

Annual Report 2005

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

The past 12 months has been a year of ups and downs. The year started on a high with a parent volunteering to sit on the Executive Committee. Hot on the heels of this good news it was learnt that Alan and Kay would be stepping down due to ill health from their appointments as Cub Scout Leader and Group Secretary. Between them they have given over 35 years of service to scouting and in particular to scouting in Trentham. Their knowledge and scouting experience will be sadly missed and their position will be hard to fill. As result of an appeal for new helpers with the Cub Pack a volunteer came forward and has taken out a warrant as an Assistant leader. His reason for his action was that he had gained so much from his time as a boy in scouting and he wished his sons to have that experience. Further good news in that one more volunteer to take out a warrant and his reasoning was that he wanted there to be scouting in Trentham when his son becomes of age to join the Group. What about you?! More leaders will means a more varied programme, which in turn benefits your sons. With the ruling that girls wishing to join scouts we would encourage females to seriously consider becoming warranted leaders. The position of Cub Scout Leader has to be filled. However all is not lost in that Alan will be around to offer his vast experience to the newcomer. Latest news is that my son, Scott, has offered his services as the new leader of the Cub Pack and we have a volunteer as the new secretary. Our best wishes and thanks to them both for their future and services.

The search for helpers still carries so that scouting can continue to be beneficial to the youth of Trentham long into the 21-century. Gone are the times when you committed yourself to one night per week every week. Now scouting in line with the current times has adopted the practice of accepting what ever help is offered. If this means accepting 2 night per month or 2 nights out of 3 because of work patterns then the programme must be planned accordingly to take account of these work patterns.

The state of play above relates to the Cub section but equally applies to the other two sections as they too desperately are short of leaders. In the Beaver Section Mark along with parent support continues to operate an efficient Colony in which all have fun but extra help would be appreciated. In the scout section our DC kindly pointed a volunteer from outside Trentham our way. He is an ex-scout and brings his wealth of scouting knowledge, which will be of great help to Kevin and the scouts. A parent with previous scouting knowledge has offered his services, which will ensure that the quality of scouting on offer to the troop is if a high standard. Extra help is still required in order that their programmes can be more adventurous but remain safe and inside the boundaries set by the Association's Policy, Rules and Organisation (POR).

As well as Scouters the Group is short of administrators to serve on the Group Executive. In particular a replacement for Kay - secretary, who is stepping down after over 17 years in that post? Parent representatives are urgently needed to ensure that there is a balance of warranted leaders and parents on the Group Executive. Please give serious consideration to these requests for help so that scouting can continue to flourish here in Trentham

The year commenced with the Group becoming part of the new District-The Three Towns District (Stoke, Fenton and Longton). Slowly we are fusing together with regular GSL and Section meetings. A successful District camp helped this bonding and we are all sporting the new District badge designed by a scout.

The quest for funding is still ongoing with the help a cub parent. For funding to be successful the Group must be able to demonstrate that there is a potential need in the community. (A catch 22 situation). Thank you if you were a parent who signed the form supporting the improved welfare facilities and use of the building. Any lottery winners!

The Group's business plan for 2005 has been exceeded by two, which is a cause for celebration. We must not rest on or success but continue the search for helpers with fresh ideas and enthusiasm Our leaders continue to offer the scouts a varied and high quality of scouting for which all us should be eternally grateful. My thanks to all the warranted scouters, executive members and all parents for your time energy and help given to the Group over the past 12 months. May the Group continue to deliver such scouting to the youth of Trentham in the future?

Finally I wish to write a few words about our 2 helpers who are " retiring". Alan started his scouting like so many leaders do when his son was a cub scout. He was promoted to Cub Scout Leader-No pay rise-and quickly completed his Wood Badge training In addition to running a well organised Pack he supported and ran District events for the cubs and even found time to be a County Training Adviser-part of the County Training Team. For services to Scouting he was awarded the Medal of Merit. During the many years he has been part of the Group he has been an active member of the Group Executive and has substituted for me in my absence. Thank you for all

you have contributed to scouting at Group, District and County levels. May your retirement from scouting at Group level be a long and rewarding one Thank you for the offer of help to your successors?

We also say goodbye to our secretary-Kay. Not only has she overseen the paperwork associated with the running of the pack but has kept the minutes at the Executive and AGM meetings plus all the associated paperwork the post entails. For her services to scouting, last year Kay was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Services. Our thanks to you for your loyal service to both Alan in the running of the Cub Pack and myself as GSL in the running of the Group. May you also with Alan enjoy a long retirement?

