



# NEWSLETTER

Yet another busy year for Scouting in Penistone

The quality of the programme and the positive effect on young people that our dedicated leadership team delivers week in and week out; never ceases to amaze me. The diary throughout 2017 was packed with camps, events and activities and the imagination that has been poured into our programme for all sections is astounding.

All of this activity does not just happen; it is the result of an enormous amount of hard work by section leaders, assistants and young leaders who are the cornerstone of the group, and who in turn are supported by and backed by the Group Executive. I would like to express my thanks and I am sure that of all parents to the volunteers, past, present and new, who put so much time and energy into Penistone Scout Group and make it the success it is.



### **So what can you expect from us in 2018?**

#### **Community**

- We will complete our conservation project, installing hedgehog and bird boxes, bee and insect houses, raised flower beds and generally keep the area around the Scout hut and Trans Pennine trail tidy and maintained.
- We will officially open “little Libraries” around Penistone where people can pick up a book, find out local information or by use of a trail map visit each specially themed library as part of a local walk.
- We will look to establish a Scout Shed (more of this later)

## Adventure

- We will start the year as we mean to go on with camps and events already booked and in the planning including Penistone Panto, Sheffield Steelers Ice Hockey Match, Ice Sheffield Sleepover, Pirate Camps and a Summer Camp to the Midlands.
- We are investing lots of money and securing funding for new equipment so we can offer Kayaking, Climbing, Archery and Air Rifles on a weekly basis.
- Thanks to a grant from the Penistone Working Together fund we have invested in specialised training and qualifications for various outdoor pursuits including archery, shooting, climbing and water activities and now we are in the process of purchasing equipment to ensure that everyone who is part of the group gets the opportunity to take part in some fabulous activities.

## Group

- Very early in January we will hear about our planning application for a new building in addition to our existing one. This will enable us to move forward with our expansion plans and make the group over 500 members strong.

Many of you may have seen the street poppies we spray painted and mounted on pavements and lampposts around Penistone to commemorate Remembrance. I hope you as I am, were proud that our Young People made a fitting tribute to all those who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The turnout by our young people at the Penistone and Thurlstone parades was outstanding yet again.

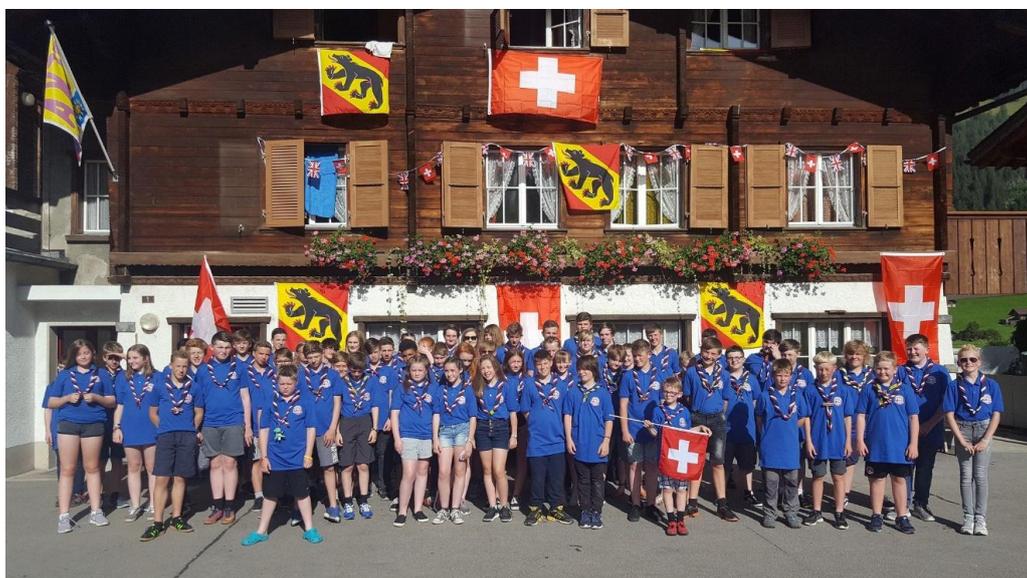
Recently over 30 Scouts applied to go to the World Scout Jamboree in America in 2019. We are pleased to announce that 15 were successful, which is a fantastic achievement. Everyone who applied should be applauded for their courage to do so, only 1 in 80 scouts get the opportunity to attend a World Jamboree so we are amazed and rightly proud of our magnificent 15. The "PENISTONE UNIT" will be planning lots of fundraising over the next 18 months, please support them as they strive to collectively raise over £60,000. The Scouts who didn't get the chance to go will not miss out as we are planning a 2019 trip to either Iceland or Canada. Details will be released before Easter and it will be open to all Scouts and Explorers.

