



Annual Report
1st January 2023 – 29th February 2024

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	1 st Markfield Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1042586
Scouts Association Registration Number:	10012660
Charity's Principal Address:	1 st Markfield Scout HQ, 109 Main Street, Markfield, LE67 9UW

Structure, Governance and Management

How the charity is constituted

The Scout Association (Registered Charity No. 306101) is incorporated by Royal Charter 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.

1st Markfield Scout is a registered unincorporated charity constituted in accordance with the rules of The Scout Association covering the area of Markfield, Leicestershire.

Type of governing document

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.

How the charity is managed

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. 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 Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and Trustees.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

The Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Recruitment and appointment of charity trustees

The Leaders and Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and related Charity Commission rules and regulations.

Leaders and Trustees (Trustees are marked with a T)

	Name	Role	Active Dates
T	Alan Brine	Group Scout Leader	Active
	Ben Parker	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Ended March 2024
T	Liam Mawhinney	Deputy Group Scout Leader	Active
		Scout Leader	Ended April 2024
		Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Ended April 2024
	Lily Gibbins	Assistant Scout Leader	Active
		Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	Active
T	Lyn Mawhinney	Cub Scout Leader	Ended April 2024
T	Sue Wainwright	Beaver Scout Leader	Active
	Wezley Mawhinney	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Active

Objectives and Activities

Our Purpose

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Values

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- **Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- **Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Co-operation** - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Public benefit statement: 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.

Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

1ST MARKFIELD SCOUT GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 6th July 2023 from 7-8.30pm at Bowmar Scout Hut, Markfield

Acting Chair and Group Scout Leader: Alan Brine

1. Introduction & welcome

Opening remarks and welcome to Members of the Group Scout Council and Guests.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from James and Louise Wainwright and Lesley Teager.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 Nov 2022

The minutes of the annual general meeting held 29th Nov 2022 were agreed as a true record of that meeting. This was supported by Lyn Mawhinney.

4. Governance topics

4a. To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters. The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed to adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules.

4b. Note the Group's financial year

Members of the Group Scout Council were asked to note the proposed change to our charity's financial year from 1st January to 31st December, to move to 1st March end of February in line with other Scout Groups across the Ashby and Coalville District.

4c. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed that the recommended number of 4 people can be elected to the Trustee Board.

4d. Agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the Group Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees

The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed the quorum (minimum number) of Group Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting of the Group Scout Council to be set at 10.

The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed the quorum for Trustee Board meetings, and any sub-committee meetings in line with the Charity Commission statement of good practice of one third of Trustee Board members plus one and that the that the sub-committee quorum should be set at one third of Trustee Board members plus one.

5. Review of the previous year

5a. Review of Scouting in the Group

Deputy Group Scout Leader, Liam Mawhinney, provided an overview of Group activity.

Margaret Beck, Beaver Scout Leader, provided an overview of Beavers.

Lyn Mawhinney, Cub Scout Leader, provided an overview of Cubs.

Liam Mawhinney, Scout Leader, provided an overview of Scouts.

5b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

Confirmation was given that the Group Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and Accounts, and the report on the accounts has been received from the Scrutineer.

Acting Chair and Group Scout Leader and Deputy Group Scout Leader provided an overview of the accounts.

The Group Scout Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions of the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. There were no questions.

6. Appointments

The following trustees were reaffirmed, and unanimous support was gained from the Trustee Board and The Group Scout Council:

- Alan Brine, Group Scout Leader
- Liam Mawhinney, Deputy Group Scout Leader / Scout Leader
- Lyn Mawhinney, Cub Scout Leader
- Sue Wainwright, Beaver Scout Leader

No other nominations were put forward prior or during the meeting. It was however confirmed that the Trustee Board are working with several individuals who have come forward since our last AGM to take on support roles. The Group is in need of members and those present were encouraged to contact Leaders if they can offer any support in the future.

7. Awards

Duncan Watts, District Commissioner, awarded Ernie his Bronze Award and Beaver of the Year Award. Sue Wainwright was re-awarded her merit award in front of the Scout Council for her longstanding service and support to scouting in Markfield.

8. Retirement of Margaret Beck, Beaver Scout Leader

After more than 30 years of Scouting, Margaret Beck has now retired as Beaver Scout Leader. Margaret was presented with gifts from the sections, parents of current and past Beavers and the Scout Group and thanks was given for her significant contributions over the years. Margaret spoke fondly of her time in Scouting, thanking all for their support, including special mention to her husband, Pete Beck, and co-leaders Sue Wainwright and Lily Gibbins.

