back to help and inspire the Cubs to take on new challenges and activities. I really look forward to seeing some of our current Cubs taking on this role in the future when they get to be Explorers.

This year we said goodbye to Dawn Aitken who moved to Beavers to help out with a shortage of leaders there. We were really sorry to see her go and are really grateful to the many years of help she has given Pine Pack. However we have been able to recruit another leader and Kat joined us this year. It's great to have some new ideas and thoughts and we know that 2017 will be really exciting.

I am also really grateful for all the support we receive from parents, be it driving minibuses, making cakes or cooking industrial quantities of sausages for ravenous Cubs and Scouts, we couldn't do it without their help.

### ***Challenges and future plans***

The number of Cubs achieving their Silver Chief Scouts award in 2016 was low but this was largely due to a young pack and the introduction of the new badge system. We have now switched over completely to the new badges and although it has taken us a while to get

through much of the new requirements we are getting there now and have a considerable number of Cubs who are close to achieving their Silver Chief Scouts award.

We appreciate that the Cubs don't get much chance to see what the Scouts get up to. This is making the transition to Scouts seem a much bigger jump than it really is and we need to focus this year on bridging this gap, perhaps with some joint activities between the older Cubs and the younger Scouts. The barbecue with the Danes helped a little with this but there is more to do here.

We are well supported by parents on camp but would love to have at least one more uniformed leader. The ratio system means that to take 36 Cubs out of the hall we should have 6 adults present meaning that we do rely on parents coming along on any trip. More leaders would give us increased flexibility to try new activities.

2017 will include a winter expedition again as well as a summer camp and perhaps a combined sleepover/camp with the Beavers in the early autumn.



*The leaders and scout helpers on camp celebrate the 100th birthday by dressing as Baden Powell (although I'm not sure he had pink socks Rama)*



## **1st Bramhall Scout Troop - 2016**

An action packed year saw the Scouts take part in six camps and loads of exciting activities. These included caving in Bagshawe Cavern, drone flying, climbing, overnight hikes and wide games. We had creative nights, teamwork challenge nights, Remembrance Day, St. Georges Day and Group Parades, sports and fitness nights, nights learning about the community and lots of games.

The Scout Association programme and badges have changed and so we overhauled our programme to keep it current and to make sure the Scouts cover the vital areas on the way to their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

In scouting we try to get outside as much as we can and camping really is at the heart of what we do. That started in the first week of January as we spent a fabulous weekend hiking around the Lake District.

In March the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders had a great time as they joined others in the District to camp and learn key leadership and teamwork skills. These skills are vital for all the other camping we do throughout the year.

In May our Scoutcraft Camp was a very traditional scouting skills camp. The Scouts learned to use axes and saws, light fires to cook their meals on, pitch tents and do all the other jobs we need to know for Summer Camp. It's not all hard work though, as we played loads of crazy games and activities.

Watersports camp was early this year, in June. The light evenings ensured we waterskied, sailed, built rafts and kayaked to the maximum. The weather was beautiful and the Scouts had a fantastic time.

This year was a very special year as our Danish friends from Toftlund Scouts joined us for summer camp. Our link with Toftlund stretches back more than 20 years and this year was another great year together. Home hospitality took place before camp and then we camped for a week in stunning scenery in Thornhill, Scotland. We did loads of activities, including a two day Incident Journey and a visit to Galloway Activity Centre where we played on an inflatable obstacle course, sailed, paddle boarded and laser tagged.

For our final camp of the year we joined Beavers, Cubs, Explorers and their families on a very special Family Camp at Hesley Wood.

We said goodbye to several of our leaders who went off to university; Molly Henshaw, Holly Boxall, Sarah Thornley and Claudia Gristwood. We would like to thank them hugely for their support and are delighted when they pop in every now and then. Meanwhile we said hello to a new leader, Jo Trask, scout name: Duke. Jo has been fantastic in designing and running scout nights for us.

