

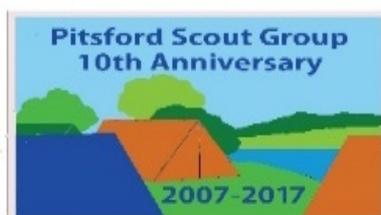
# PITSFORD SCOUT GROUP



## 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### Annual General Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017





## AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2016 AGM
4. Approval of Group Scout Leader Report
5. Approval of reports from Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders
6. Approval of Treasurer's Report and Accounts
7. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of Group Chairman
8. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Executive Committee
9. Election of Officers:
  - a. Group Secretary
  - b. Group Treasurer
10. Appoint a Group Auditor
11. Election of the Group Executive Committee as members of the Group Council
12. Presentation of Chief Scout Silver Awards
13. Presentation on the trip to Kandersteg and Expedition to Uganda
14. District Commissioners remarks
15. Group Scout Leaders remarks
16. Chairman's closing remarks
17. Date of next AGM - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018



## Chairman's Report

The Pitsford Scout Group celebrates its 10th Year this year and continues to deliver adventure, excitement, new challenges and having fun.

Georgina and her team of Leaders continue to work hard in delivering interesting and varied activities in all sections.

Organising these events safely involves considerable effort and I would once again ask you to support your Leaders whenever asked.

The highlight of the year for me was the Remembrance Day Parade/Service.

This was probably the best attended Remembrance Day event I can remember and I was very proud of the Groups involvement with the British Legion in making this day special.

It is important we all remember the sacrifices made by others for the freedom we enjoy today.

This is my last Chairman's report as I am now stepping down and I would thank the Group for allowing me to be involved as I go with some very special memories.

Thankyou

*Phil Wintle*



## Group Scout Leaders Report

It is always rewarding to report on highlights of the past year.

We have had fantastic support at our two Church parades and all the camps, thank you

A highlight for me was taking six members from our Group, five of them under 21 years of age, along with five others, on an expedition to Uganda in July. These six had never experienced Africa before let alone Uganda. An enormous amount of preparation and fundraising had gone on before this could happen. The trip was wonderful and thank you to all those who supported any of the fundraising events. The slide show will tell you what a wonderful time we had and above all a life changing experience for everyone. I do hope they return one day. It was also lovely to have two other Explorers go off on the District Trip to Kangerdsteg in August. These opportunities give young people a wider outlook on life and a realisation of what the family of Scouting is all about.

In August we had annual visit to Northampton Sailing Club which is always popular with the Cubs and Scouts. Our summer times are so short that Scouting should be about being outside as much as possible. We are lucky with the facility we have at the Sports field, the Quarry and Reservoir on our doorstep. I am delighted that the Scouts are having a camp in August it is such a waste to lose that summer month without scouting activities but we must remember that the Leaders are giving up their time to put these events on so a big thank you them.

Another highlight was celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is hard to believe that we are now 10 years old and an established group within the county. Our sections apart from Explorers are full and will remain so for a couple of years. I have brilliant team of Leaders behind me and some dedicated young Leaders too. The young Leaders come every week to assist us even though they have important exams coming up at certain times of year they hardly ever miss a week.

I am delighted that Nicola Cebak has become the Beaver Scout Leader and she also has completed quite a bit of her training already. Having a Beaver leader has certainly taken some pressure off me since last September. Thank you Nicola.

I am also delighted that Abi Biggs had now become a Colony assistant as she is 18 years old and will do some Leader Training for that role

In February Tony and I returned to Uganda this time for a private visit as Steven the young man whose education we have been sponsoring for 17 years was graduating from Makerere University in Kampala. Steven has a B.Sc. in Ethnobotany, the study of plants for use in drugs and food. It was a very special visit as we felt we really got to know Steven and he will be a member of our family for evermore. If any of you are interested in sponsoring a child at Outspan Nursery and Primary School it costs around £350 a year and is very rewarding. You would receive reports, letters and photos regularly.

My thanks go as always to all the committed Leaders, Assistants, Young leaders and Executive members of the Group without whose support I could not do what I do. Thank you to you all.

A big thank you goes to Phil Wintle who has been my Chairman for 5 years. Phil has been a great support and usually attends the many functions we hold. Sally also is always behind him and thank you Sally for your support too. I welcome Adrian Palmer to the role.

In July we are looking forward to another celebration of our 10th Birthday with an outing to Wicksteed Park.

A big thank you to Blue Skies Holdings and Pitsford Branch of the Royal British legion who give the Group an enormous amount of support, and especially Simon Derrick who has helped enormously in the preparation of this report and slide show.

*Georgina Miles* **GSL**



I was overseeing the Beaver Scout Colony until Nicola Joined us in September. We have a full colony of lovely energetic Beavers who keep us on our toes!

