

May 2019-May 2020

Numbers in the Scout section have dropped slightly over the past 12 months - a few members left over the summer having reached Explorer age, and some of our Cubs found the transition to Scouts difficult and favoured other activities. We have a steady 10 Scouts attending, and have rearranged Patrols to reflect this. The Scouts voted to change Patrol names as part of the restructure and we now have Wolves and Cobras instead of Woodpeckers and Hawks.

Half of the troop attended District Survival Camp last May, earning their survival skills badge at Sherratt Wood. Several also attended the Group Camp in July at Barnswood. Unfortunately the planned Christmas camp had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, and the Hike Camp pencilled in for the beginning of May couldn't go ahead due to the Coronavirus epidemic. Hopefully camping will return to our programme later this year!

Feedback received from one of the Cub link parents was that they wanted to do more badgework on Troop evenings. We always start each term with a programme planning session to allow for a youth-led approach. High on the suggestion list is always activities that don't necessarily tick off individual badges, but can count towards various criteria of challenge badges and form a Scouting skill base, such as firelighting, knife and axe work, and of course wide games. Activity badges at Scout level tend to require more input than can be covered during Troop meetings, but we had a good look at the requirements with the Scouts to find which ones would be viable, and which they would be interested in having on the programme. Therefore, we have over the past two terms completed the model maker, with a fantastic free kit from Warhammer, the craft badge with Becky from Barlaston's BLIS cakes coming to teach the Scouts how to make cake toppers and then decorate them, and the chef badge.

We also had a visit from Suzy, a parent in the Group, to do some experiments towards the Scientist badge, and started the climber badge with a look at some rescue equipment, pulley systems, and a trip to Stone District climbing wall.

The Scouts have been set their Personal Challenge to complete at home whilst we are unable to meet face to face, and we look forward to welcoming them back soon to see what they have all been up to.

I'd like to thank Nige and Nat for all their help and support over the past year.

Marj.