Thanks should also go to all our other leaders and young leaders who give so much, so enthusiastically. They are: Pauline, Geoff, Kay, Matt, Andrew, Dave, Ollie, Jack and Matthew.



## **The XBU Explorer Section - 2016**

The Explorers continue their adventure with a scouting programme adapted for the needs of our older children combined with major award initiatives. In fact we are very proud that we had the highest number of Explorers (16) achieving the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award in the last year. We run DofE as an add-on to our programme and should take every opportunity to thank the XBU leadership team for a huge amount of work in training for and running the expeditions.

XBU continues to support the Group with volunteer and young leader help which can only be a win/win situation for both the youngsters' development and other sections success.

Once again we enjoyed weekends away such as a cold and wet April Anglesey camp, cycling in the Grizedale forest, Go-Ape, and a really successful and poignant Remembrance Weekend, the highlight of which was a 2500ft climb to a service on the summit of Great Gable.

In our programme we have covered a variety of interesting and fun nights as well as some more thought-provoking activities. In cooking nights we have made Cornish pasties from scratch and skinned, gutted and cooked rabbits, fish and pheasant, as well as a more sweet toothed cookie bake off.

For activities we do the usual and sometimes unusual mix of games and sports activities such as Frisbee golf, poker nights, foraging nights, an overnight games night, and outdoors activities such as a night hike with plenty of hot chocolate, and day hikes around the Peak District looking for plane wrecks.

Our more serious activities have been based on communication skills, understanding how credit and credit cards work and problem solving nights.

But it would not be Explorers if we did not have large scale challenge evenings involving water and 1000m deep pretend canyons, Zorbing, cinema nights, laser quest, mini golf, and Sumo suits battles. Again we have an increasing amount of successful nights planned and run by the Explorers themselves.

Our summer camp this year was in the Dalby forest, and although short, packed a real punch with cycling, surfing, a brilliant night hike, wide games, tours around Scarborough Whitby, paintballing, and forest games, and a day at Flamingoland.

Our leader numbers are growing and our Explorer numbers remain stable but we continue in our quest to increase our leader skills and numbers, to continue delivering a varied and interesting program.

It's important to XBU that we give something back to our community, and this year we ran the Xmas bag pack that raised £900 for our Group and £900 for St Anne's Hospice. And recently we are forging a relationship with the local homeless support charity "Wellspring" to provide more enrichment and volunteering opportunities to our youngsters.

## **Financial Review**

The financial statement for the year is set out on pages 22 to 30. The books and accounts have been independently examined by G J Wood & Co, for which we thank them and their report is attached to the statement.

The finances of the Group remain sound. Despite the purchase of a minibus, cash reserves grew by just over £4,200 in the year.

### **Income**

Subscription income has remained static, year-on-year, reflecting the stable average numbers of Young People as most of the sections remain full.

Income from hiring the Bramley Centre fell during the year by 10% as a result of the loss of a major hirer due to the demands of extra section nights.

Income from Fund raising activities was slightly down on last year as we took the decision to reduce the numbers attending the Group Bonfire to more manageable levels. The only Backpack in 2016 occurred at Christmas and the proceeds will fall into the next financial year. We were grateful for an extremely generous donation from IBM of £1,400 which was spent on new technology equipment to assist in the activities programme.

### **Expenditure**

There is a Sub-Committee of the Group Executive responsible for ensuring that the Bramley Centre headquarters building is well-maintained as well as safe and attractive for all users of the building, whether they are from within Scouting or third-party Hirers. 2016 saw a fall in expenditure on buildings and maintenance, following substantial expenditure in 2015 on the gutters, drains and decorating.

Works undertaken during 2016 included replacing the units in the small kitchen, replacing a window in the entrance hall, fitting out the cleaner's cupboard, undertaking repairs to various internal doors, improving the loft hatch and replacing the front door lock. Planning for the washrooms refurbishment continued with work expected to commence in 2017.

Maintenance contracts continue to be in place for several items, including pest control, cleaning, waste removal, gardening, fire alarm, fire equipment and the boilers.