Finally I have included a couple of news items about our building plans and the idea to set up a "SCOUT SHED", please given them a read and if you can offer support please get in touch with me.

Wishing you a fabulous Christmas and a very Happy New Year

Yours in Scouting

Bruce



# BEAVERS

Well, a year is a long time and with the ever-expanding Penistone Beavers it has certainly flown by. The leader team have particularly enjoyed planning creative camps and activities and long may they do so!

Following on last year's carol service, our first major camp of (last) year was the Cardboard Christmas Camp where absolutely everything was made out of cardboard! We enjoyed creating a grotto, caving experience and providing a vast array of craft activities for the Beavers to complete,



before enjoying our annual Christmas dinner together.

The creativity continued throughout the year - in March the Beavers were launched into Space Camp. They enjoyed finding out what it was like to become astronauts, a visit to mission control, wear rocket packs and lots of other cool spacey stuff! The Beavers certainly enjoyed this one and we had one and we completed our

space activity badge. In May we went to Glenbrook Activity Centre for our Group (STAR WARS) camp where we participated in fantastic activities such as the cave bus, go karting, fires and archery. The Beavers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they can't wait for next year's adventure!



In July, we went to Robin Hood's Bay on our first ever Beaver day trip to the seaside! The big challenge of this one was sandwich making, a visit to the ice cream and tourist shops, not to mention making an order for 60 people at a chip shop! The Beavers enjoyed sandcastle competitions, ball games, kite flying and paddling in the rock pools during the afternoon on the beach! A thoroughly enjoyable weekend, one of which we are excited to announce that we will be expanding to a full weekend camp next year! Look about for a letter for 'Penistone Beavers Seaside Pirate Camp' coming soon.....OOH ARR!!!!!!



In September we had our very own 'I'm a Beaver! Get me out of here' camp with lots of exciting activities. The Beavers did archery, crate stacking and an assault course as well as Bush tucker Trials, insect making and meeting some very scary birds of prey! This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we have run this camp and here's to doing it again!

Finally, our Christmas camp this year sees the Beavers going to Elf Academy! We can't give away too much at this stage but if it's anything like our other camps you should know what to expect!

As if this wasn't enough, our Beavers have made tremendous progress with their badges this year with many gaining their experiment, health & fitness, communicator, faith, cooking and air activities badges. Lots of the Beavers have made good progress towards their staged badges including lots of nights away and hikes away which we hope they can carry on and make even more progress with in Cubs, Scouts and beyond!

Finally, we have had lots and lots of Beavers achieving their Chief Scout Bronze awards. At the District awards night we were beyond proud with the amount of Beavers who had done so!

I'll leave you with a quote from one of our Beavers who have just achieved their Bronze award: 'I can't believe how much I have achieved in Beavers; I've become a completely different person now!'

Thanks to everyone who has helped this year with Beavers, including our parents who have supported our crazy ideas and the Beavers for making the hard work worth every bit of effort & an extra thanks to all the other Leaders in the Group who help make our ideas a reality! Here's to many more fantastic adventures next year and beyond!

Thanks,

Amy, Laura S, Alex,  
Steph, Louise, Steve,  
Jim, Rebecca, Laura D,  
Keli, Gordon, Jake, Leah  
and Alison



# cubs

## Alegre

Alegre cubs have had another busy and exciting year which coming after the cub centenary last year is really saying something.