Keith (Group Scout Leader)

BEAVER COLONY REPORT

2005 has been another successful and enjoyable year for Trentham Beaver Colony. Numbers have fluctuated over the year, ending with a colony of 19 boys. There are a further 10 names on the waiting list. The Parent Helper rota has continued to run very successfully and we are most grateful to all parents for giving up their time to help out.

I would also like to express my thanks to Paul (Mercury), whose son left the colony in December 2004, but Paul continued to help out until the summer. Thanks also to Barbara (Saturn) and Sam (Venus) who have continued to help out at Beavers on a regular basis. Again we are most grateful to them all for their time and support.

14 new boys were invested into the Colony during 2005. Over the year, 13 boys gained their first joining in award. 10 boys continued their scouting life by moving on to Cubs.

The Beaver colony has continued to have lots of 'fun and games'. We looked at electricity and made our own torches, looked at magnets and made magnetic games to play. Following this work 15 boys were awarded the 'experimenter' badge.

Craft activities included decorating mugs for Fathers Day, decorating eggs and bunnies for Easter, making fridge magnets and keyrings amongst other things. We also decorated biscuits and made our own pizzas on one of the Italian nights. 7 Creative badges were awarded.

1 Beaver also gained his animal friend badge.

In May, three older Beavers attended a district sleepover at Dresden, where the theme for the weekend was the circus. All the Beavers from across the District who attended joined in all sorts of activities. These included making badges, doing life-sized paintings of themselves, juggling, trying out stuff from a real clown and laughing at all of the leaders who were dressed as clowns for the whole weekend! In October another five boys joined a medieval district sleepover at Hartshill. Again, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. All 8 boys earned their stage 1 'nights away' badge.

The Beavers from Trentham joined the rest of the District for the day in June to take part in the District Camp at Kibblestone. The theme for this was pirates and we all made hats and swords etc. The big event of the day was (after making them) racing 130 wooden boats along the stream. Again, this was well attended from Trentham with fourteen boys taking part.

Quite a few of the boys attended the St Georges Day parade at Longton in April. Following all the different activities, 6 boys managed to complete their Outdoor Challenge, and 9 boys completed the Discovery Challenge. Some of the older boys went on to undertake various Personal challenges and the 4 successful ones were awarded the highest badge achievable in Beavers - the Chief Scouts Bronze Award. Well done boys to Jake, Tom, Sam and Adam !

In December most of the boys spent an enjoyable afternoon with the district on the Santa train at Churnet Valley Railway. The year closed with our Christmas party at which the colony said goodbye to a further 2 beavers who will go on to join the Cub pack in January.

Mars (Beaver leader)

CUB PACK REPORT

This year has turned out to be one of great change as far as Leadership within the pack is concerned. Following the birth of twins, Caroline, (Baloo) is fully occupied for some time to come and will probably be lost permanently. Whilst the health problems of Mrs. B. & myself are no cause for alarm the medication taken is slowing us down, but after nineteen years perhaps it is time to go in any case. I shall not be allowed to disappear completely and will be seen within the District in my less strenuous role as a Leader Training Advisor. The Pack will continue in the capable hands of Scott (Kim) and the welcome addition of Phil (Kaa) and Simon (Rama) both former Scouts. Their ideas and plans for future activities leave me in no doubt that the Pack will continue to prosper and enjoy quality scouting.

During the last twelve months the Cubs have enjoyed two weekend camps at HQ, visited Stone Police Station, a working Dairy Farm, made lanterns for a local parade and worked hard to complete the Outdoor and Fitness Challenges. Our weekly meetings included art & craft sessions as well as covering basic skills in map & compass work, knotting, outdoor camping & pioneering.

The amalgamation with Longton to form Three Towns District has led to a revival of events when we join in with other Packs We have enjoyed a camp at Kibblestone, five-a-side football and swimming competition plus a Quiz night and Harvest Service in aid of Animal Lifeline. Plans are being discussed now to carry on a high level of District activities for the coming twelve months so be prepared.

The Parents help rota has aided the Leaders immensely during the year and we owe you all a big thank you for your support. Mums and dads have come along on pack evenings not knowing what to expect but have joined in and helped in many ways and I suspect some have even enjoyed themselves. It was a great benefit to the Pack.

We now have girls on the waiting list and would like to see female leaders coming forward to assist with the running of the pack. The pay is non-existent but in the words of the Beaver motto it is about "Fun and Friends".