Equipment purchased in 2016 included cameras and tablets purchased with the IBM donation, a new Marquee tent, a runway rope, event shelters and other camping equipment. The increased numbers and the introduction of the new activity programme will involve further equipment purchases. New training requirements will also involve an increase in training expenditure. We are fortunate in having the reserves to accommodate these requirements.

## **Reserves Policy**

The group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income fall short or large amounts of expenditure are required on, for example, repairs and maintenance on the Bramley Centre building or on transport. The Group transfers £3,000 annually from the General Unrestricted Fund into a Transport Reserve Fund in order to finance replacement minibuses. The Group Executive Committee considers that the current level of reserves is sufficient.

## **Investment Policy**

The Group has adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its liquid funds which are held in cash using a mainstream bank. Longer term investments are held in low-risk investments – a National Savings Investment Account and an Invesco Perpetual High Income Fund.

## **Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

-----	-----	-----
Sir Peter Fahy	Matthew Hack	Andrew Corrie
Chairman	Secretary	Group Scout Leader
Date:	Date:	Date:

## **1st Bramhall Scout Group**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on pages 22 to 30.

#### **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; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 Acthave 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.

Gary Wood, FCCA  
G.J. Wood & Co. Ltd.  
263 Buxton Road  
Great Moor  
Stockport  
SK2 7NR

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Balance Sheet****31 December 2016**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	2	321,806	323,198
Investments	3	31,664	31,075
		<u>353,470</u>	<u>354,273</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Bank and cash (Group)		72,167	67,342
Bank and cash (Sections)		2,040	2,584
		<u>74,207</u>	<u>69,926</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Other creditors		-	287
		<u>-</u>	<u>287</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>74,207</u>	<u>69,639</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Laibilities</b>		<u>427,677</u>	<u>423,912</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
General Unrestricted Fund		306,953	300,454
Revaluation reserve		111,458	111,458
Transport Reserve Fund		9,266	12,000
		<u>427,677</u>	<u>423,912</u>

Approved on behalf of the Group Executive Committee on.....

..... Chair

..... Treasurer

## 1st Bramhall Scout Group

### Notes to the Financial Statements

31 December 2016

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### a) Basis of accounting Receipts and Payments

The accounts for both the current and comparative years have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis as permitted under the Charities Act 2011.

##### Land and buildings

Land and buildings have been revalued by the trustees and are included in the accounts at their valuation, in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

##### b) Capital expenditure

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at cost less accumulated depreciation, with the exception of land and buildings, which is shown at the Trustees valuation of £340,000.

The cost of equipment is written off in full during the year of acquisition. For insurance purposes, equipment is valued at £55,714.

##### c) Depreciation

Provision for depreciation is made at the following rates:

Buildings	0.5 % straight line
Garage	5% straight line
Minibus and trailers	25% straight line

#### 2 Tangible fixed assets

	Land & Building	Garage	Minibus & trailers	Total
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2016	340,000	3,778	14,665	358,443
Additions	-	-	7,034	7,034
Disposals	-	-	(10,465)	(10,465)
At 31 December 2016	340,000	3,778	11,234	355,012
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2016	23,800	2,646	8,799	35,245
Disposals	-	-	(6,050)	(6,050)
Depreciation for the year	1,700	189	2,122	4,011
	25,500	2,835	4,871	33,206
Net Book value 2016	314,500	943	6,363	321,806
Net Book value 2015	316,200	1,132	5,866	323,198



## **1st Bramhall Scout Group**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**31 December 2016**

<b>3 Investments</b>	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
National Savings Investment Account	25,704	25,115
Perpetual High Income Fund	5,960	5,960
	<u>31,664</u>	<u>31,075</u>

The market value of the Perpetual High Income Fund at 31 December 2016 was £31,121 (2015: £32,055).

#### **4 Funds**

The Group Executive approved a transfer of £3,000 from the General Unrestricted Fund to a general designated fund, the Transport Reserve Fund. This fund has been set up to provide for future vehicle replacement costs.