9. Closing Remarks

Thanks were given to all those who attended. Further celebrations were held including a BBQ provided by David Mawhinney, campfire marshmallows and music provided by the Scout section.

Achievements and performance

The group's membership numbers have continued to increase, now surpassing pre-COVID 19 numbers which is a great success; and for the first time in recent history each section now has an active waiting list.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Beavers	22	18	16	7	11	22
Cubs	19	13	12	3	20	20
Scouts	15	12	0	0	0	13
Total	56	43	28	10	31	55

Source: End of year census figures

Leaders have continued to offer and delivery an exciting and diverse programme, with all sections offering nights away experiences, adventure, development of life skills and most of all fun for our young members. Further details are included in the section updates at the end of this report.

In addition to the local programme, the group has been working to become more established within the community and with the wider scout district, which will lead to many more experiences and events for our young members and support for our leaders. Examples include: supporting local events at Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation & Little Markfield Farm, our annual Remembrance Parade, attendance at County and District-wide camps and events and visitors from local church groups, history group and emergency services.

Addition to Annual Report – May 2024

Some of you may already be aware that Lyn and Liam have recently stepped down as Leaders after a combined 35 years in Scouting. This has unfortunately meant that both our Cub and Scout sections have closed for the present until new Leaders can be found and appointed. Our Beaver section remains open, supported by Sue and Lily.

We are also in search of a Trustee Board Chair, Group Treasurer and a minimum of 3x Trustees. New Scout Association rules mean that without this support, the group may not be able to move forward. We have to abide by both Scout and Charity Association rules. Find out more about joining our Trustee Board at <https://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved/trustee-board/>

Markfield Scouts was originally formed in 1950. For over 70 years the Group has benefitted from the support of its parents and local community, seeing many generations of young people learn skills for life. We want to be around for many more generations to come – but we need your help. Visit www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved.

Yours in Scouting,

Alan Brine
Group Scout Leader

The only thing missing from our team is you.

We are actively looking for a Trustee Board Chairperson, Treasurer, Trustees and Section Leaders.

Put your skills to use, learn new ones and play an active role in your local community.

We don't just need leaders, there is so much you could offer for as little or as much time as you can spare.

Volunteering is easier than you think. With full support and training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis.

Give young people the skills they need to succeed in life and discover how being part of the Scouting family can be as rewarding for you as it is for them.

Joint the adventure!

www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved

Risk and Internal Control

Trustees have identified the significant risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate them. The main areas of concern identified are:

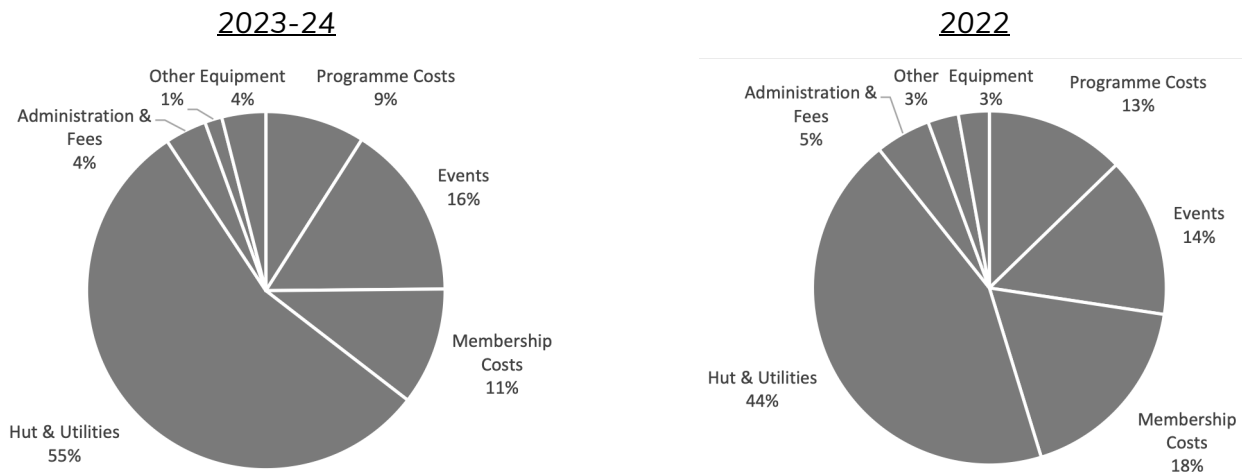
Risk	Mitigation	Rating
Damage to the building, property and equipment.	The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.	Green
Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.	Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities and all Leaders are first aid trained. Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.	Green
Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising.	The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a significant reduction in income. The Group could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.	Green
Lack of support on Trustee Board outside of Leadership Team	The group is reliant on volunteers to support the running of the group and ensure that it is safe and compliant. Recruitment is ongoing but limited response has been received, support is urgently required as in the worst-case scenario, failure to recruit may result in complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of leaders.	The group is reliant on volunteers to run and administer its activities, if there were a reduction in the number of leaders, parent rotas would become mandatory, consideration would need to be given to consolidation of sections and in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of members.	The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership 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.	Red

