15th Forth Valley Scout Group-Year 2025/6

Overall, the Group has had another successful year after restarting in January 2023. An ongoing shortage of volunteers continues to affect the sections, led to the Squirrels section being discontinued and ongoing issues with getting leaders for the Beaver section are concerning. Parents are often willing to assist but reluctant to take the 'next step' and become a Leader.

Closing bank balance stood at £11.6k rising from £7.1k last year-Income from subs stood at £8.3, and donations/grants/activities/hall rents increased total income to 16.1k. Expenses dropped to 11.5k from 13.4k last year-due mainly to a 2k drop in Hall renovation/Maintenance.

At the start of the year we moved the collection of subs and activities 'on line' to the Scout OSM system. This helped in collecting monies more efficiently.

We are currently liasing with the Council regarding the demolition of the small annex 'hut' to the side of the main hall. Once agreed the hall will be taken down and the Gardens extended (heavily reliant on reliant on volunteer labour) We already have a grant of 3k towards the costs.

Scout numbers increased and they had a busy year. Camps at Barrwood and a longer camp (Scotjam) at Loch Goilhead on Arran were well attended. There were lots of activities, gardening, night hikes, cycle trips as well as badge work all featured. They also did some DIY in the Hall.

The Cubs year was packed with fun, adventure and learning opportunities. The programme offered a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities, helping them develop new skills, build confidence and strengthen friendships. Many local hikes and cycles, along with swimming, the local pantomime, and a lot of badge work featured during the year. Activities included backwoods cooking, cultural events, "I'm a Cub… Get Me Out of Here!" and "The Crystal Maze" ,and much more,

The whole group had a water activities event at Barrwood (Kayaking/Climbing/Caving/BBQ). Beavers enjoyed 'tubing' at the local ski slope, and hosted an Xmas party. Various sleepovers were held in the hall.

Badge work is very popular with top awards being achieved in Beavers and Cubs and good progress being made in the, very challenging, Scout Award.

The future for the Group is good, and we look forward to a strong and growing future.

Ian M Ross Treasurer