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Beaver Colony Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Subscriptions from group	750	450
Pantomime	198	300
Activities	233	-
Donations	-	35
	<u>1,181</u>	<u>785</u>
 <b>Resources expended</b>		
Activities	741	368
Uniforms/badges	46	-
Bank charges	20	35
Pantomime	220	320
Sundry	111	-
	<u>1,138</u>	<u>723</u>
 <b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>62</b>
 Bank and cash balance at 1 January 2016	91	29
 Bank and cash balance at 31 December 2016	<u>134</u>	<u>91</u>

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Pine Cub Pack Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Activities	351	-
Camps	355	-
Subscriptions from group	510	300
	<u>1,216</u>	<u>300</u>
 <b>Resources expended</b>		
Activities	856	257
Badges and uniforms	79	-
Camps	90	-
	<u>1,025</u>	<u>257</u>
 <b>Net incoming resources</b>	 191	 43
 Bank and cash balance at 1 January 2016	 233	 190
 Bank and cash balance at 31 December 2016	 <u>424</u>	 <u>233</u>

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Fir Cub Pack Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Activities	837	250
Camps	1,517	2,530
Prize money	-	200
Subscriptions from group	1,000	1,800
Uniforms	-	5
	<u>3,354</u>	<u>4,785</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Activities	1,291	1,359
Badges and uniforms	332	492
Camps	1,573	2,753
Equipment and consumables	-	47
Sundry	150	60
	<u>3,346</u>	<u>4,711</u>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	8	74
Bank and cash balance at 1 January 2016	141	67
Bank and cash balance at 31 December 2016	<u>149</u>	<u>141</u>

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Scout Troop Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Activities	1,098	940
Camps	8,423	10,050
Subscriptions from group	1,000	1,000
Sundry income	-	70
	<u>10,521</u>	<u>12,060</u>
 <b>Resources expended</b>		
Activities	2,161	1,638
Camps	9,038	8,318
Equipment and consumables	105	419
Sundry	-	15
	<u>11,304</u>	<u>10,390</u>
 <b>Net outgoing (2015 incoming) resources</b>	<b>(783)</b>	<b>1,670</b>
 Bank and cash balance at 1 January 2016	2,114	444
 Bank and cash balance at 31 December 2016	<u>1,331</u>	<u>2,114</u>

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Group Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Subscriptions	23,144	23,546
Income from Hirers	18,438	20,494
Gift Aid	3,441	2,698
Other income	1,861	2,390
Camp	4,008	2,353
Bonfire Night	4,129	5,205
	<u>55,021</u>	<u>56,686</u>
<b>Investment income and interest</b>		
Investment income	986	980
Interest receivable	543	569
	<u>1,529</u>	<u>1,549</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>56,550</u>	<u>58,235</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
<b>Property costs</b>		
Building maintenance	4,023	13,680
Cleaning	4,525	4,581
Electricity	3,074	2,585
Gas	1,205	1,041
General rates	1,217	1,205
Water rates	1,009	108
Internet and telephone	297	298
	<u>15,350</u>	<u>23,498</u>
<b>Group Scout costs</b>		
Camp	4,688	2,930
Capitation fee	5,602	5,643
Network	26	-
Other expenses	83	-
Payments to sections	3,260	3,550
Sponsorship	200	-
Training	860	1,893
Uniform and badges	1,052	1,369
	<u>15,771</u>	<u>15,385</u>

**1st Bramhall Scout Group****Group Statement of Financial Activities****31 December 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Examiner's fee	120	120
Depreciation	4,011	3,845
Loss on sale of fixed assets	3,115	-
Equipment	3,758	2,835
Fundraising Bonfire	1,643	1,345
Insurance	6,253	5,128
Other expenses	277	914
Postage	50	80
Vehicle and transport costs	1,896	2,924
	<u>21,123</u>	<u>17,191</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>52,244</u>	<u>56,074</u>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	4,306	2,161
Funds at 1 January 2016	309,875	307,714
Funds at 31 December 2016	<u>314,181</u>	<u>309,875</u>