Camps have included, Gradbach in March, Lego camp which was hugely enjoyable as was group camp in May at Glenbrook, with a large turnout for both from Alegre Pack.

We have run lots of joint meetings with Raptors and Bella Vista as well as with the Beavers, ensuring those who are moving to Cubs get an insight into what to expect.

We have taken part in some crime investigation at Think forensic and managed to fit in some caving in at Alderley Edge in Derbyshire.



As well as action packed meeting nights on a Tuesday we recently designed and printed our own t-shirts at Magna Colours.

Our Young leaders continue to be key members within the group – they take charge of games and come up with really great ideas that cubs enjoy, thank you Michael, Ciara, Keirah and Elliot.

That's all for another year, thank you for your continued support

*Carolyn, Suzie & Phil*

## Bella Vista

Who would have ever dreamed that the leaders at Bella Vista Cubs could have topped 2016 in squeezing so many adventurous and exciting events into 2017 but somehow, they managed it. The year started with an extremely educational visit delving into the world of forensic science at Think Forensic, Skelmanthorpe. Whilst January was educational, February was the complete opposite and adrenaline filled with abseiling from Millers' Dale viaduct and at the end of the month a caving trip was also squeezed in.



The first Cub camp of 2017 came at the beginning of March where the Bella Vista leaders (and a few Beaver ones thrown in for good measure) took cubs from all three packs to the beautiful campsite that is Gradbach in Staffordshire. This camp we enjoyed the warmth underground with more caving, wide games and hikes in the picturesque countryside surrounding the site. The end of March saw a joint outing with Alegre Cubs to Alderley Edge for a day of caving and orienteering meaning that every single cub that wanted to had a chance this spring to experience caving. Many thanks to Sam for enabling this as caving numbers are limited so he gave up many weekends to make this possible.

March wasn't all about being underground we had a visit from a guide dog and his handler and then we filled Smarties Tubes up with 20p coins as a fundraising activity followed with a visit to Woodhead Mountain Recue base. We learned how to keep ourselves safe and to be prepared for outdoor activities and the vital and fantastic work of the volunteers that make up our local Mountain Recue Branch. We continued our fundraising efforts over Easter and held our very first Ultimate Dodgeball Tournament where we raised a whopping £400 for the British Heart Foundation and £98 for Bella Vista Cubs. We decided to treat ourselves to a heart healthy activity with our share of the funds and in June we held a great big inflatable pool party at Stocksbridge Community Pool.

In May came our second camp of the year and this time it was at Glenbrook where we spent an amazing weekend with the whole of Penistone Scout Group. This is also where a clumsy leader broke their foot and spent the rest of the term in plaster, so we had to slow down for a little while. That didn't last too long though as since the summer we have taken part in a District Scouts Cub Incident Hike Event, where Penistone Cubs received high praise from the organisers and public on the event. The Bella Vista leader team also organised the Great Big Cub Adventure Weekend at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre and Legoland Windsor, where a fantastic weekend was had by all (especially the leaders)!

This month we are having our annual Christmas Sleepover incorporating a visit to the National Coal Mining Museum for the magical Santa Underground Experience and Christmas Dinner.

*Mike, Shauna, Sam, Tina & Vicky*

## Raptors

In preparing this letter I've looked through some of the photos from events in 2017, I can't believe it's passed so quickly and we have achieved so much. Zorbing, mountain rescuing, caving, camping, tracking, cooking,



computing, building, playing – it's been good fun. Now it's time for a Christmas rest.

Highlights from this year were group camp which gave the Cubs chance to mix with Beavers, Scouts and Explorers, and our first Raptor Camp which focused on some old-fashioned camping and scouting skills – and we had amazing weather!



This year our leader team has grown, with much appreciated and additional help coming from Marta, Jacqui and Anne. This helps us share the load in planning and running activities and doing the background work in running the pack.