Financial Review

The group financial accounts show a year-end deficit of £8.5k (which is largely accounted for in the one-off utilities error detailed below). There are sufficient funds to ensure we can continue to deliver an exciting programme, cover maintenance and operational costs and continue to provide subsidies for occasional events and to those in need.

This year, we have begun our transition to a new bank following issues earlier in the year. We have also transitioned all sections onto OSM (Online Scout Manager), which enables parents and leaders to be better manage our programmes, events and funds.

How did we spend your money?



- **Programme Costs** – This includes the cost of activities and equipment to deliver Scouting.
- **Events** – This includes nights away, day trips and celebrations and all related costs such as attendance fees, camp fees, food and travel. The group will often subsidise event costs where possible. Note, administration fees for collecting payments are included separately below.
- **Membership Costs** – This is an annual cost paid by all Scout groups to National, County and District Scouts. It is based on the number of members per group and contributes towards growth and development, local scout campsites/buildings, keeping everyone safe and funding Scouting in the UK.
- **Hut & Utilities** – These costs relate to the running and maintenance costs of our hut. Utility costs this year rose significantly as a result of a one-off payment to our gas provider – following an administration error whereby Covid-19 arrangements were not removed following our return to scouting. This has now been resolved and new smart meters fitted to both our gas and electric to ease with administration and management going forward. In addition, we are over £500 in credit with the water company.
- **Administration & Fees** – This includes costs of administrating each section & the group (such as printing, advertising and website costs). It also includes fees related to OSM & GoCardless (how we collect payments electronically).
- **Other** – This mostly includes one-off costs which do not fit into any other category, such as first aid and this year costs for our AGM and retirement gifts.
- **Equipment** – This year we purchased new tents, upgraded some of our outdated camp equipment, purchased new plates and cutlery to take on camps and a wagon to help us up the Willesley hill!

Statement of Financial Accounts

1st January 2023 to 29th February 2024

	2023-2024 (£)	2022 (£)
Income		
Bank Interest	£74.09	£8.78
Donation	£190.00	£0.00
Events - Beavers	£340.00	£220.00
Events - Cubs	£942.00	£465.15
Events - Scouts	£1,259.00	£52.50
Gift Aid	£316.80	£0.00
Membership Fees	£9,280.00	£4,034.27
Misc.	£2.00	£0.00
Rent	£0.00	£95.00
Uniform	£0.00	£36.00
Expense		
Activity Equipment	£0.00	£31.68
Admin	£138.11	£200.99
Badges	£979.26	£576.49
Camping Equipment	£830.39	£193.99
Cleaning	£518.50	£210.00
Events - Beavers	£443.00	£341.00
Events - Cubs	£1,172.66	£693.18
Events - Scouts	£1,703.62	£134.31
Grass Cutting	£552.00	£568.00
Insurance	£892.48	£933.85
Meetings - Beavers	£134.17	£161.10
Meetings - Cubs	£245.25	£214.10
Meetings - Scouts	£525.66	£65.00
Membership Costs	£2,223.10	£1,425.20
Misc.	£322.52	£94.50
OSM/GoCardless Fees	£649.67	£203.16
Uniform	£2.00	£128.94
Utilities	£9,143.95	£1,460.45
Venue Maintenance	£462.56	£340.53
Account balances		
Barclays Current Account	£15,524.62	£17,160.46
Co-operative Current Account	£30.00	£0.00
Co-operative Savings Account	£2,000.00	£0.00
BARCLAYS 60429058	£0.00	£5,676.10
BARCLAYS 50839035	£150.00	£3,403.07
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	£26,239.63	£29,304.40
Total income	£12,403.89	£4,911.70
Total expenditure	£20,938.90	£7,976.47
Net income	-£8,535.01	-£3,064.77
Account balance carried forward	£17,704.62	£26,239.63

