15th St Helens (St Andrews) Scout Group
GSL & Section Reports 2022

NB: These reports cover the shortened accounting year of 1st January 2022 – 31st August 2022.

GSL Report:

I took over from the previous GSL (Terry Gregson) towards the end of April last year. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record our thanks Terry for all his hard work over many years in Scouting.

One of the first events I attended was the tree / shrub planting as part of the Platinum Jubilee Queens Canopy Project. We planted our trees at the back of the hut, as part of a longer-term plan to help with the environment and supplement our fenced garden area.

The group celebrated its 100th birthday, albeit a year late, with a group camp. An immense amount of work went in to making this the success that it was, with all the young people having a great time. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and it even led to the Mayoress visit inviting the Group to visit her chambers, she was that impressed.

The group has attended numerous camps and competitions over the year and always seem to give a good account of themselves, including being only one of two leaders' teams to run the chariot race.

The group is in a healthy state, all the sections are generally full and lately we have had a good influx of new scout leaders. That said, many hands make light work, there are always opportunities to get involved with the group in lots of different guises. No offer of assistance will ever be turned down, no matter how big or small.

Like most organisations, we are not immune to the increased costs of almost everything which led to difficult decision to marginally increase subs earlier this year. This was the first increase for several years and we are sure that all understand the reasons for the increase.

There are several projects underway with plans to modernise / replace older parts of the den to ensure that the den works in the best possible way for us all.

Carl Latham
Group Scout Leader

Squirrels:

We opened our Squirrel Drey on 2nd March 2022, with 4 Leaders, 2 Young Leaders and 16 Squirrels (The maximum we were allowed to open with) and an extremely long waiting list. We set ourselves a challenge to get all the Squirrel invested and on parade at the St Georges Day camp. So, the first four weeks we spent teaching them about the history of Scouts and introducing them to the wider Scouting family. We made small campfires to take home and we cooked sausages on a campfire, which was a big hit with all the squirrels.

We succeeded to invest the Squirrels in time, with a celebration evening with the Matt Cole (County adviser for Squirrels), Chris Valentine (DC), Les Rowe (DDC) and Christine Williams (DDC) all attending. We were then able to attend St Georges Day camp, with about 15 Squirrels in full uniform and with our Squirrel flag presented alongside the other section flags. We were beyond proud of them all, as we were the first Squirrel Drey in the St Helens district and it was a very proud moment for the 15th St Helens (St Andrew) scouts, especially as we were celebrating 100 Years. The Squirrels also attend the 100-year camp (for the day) and both the young people, and their parents were very impressed with all the Scout group and organisation have to offer the Young People.

We continued to meet on Mondays, throughout the spring and summer term, enjoying team games, soft archery, Den building (a firm favourite, because they got to have biscuits!) We also had a party to celebrate the late Queens, Platinum Jubilee. The summer term finished on the hottest day of the year (40-degree heat) so we had a big water fight, which was great fun and its fair to say the Squirrels won the fight, as they decided it would be fun to wet all the leaders, we ended up like drowned rats. During the first 5 months of squirrels, we gave out 62 activity badges, with an average of 15 members attending every session. From September 2022 we are increasing out intake to 24 the maximum a Drey can have, and we are looking forward to having lots more fun.

I would like to thank all the Squirrel Leaders and occasional helpers for all the hard work and commitment to the Section. I would also like, to take this opportunity, to thank all the people who helped us set up the section, in particular, Liam Gilbert for his support & dedication during the absence of a GSL, John and Kev for putting up with me asking about where anything/everything is in the Den, and to the Group Executives for having the confidence in me and giving me permission to open a Squirrel Drey. You have all made us feel very welcome and part of the amazing group, 15th St Helens (St Andrews) is.