Our Young Leader cohort has also expanded with Bryn and Max now joined by Charlie, Alex, Poppy and Elsie; they contribute each week with their enthusiasm and they know the best

scouting games, thank you guys!

Our pack began in the Spring of 2015, with 18 fresh-faced 8-year-old Cubs; the last of these founding members will move up to Scouts at Christmas. They grow up so fast!

Happy Christmas, and Happy Scouting in 2018!

*Rob, Claire, Iain, Beth, Leigh, Marta, Jacqui and Ann.*

# SCOUTS

## Wibbles Scout Troop

The troop was joined by several new scouts this year and our focus once again has been on team working and community involvement. We have also welcomed Josh to the leader team, along with Alastair and Sam and also our new Young Leaders Oliver and George.

We started off in January with a bang, bang, bang! Literally as we took part in a very loud drumming workshop. It was great fun though and we discovered that we have some very musical scouts amongst us. We also visited the Apple store in Meadow hall for a fantastic workshop learning how to make garage music on tablets and learning some basic coding too.

Throughout the year we have taken part in lots of new activities such as marshalling at the first ever Penistone Colour Run, we rescued T shirts that were frozen in billy cans and we tried rifle shooting and the new sport of Parkour. We have recently visited Woodhead Mountain Rescue at their headquarters for a great evening of search and rescue techniques and we painted rocks for Remembrance and placed them on the War Memorial. We also joined in with the Den day experience.

We have revisited some old favourites such as Archery, Pioneering and local hikes which also included taking part in the Investiture hike around Langsett for Enigma, the new Monday Scout troop. The chip shop hike in a chilly March started with a mass investiture at Royd Moor view point under a starry night's sky and ended with a welcome bag of chips!

The British Heart Foundation Half Marathon at Harewood House at the beginning of the year called for an early start for some of the troop to set up and run water stations for the runners. We all had a great day even though it was really cold and we all had sore fingers from taking the tops off the hundreds of bottles of water but it was a job well done! The troop also visited the Panto as usual and joined forces with Springvale Community Gardens to clear some scrub lands near the riverside. Many of the troop enjoyed the recent Black Ops III camp as well as the Star Wars Themed Group camp in May. Brunt's Barn was a big hit too for the scouts that completed their Expedition Challenge badge during the 2 separate weekends in the Peak district in the summer but the highlight of the year has to be the trip to Switzerland!

Thank you to all scouts and parents for your continued support this year

*Alison, Neil, Joe, Alastair, Sam and Young Leaders  
Jacob Oliver and George*



## Viernes Scout Troop



This picture says it all for me, taken in Switzerland at the top of the Schilthorn, two thousand nine hundred and forty-three metres above sea level, six huge smiles and a lasting friendship. Scouting for me gives young people the opportunity to be themselves and this past year I hope that my lot have recognised that and grasped it to the max.

Viernes scouts are an excitable, noisy, energetic challenge; keeping them amused is exhausting but enjoyable and I love it.

Our Young Leaders, Grace, Eleanor and Isaac as well as Emily, who having turned 18 is now becoming an assistant leader, have been awesome and a great help as we have carried out a packed programme which at times has tested all of our efforts.

Hikes, pioneering, the holocaust, Duxford Air show, survival boxes, poppies, conservation, chip shops, black ops III, aqua park, bird boxes, winning the South Yorkshire Challenge, Lego Batman, fires, water slides, group camp, den day sleepover and filling a huge skip are just some of the things we have done this year.

However the pièce de résistance was Switzerland, by far the biggest and best summer camp ever and one which I will remember for many years.

Thanks for being a great scout troop throughout 2017, myself and the rest of the Viernes leader team look forward to creating more FUN, CHALLENGE and ADVENTURE for you in 2018.