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

1st January 2023 to 29th February 2024

	2023-24 (£)	2022 (£)
Monetary Assets (Accounts)		
Barclays Current Account	£15,524.62	£17,160.46
Co-operative Current Account	£30.00	£0.00
Co-operative Savings Account	£2,000.00	£0.00
BARCLAYS 60429058	£0.00	£5,676.10
BARCLAYS 50839035	£150.00	£3,403.07
Sub Total	£17,704.62	£26,239.63
Non-Monetary Assets		
Land and buildings	£124,880.00	£124,880.00
Motor vehicles	-	-
Furniture and fixings	£5,000.00	£5,500.00
Camp equipment	£14,500.00	£12,500.00
Appliances	£900.00	£1,000.00
Cooking equipment / utensils	£650.00	£700.00
Scout programme stock	£500.00	£500.00
Badge stock	£650.00	£500.00
Sports equipment	£500.00	£500.00
Scout flags	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Disco equipment	£450.00	£500.00
Garden tools	£550.00	£400.00
Other	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Sub Total	£151,580	£148,480.00
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Sub Total	-	-
Total Net Assets	£169,284.62	£174,719.63

Scrutiny of our Accounts: As our gross income remains under £25k, requirements under the Charities Act 2011 to appoint an independent examiner or registered auditor are not met. Trustees have however appointed a Scrutineer (an independent person who trustees reasonably believe to have the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts), who is satisfied that the accounts and information provided within this report are accurate.

Reserves Policy: The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The group should at all times hold a sum equivalent to 12 months of running costs, circa £6k (this will flex depending on number of members). In addition, the group should retain additional funds for building/ground maintenance, circa £3k.

Investment Policy: The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

A brief history of 1st Markfield Scout Group

Find out more on our website www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/history

- ✚ 1948 - The Group was started by Gordon Chesterton, a low key affair, in a classroom at the old village Primary School with a handful of boys and a copy of 'Scouting for Boys'.
- ✚ 1950 - 10th March 1950. Now with a group committee of six the group was officially registered with Coalville District Boy Scouts Association as 1st. Markfield Scout Group. The meetings moved into the Miners' Welfare Institute; once a fortnight the room was heated, so the programme for the evening was – cold night's games, warm nights badge work.
- ✚ 1951 - First joint camp with 1st. Bardon Hill Scouts was held at Merry Lee's
- ✚ 1966 - The Head Quarters was opened by the donors, Mr. & Mrs. Bowmar.
- ✚ 1971 - 21st. Anniversary of the Group. To commemorate this, a seat was presented to the village and placed on the green.
- ✚ 1975 - Rose bushes were donated by the community and planted to mark the Group's 25th anniversary.
- ✚ 1981 - Gordon's retirement as Group Scout Leader of the Scouts and Cubs was marked by a presentation at parents' meeting at the Institute which was attended by over 150 parents, friends, scout and ex-scouts.
- ✚ 1986 – 1st Markfield Beaver Colony started on 8th January 1986; it was the fourth to be formed in the Coalville and Ashby District. The permanent extension was opened and called the Dodson Room on 4th October 1986.
- ✚ 1990 – 40th Anniversary of the Group. There are 107 in the Group made up of Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Ventures and Leaders.
- ✚ 1996 - A new £13,000 extension to Markfield Scout headquarters was officially opened by Evelyn Snell, who has been a scout committee member for 45 years, serving as chairman, secretary, and treasurer for 25 years.
- ✚ 2000 – 50th Golden Anniversary of the Group.
- ✚ 2002 – Gang Show – It's Great Too be Young.
- ✚ 2010 – 60th Diamond Anniversary of the Group was marked with gang Show, village parade and family camp.
- ✚ 2020 – 70th Anniversary of the Group was marked with a badge, designed by young people.



Section Reports

Beaver Scouts

Over the past twelve months there have been a few changes with Margaret deciding it was time to hang up her neckerchief completing her time as a beaver leader. Matthew started his Young Leader award and Ben joined the Colony for two terms.

Over the year we have had a full programme with a wide variety of activities all interesting and challenging for the beavers, along with making the most of trying to be outdoors for traditional scouting activities. In the autumn we continued with our traditional treasure hunt; a winters walk in January and invited the mum's for tea and cake in the spring.

When having to have our meetings inside the hut we had evenings of junk modelling, made bug hotels, healthy eating and did science experiments where the beavers gained activity badges and their challenge badges.