Many thanks again to Kim, Kaa & Rama they have taken on a lot of extra work this year, please look after them as they are a "Reet Gradely Bunch " as we say in Yorkshire.

Well, that is the last year end report I shall have to write and I can say over the years it has been a lot of fun so from Mrs B. and myself take care and see you around.

Akela

TROOP REPORT

Firstly I would like to welcome the two new helpers with Scouts, Steven from the old Longton District and Andy, a beaver parent who is currently taking out a warrant. Their greatly appreciated assistance has enabled the Troop to run more smoothly and put on more activities. The number of scouts has remained constant taking part in various activities.

At last years AGM, two trophies were presented. One to Callum for attendance and the other to George for Scout of the Year. Congratulations to them both.

Due to other activities, the Troop did not attend the Youth Fire Safety Quiz last year, but Hartshill Scouts went through to the final and did very well. We have entered a team for next years quiz.

The troop participated at two County Activity weekends held at Kibblestone, one in April and the other in October. Due to lack of Scouts and leaders from Trentham, Stoke and Heron Cross, the three troops camped together. The outcome was a joint camp in Copeland Cabin during November. The aim of the camp was to give the Scouts basic camping skills. The camp was a success with the biggest complaint being that it was VERY COLD.

In May, the Troop took part in the first swimming gala of Three Towns District where the combined points gained by the cubs and scouts were added together to find a winning group. Although the cubs and scouts did

well, we did not win. Another joint activity with the cubs was the District Weekend Camp in June. The scouts and cubs did their own activities during the daytime with joint meals and evening activities. On the Sunday dinner, the scouts, Carl and Adam, who took part in a cooking competition, finished as runners up, well done.

On a wet Wednesday evening in May most of the Scouts went canoeing on Trentham Gardens Lake. Towards the end of November I arranged for leaders from Newcastle District to put on a parascending simulator evening. They also put on two other bases besides the simulator, to teach the Scouts a bit more about aircraft and equipment. To make numbers up, I invited along the older Cubs and Stoke Scouts.

Carl and Philip gained the Survival Skills badge after some training sessions. The camp was at Consall during the weekend of 30th September - 2nd October . The Friday night did not get off to a good start with the trailer breaking down and it rained heavily. Thankfully, it was only a heavy downpour and with light showers on the Saturday, the rest of the weekend weather got better. A number of Scouts were so tired on Saturday night that they were demanding supper at 9 o'clock and had to be woken up in their bivoks at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

Badges gained during the year : -

Chef (with cubs)	5
Participation Awards - 4 yrs (with cubs)	3
Membership	2
Moving on Award	2
Hobbies	5
Swimmer stage 1	3
Entertainer	2
Survival Skills	2
Creative Challenge	3

Other badges obtained towards the end of the year will be presented in the New Year.

Activities for 2006 include County Activity Camps, 5 a-side football, Pioneering Badge, District scout camp, water/climbing camp, and a joint camp with other Scouts from Denmark.

I would like to thank all the parents who assist on Troop night. Without your help it would be hard to keep the Troop going. I would also like to thank Steve and Andy for helping with the planning and running of Troop nights and activities.

Kevin - Scout Leader.

BUSINESS PLAN - 5 YEARS 2006- 2011

In order to ensure the continuity of scouting in Trentham for at least the next 5 years. The Group Executive has drawn up the following business plan: -

to explore ways by which the adult leadership can be increased to cover the loss of Scouters and helpers through natural wastage. To continue to deliver a high standard of scouting to the youth of Trentham we need to recruit at least 2 Scouters and 2 Executive committee member/year. The Scout Movement is committed to the Equal Opportunities Policy for young people. The Group will continue to work to achieve this goal by seeking funding for the building for new toilet facilities and disabled access (lack of such facilities precludes girls from being accepted as scouts into the Group). With the Equal Opportunities Law and in-line with the Association's policy the Group will seek to girls into scouting within the Group. Provision of better welfare facilities will make the premises more amenable to outside users for hire by them for their functions utilising the building to its full potential and also helping the Group to meet its yearly ongoing costs. The Group will continue to seek ways of increasing the use of the Scout House particularly in the parish of Trentham. When funding has been secured for

the extension the Group will ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that it is built with minimum disruption to the running of the Group. To ensure that all warranted leaders and administrators receive training in line with their appointment and to ensure that all parents who help with the running of the sections are CRB cleared.

This business plan will be reviewed yearly to ensure that it meets the need of scouting in the parish and will be communicated to you via the Annual Report issued at the AGM.