Bruce, Michelle, Brian, Matthew, Rob, Donna,  
Rebecca, Nathan, Emily, Eleanor, Grace & Isaac

## Enigma Scout Troop



On the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7pm a group of 20 nervous young people and a handful of adults gathered at Penistone Scouts Activity Centre for the very first meeting of Enigma Scout Troop. We have steadily risen in numbers to 27 Scouts, 3 young leaders and 3 regular adult leaders, with other leaders from the group popping in to offer a much-needed hand. (We desperately need more of these, even if you can only spare one or two Mondays a month). We have spent our time together so far learning about each other and forming friendships.

We've begun building up a strong base of basic scouting and life skills and developed these further over the past few months, we have experimented with fire lighting and backwoods cooking, practised our knot tying and lashings and built temporary survival shelters. We've enjoyed a visit to the local Fire Station where we learned about the remarkable job these volunteers do and played with the hoses. But it hasn't all been serious and hard work we have played equally as hard with wide games in the park. The troop has tried many exciting new activities such as water zorbing at Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre and an evening of street sports at Team Katalyst.

We have enjoyed spending time and forging friendships with members of both Viernes and Wibbles Troops firstly on our joint hike around Langsett where the entire Enigma Troop were invested. Since then we have furthered these bonds by attending the South Yorkshire Scouts Challenge where three teams from Enigma entered and placed high mid table (Quite an achievement for such a new group of scouts). The Bruce organised an amazing survival weekend for the Black Ops III camp where we had to put in to practice the scouting skills we had developed by keeping our fires lit and feeding ourselves all weekend! We have also just completed our final camp of 2017 with a visit to York Dungeons, Christmas Markets and a ghost walk around the city and a Xmas dinner.

We are all excited to discover what 2018 holds for Enigma

*Shauna, Mike & Damon*



## EXPLORERS

SCORPION

Over the last year explorers have seen some changes, the main one and the most positive has been the merger of Scorpions and Penguins. This has increased the numbers of explorers attending, merged programmes and resulted in leaders working together. The Explorers were all in favour and most attended the meeting to discuss the merge and to contribute to the future direction of the unit.



Explorers have been out and about more this past year with a few evening trips including Sheffield Escape rooms, Parkour in Rotherham and Think Forensic. The final trip of the year is Go Karting at Tyke Racing. A lot of the unit attended the trip to Switzerland and enjoyed all Adelboden had to offer. Some Explorers attended group camp, and a few went to Gilwell 24 and Black Ops Camp. And finally just last week 18 Explorers spent a weekend in London.