We held a sponsored silence for Children In Need with most of the beavers taking part, which they did very well and remained silent for the full thirty minutes, raising £514 for the charity. Well done

At Christmas we went to the pantomime at the Little Theatre to see Puss in Boots and just before Easter they joined the beavers of Leicestershire and Rutland for the Beaveree, which was a fun filled happy day.

Last summer we attended the district beaver 1-2-1 camp, 'I'm a Beaver Get Me out of Here' with most of our beavers, their dads and 2 grandmothers, everyone had a fabulous camp with the beavers having a fantastic time.

We have had 2 (with 5 more this year!) beavers gaining their Chief Scout Bronze awards and congratulate them for completing their six challenge badges.

Over the year we have invested ten new beavers, we now have 19 in the colony and have children waiting to join the group when numbers allow and hopefully they will so we can continue to 'Have fun and Make Friends'

Sue Wainwright and Lily Gibbins, Beaver Scout Leaders

Cub Scouts

The Cubs had another great year, growing in numbers from 13 members in 2022 to 19 members in 2023. The Cubs have completed lots of badges this year, with several of our Cubs earning their Chief Scout Silver Award.

In the spring term of 2023, we celebrated the Chinese New Year, attended the District St George's Day Parade, visited Coalville Fire Station and put our learning into practice earning our fire safety badges. We attended a disco with the Scouts, learnt about composting and recycling, completed a taskmaster problem solving night at the hut and played wide games at Hill Hole.

Throughout the summer, we celebrated the King's coronation with the Beavers, Scouts and community members at Little Markfield Farm, completed a hike and picked litter around the village. We attended a Mallory Park cycling event, competed in a sports day and geocached at Bradgate Park. This year, our camp was a joint cub and scout district camp at Willesley campsite. It was great to get back to our district campsite and enjoy the activities with other groups from across Ashby and Coalville.

In the Winter, the Cubs cooked over a campfire, learnt about first aid and worldwide scouting. We held our annual Halloween disco, celebrated Diwali together and our annual Remembrance Parade returned to the village. Our sixers planned a night for their sixes, and we held a Cubs talent show. We celebrated the end of the year trampolining at Jump Giants in Loughborough with the Scouts.

More recently, in Spring 2024, we completed our creativity and first aid badges, learnt about the history of scouts, celebrated the festival of Holi by cooking popcorn on an open fire, completed a number of experiments for British science week and finished the term with a hike.

A number of our Cubs are now due to move up to Scouts and we have some new faces joining us from Beavers.

Lyn, Liam and Wezley Mawhinney, Cub Scout Leaders

Addition to Annual Report – May 2024

Our Cub section is currently closed. We are looking for new leaders, if you are interested, please visit www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved.

Scouts

The Scouts have grown from 12 members last year to 16 by the end of February 2024. We are really proud of how far our scouts have come, and this year saw our first scout move on, who is now completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award and young leader training.

In Spring 2023, held a youth shaped session to gain the view of our Scouts in programme planning for the following terms, made a free-standing bridge (and walked across it!), attended a disco with the Cub and delivered leader recruitment leaflets around the village. We also attended the St George's Day parade and a few of our scouts attended a Leicester Tigers match.

In the Summer, we learnt about safe use of axes and saws, attended a cycling event at Mallory Park, was rained out of a chip shop hike!, played inflatable football, went orienteering at Martinshaw Woods and geocaching at Thornton Reservoir, and helped out at an event at Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation

We attended a joint cub and scout district camp at Willesley campsite. The Scouts were fantastic with teaching and support the Cubs, so we celebrated at Pizza Hut the week after.

In Winter, we played wide games at Hill Hole, cooked our own 3 course meals, carved pumpkins, made remembrance crosses and earned our DIY badges, completed an escape room, and celebrating Christmas at our jump giants event with the Cubs. Some of the Scouts also attended Splash Camp, which was held at Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre, involving lots of activities including archery, shooting, climbing, canoeing and more.

In Spring 2024, we learnt about the internal jamboree from our local deputy district commissioner, had visitors from bygone Markfield and learnt about the history of the group, made airfix planes and complete our first aid badge stage 3.

We are continuing with our plans towards earning our Chief Scout Gold Awards; including plans for more camps and a Scout-led expedition.

Liam Mawhinney and Lily Gibbins, Scout Leaders

Addition to Annual Report – May 2024

Our Scout section is currently closed. We are looking for new leaders, if you are interested, please visit www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved.