

## BROWNIES REPORT 2023 BY PAULA GREEN (WOL)

After a few very difficult years with the pandemic Brownies is now up and running fully. We struggled financially as Girl Guiding increased the annual membership to £45 per Brownie and helper!

We were however fortunate to be awarded a grant from West Northamptonshire Council with help from Cllr Dermot Bambridge. A big thank you to him for his work in assisting us in the process.

This made a huge difference and I feared that without this money we would have possibly closed. This figure happily covered the Census payment meaning the subscriptions the parents' paid could be spent on activities and resources for the girls to have fun evenings.

Our numbers were quite low at one time as there were no girls in the year 3 group but now the year 2 class are of age we have suddenly had an influx which has been amazing.

A variety of fun activities have been underway this year and we are fortunate to have 4 'Old Brownies' returning to carry out their Duke of Edinburgh Service Award, volunteering each week. They have had a huge impact on helping the girls and me also. A couple of parents' have also stepped up to help this term sharing their skills. A big thank you also to Wendy Gee who helps us each week. Volunteering can sometimes be a thankless task but we are fortunate to have supportive and appreciative parents' and the girls are a delight to spend time with.

We are already planning ahead for the Autumn term where we hope to share new activities, experiences and skills for the girls.

Things are looking good for 1<sup>st</sup> Syresham Brownies who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year of being a unit in the New Year having been first registered 8<sup>th</sup> January 1974!

Hoping to have a celebration for anyone that has attended throughout the years.