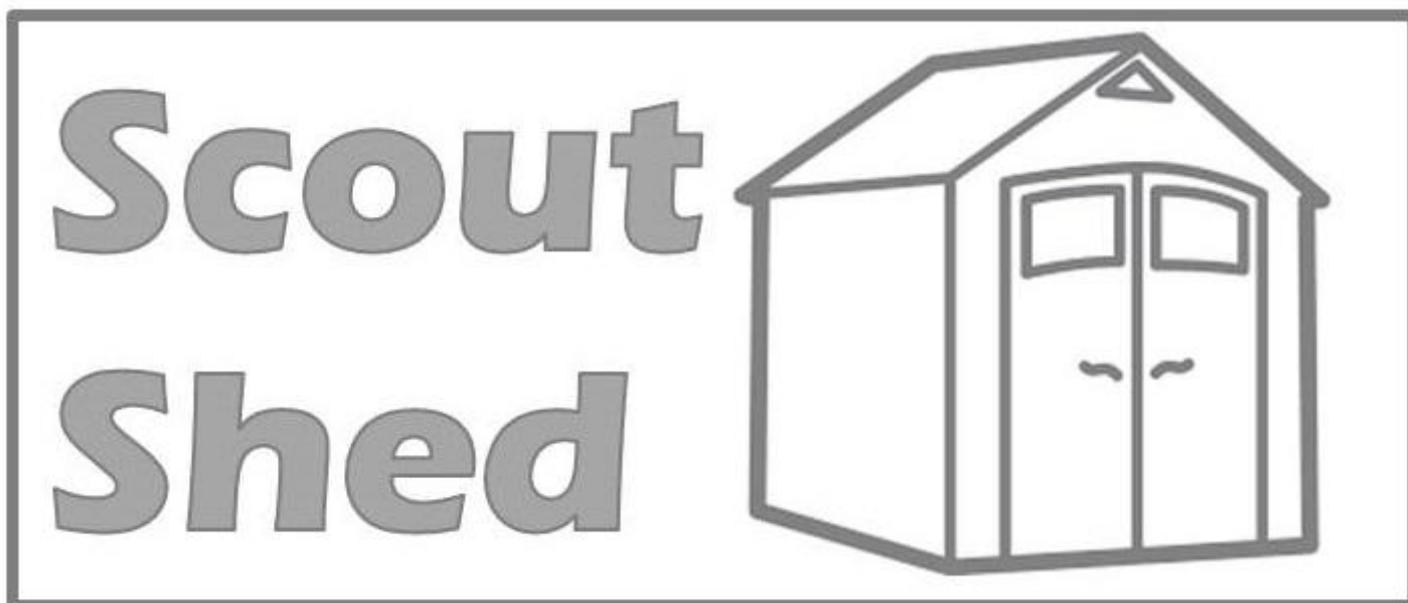


Most of the Explorers are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and we have had many attain both DofE and scout awards. All of the Explorers have worked really hard to reach these awards but non more so than Alison for her continued chasing of explorers, who enjoy taking part, but dislike updating E D of E. Lastly CONGRATULATIONS to Eleanor for far achieving the Queens Scout Award and Gold DofE.

Other meetings/events have included the conservation day at the Scout Hut, building and sailing cardboard canoes and painting the town in a sea of poppies for Remembrance.

We are now looking forward to next year with a really good group of Explorers.

*Sharon, Alison, Bruce & Andrea*



Many of you may have heard about the Men's Shed Movement, since 2013 shed organisations have been started all over the country with the aim of helping people improve their health and also improve their community. Currently there are around 10,000 Sheddens in the UK, benefiting from regular social interactions, new and improved skills, and regular, active participation in activities they enjoy.

Sheds have been set up to provide support for communities, for themselves and for other organisations. Essentially a group of people meet on a regular weekly basis and carry out work or projects that improve their own and other peoples lives. In Huddersfield where I work there is a Shed Organisation situated next to the train station, they have established a vegetable garden, they repair and service bicycles and they refurbish buildings and furniture; over 20 members meet every week and enjoy each others company. This and the very successful retired Scout Leaders who meet every week at Silverwood campsite to carry out building projects, repairs and general maintenance of the camp and who call themselves Dad's Army; inspired me and got me thinking that something similar at Penistone would be fantastic and could benefit the group and community.

Therefore we want to start our own SHED at Penistone Scout Group, to carry out general maintenance, HQ projects and refurbishment of the scout hut, with the eventual aim to provide help to complete community projects with our Young People. The group would meet in the daytime, using the Scout Hut as a base and meeting place and it would be open to anyone who has the time and who wants to enjoy regular social interaction with others. We (Penistone Scout Group) would ensure all involved are supported and insured and we will be seeking grants from local funders to kick start the project, providing tools, materials and refreshments.

If that sounds like your thing or maybe you have a relative, such as a Dad, Mum or grandparent who might want to be involved, please get in touch with me. If my Mum & Dad lived nearby, I would be encouraging them to go along as I have seen first hand the benefits a SHED has to offer.

Thanks

Bruce

[bruce@penistonescoutgroup.org.uk](mailto:bruce@penistonescoutgroup.org.uk)

### NEW BUILDING PROJECT

Over the past few months we have been preparing the process to realise a new building to expand the group. The location has seen the old railway wagon sold and removed, the area cleared and surveyed and plans drawn up for planning permission to be sought. We have even secured a buyer for the shipping container once we get the go ahead!

We have submitted and are currently awaiting the results of our planning application, which we hope to hear on the 8<sup>th</sup> January and which of course we hope is positive. If successful it will mean the project can really start to get off the ground and we can start a tender process to engage contractors and builders.

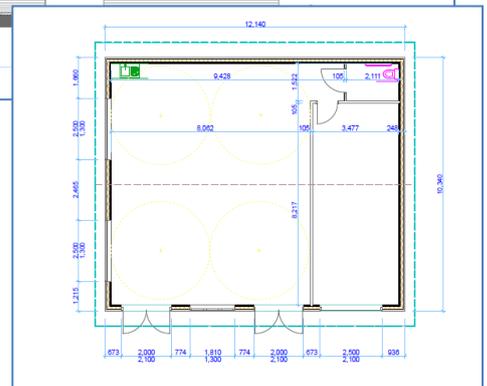
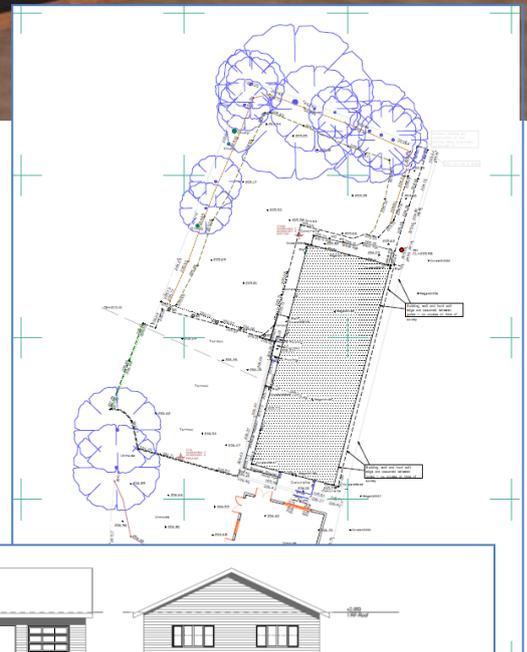
If you have had a chance to see the plans, you will see that it will essentially give us a standalone building with a huge meeting room and a large garage / storage area plus toilet and kitchen facilities.

Once in operation, we will be able to open several more sections, provide a new community space and develop the area around the scout hut to provide a better experience for our younger members.

To date we have had several offers of help, including the production and supply of a pre fabricated building shell and its erection by a local timber structure company and their supplier at a very competitive price. We would welcome any additional help including electricians, plumbers, painters & decorators and window and door companies.

If you could offer help please get in touch, this is a huge undertaking for the group and one which will benefit all of our members and the community

Bruce



## MASCOT - THE SCOUTING ADVENTURES OF LUDLOW



*For those that don't know I'm a member of the Viernes Scout Troop on a Friday, and I WOOF IT! My owner that big good-looking fellow (looks a bit like Pete Griffin from Family Guy), brings me along to meetings and sometimes I get to go to camps where I get up to all sorts.*

2017 was a big year with lots going on, I have been to lots of meeting nights and activities, the best of which was the Aqua Park at Rother Valley where of course I decided to take a dip. I also had a great day out with lots of scout and explorers at the scout hut filling a huge skip with all sorts of rubbish, which I tried to empty piece by piece. Best of all I went home covered in all sorts of muck but thoroughly exhausted and happy.

The only disappointment of the year was waving goodbye to my owner as he went off to Switzerland with 77 others, rafting, hiking, swimming, going up mountains, riding toboggans, rowing boats on blue lakes and zipping about on wires. He disappears for 10 days and then all he brings me back is a new collar and lead in red & white, not even a piece of cheese or a toblone.

I hope you have had a good year, mine has been great, and there is already lots planned for 2018, I hope to see you there? *MERRY WOOFMAS Ludlow x*

**Ever thought about volunteering to help at Penistone Scouts, you don't need children to join; we have 280+ young people you can share your sense of Fun with as YOU find out the CHALLENGE & ADVENTURE Scouting can offer. Want to find out more? Please get in touch with Bruce Meek  
07921 766357 [bruce@penistonescoutgroup.org.uk](mailto:bruce@penistonescoutgroup.org.uk)**