Julie Gilbert
Squirrel Section Leader

Beavers:

- Started with 14 and had 16 in august.
- 53 badges awarded
- No bronze badges awarded
- Events attended:
    - St George's day activity day
    - 100-year activity day
    - Sleep over at the den

Paul Carrier
Section Leader (Beavers)

Cubs:

- 49 badges awarded
- No top award
- Camps:
    - Indoor Camp
    - St. George's Weekend
    - 100 Years

Kevin McCooey
Section Leader (Cubs)

Scouts:

The Scouts started the year with a firm favourite of fires at the den. Despite the cold & rain, they got to light some fires then make Twists & cook sausages.

In February, we were able to run our first Winter Camp since 2019! This was held at Great Tower, near Windermere. It was attended by 3 brave Scouts who persevered with the cold, wet weather whilst cooking for themselves on personal stoves for 3 nights. This included an... eventful, day hike through the forests on the west side of Lake Windermere.

Over the Spring months we once again took part in some of our other regular activities such as night hikes & the annual bike ride. These were supplemented by the return of District/County events such as the 999 Competition, The Equinox Challenge & the much love Great Escape Competition.

We were also able to run two Bivvys at Bispham Hall in this period, including our first time using their Swedish Lavvus! Lavvu's are three sided wooden huts, traditionally placed in forests in Sweden for adventurers to take refuge/sleep in on their journey. The Scouts loved sleeping in these, so they will definitely be on the nights away program again in the future.

We rounded out the summer holidays with a Summer Camp to Ashworth Valley, near Rochdale. This was a 4-night camp which was attended by 7 Scouts, 3 Young Leaders & 9 Leaders. The Scouts got to take part in various adventurous activities & cook themselves some fantastic meals from a themed menu. Each day had a different theme, including an Asian Day & an Australian day – where all meals were cooked on an open fire!

Over the course of the shortened year only 17 badges were issued to the Scouts, but this was due to focusing on maximizing other opportunities, now the pandemic & its restrictions are firmly behind us. An amazing total of 137 nights away were completed by the Scouts in this 8-month period. There was also 1 Chiefs Scout Gold award presented.

Approximately 16 Scouts attending the meetings on a regular basis in the first part of 2022, which is back to our pre-pandemic levels. The interest we have had in joining the Scout section throughout 2022 so far has been immense, and hopefully we will be in a position to increase our numbers further soon.

I would just like to thank all the Scout Leaders and parent helpers once again for all their hard work throughout the year. There are quite a few of us now, but that's because we all enjoy what we do & it wouldn't be the same without them!

The difference they all make each week to the Scouts lives is invaluable, and I couldn't run the section without each & every one of them, no matter how big or small their contributions.

Liam Cawsey-Gilbert
Section Leader (Scouts)

15th St Helens (St Andrews) Scout Group

Income and Expenditure Account from 1 January to 31 August 2022

Income		
Bank Interest	£2.84	
Events – Group	£2,689.58	
Events – Scouts	£1,462.50	
Events – Squirrels	£251.50	
Jamboree Fundraising	£1,805.53	
COVID Grants	£2,667.00	
Membership Fees	£5,304.00	
Total Income	**£14,182.95**	
Expenditure		
Events – Group		(£2,634.19)
Events – Scouts		(£1,792.92)
Events – Squirrels		(£245.06)
Jamboree Fundraising Costs		(£286.11)
GoCardless Fees		(£337.36)
Group Expenses		(£634.15)
Insurance		(£327.57)
Maintenance		(£379.29)
Meetings - Beavers		(£253.54)
Meetings - Cubs		(£250.01)
Meetings - Scouts		(£215.4)
Meetings – Squirrels		(£772.67)
Membership Costs		(£1,908.00)
OSM		(£37.23)
Savings Expenditure		(£643.92)
Utilities		(£1,137.85)
Website		(£20.00)
Total Expenditure		**(£11,875.01)**
Income over Expenditure		**£2,307.94**

Balance Sheet as of 31 August 2022

	Opening Balance	**Closing Balance**
Lloyds Current	£3,484.64	£1,593.32
Lloyds Reserve	£3,000.11	£3,000.39
Lloyds Savings	£25,008.16	£27,677.67
Lloyds Fundraising	£0	£1,529.47
Total	**£31,492.91**	**£33,800.85**