Our St Georges s Day Parade at the start of term was well supported thank you. In May we completed the Experiment badge by growing cress in an egg box. Did it work I ask? Then we held a Beaver Sleepover in the Will Smith Chalet at Overstone Scout Activity Centre, it was great fun for everyone who took part. The Beavers gained their camp craft badge, part of the Outdoor Challenge and Adventure Challenge badges. I so enjoy being out and about in the summer term and we are fortunate to be able to use the Sportsfield. We had a fitness evening run by Chris Plowman from Pacesetter Sports. Neil Blissett from Glendon District came to teach the Beavers some circus skills. Ollie taught the Beavers some Knots and we finished the term with a VERY wet and wild evening on the Sports field.

Congratulations to Joshua Carley ,Pip Corbett, Alice Mackaness, Oliver Stanbridge, Tom Farebrother ,Mason Gray, Harry Knights, and Rowen Myles on gaining their Chief Scouts Bronze Award this year

A big thank you to Penny (Hedgehog) who is always there to support me and to the parent helpers who have been so supportive over the last 2½years and to the Young Leaders.

*Georgina Miles GSL*

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#### **Report continued from Nicola Cebak BSL**

We started the Autumn term when I took on the role of Beaver Leader. We had an excellent talk from Karen Atherton, who turned the pavilion into an airplane and the Beavers gained their air activity badge. The following week we had a visit from the fire dogs and had a fabulous working display from Willow the Labrador who showed us how she detected an accelerant on the Sportsfield. This talk and the talk the following week from NAB enabled the Beavers to gain their disability badge.

We had a great day out at Twin Lakes, joining 300 other Beaver from the county on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The Beavers also worked hard together to make 2 scarecrows that were entered into the village scarecrow competition held at the Village church.

We started the term welcoming Harvey who is doing his service with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We had a sparklers and smores evening with some fabulous camp fire singing. There was an excellent turn out for the Remembrance Parade and the practicing of hymns and the National Anthem really paid off as the Beavers could be heard all round the church. We ended the term with a couple of craft nights making snowmen, reindeers and Christmas cards and then an excellent Christmas party with a visit from SANTA!

One of our Beavers switched on the Christmas tree lights on the village green.

We have started the January term by gaining our International badges, with Beavers learning a greeting from another country and a visitor teaching them a French song. They also made flags, Chinese lanterns and sampled Chinese foods. We had a Welsh visitor who taught us about Wales and the Welsh flag emblems and alphabet

We joined the Cubs for a beetle drive on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and all units for our Anniversary party on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.

We had an amazing trip to Pinnacle climbing wall, the Beavers did so well and Archie was invested halfway up the climbing wall which is something I hope he won't forget. The Beavers gained their photographers badge by taking photographs of objects that looked like letters to make the word Pitsford. A professional photographer then came in and critiqued the photos. We ended the term by making daffodil mother's day cards and an Easter egg hunt round the quarry.

A big thank you to Penny (Hedgehog) and Georgina for their support and to the Young Leaders Abi, Jack and Harvey. We appreciate your help so much and are so pleased that Abi has stayed on after her 18<sup>th</sup> in a Leader role as a Colony assistant

*Nicola Cebak, Beaver Scout Leader*



We have a full Cub Pack this year and I have been helped and supported by Rebecca (Rama), our Assistant Cub Scout Leader as well as Sally (Hathi) and Jasmyne (Raksha) who are both Pack Assistants. This year we have also been joined by Evan, a former Cub who is doing his D.O.E with us as a young leader.

Once again the cubs enjoyed another busy and fun filled year.

In April, we celebrated St George's Day with our annual parade around Pitsford, followed by a service at the church,

We have worked on weather for our scientist badge and compass directions and string to make pictures, gained part of the Our Skills badge by doing circuit training all before enjoying our South American themed camp in May at Overstone Scout Activity Centre.

In June we built dens in aid of Save the Children and then enjoyed 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Cub Scouting by joining with other packs from the County at a Jungle Book themed Cub Camp. We completed a hike around Pitsford and Boughton and ended a busy summer term with a fun water night. During the summer we enjoyed a water activity day at Northampton Sailing club, where the Cubs and Scouts built rafts and sailed.

The Autumn term started with the annual Sixer camp at Overstone and we had a visit from Dave of Raptor Xotics, who brought in various birds of prey such as owls and eagles, which was all very interesting.

In October we did our Emergency First Aid badge, as well as celebrating 950 years of the Battle of Hastings by building our own fortresses and castles.

Bonfire Night came in November at Overstone Scout Activity Centre which was fun, Rebecca planned an under the sea themed night. We then joined the Scout Group for our annual Remembrance Parade. We also experienced food from Uganda, when Georgina and Tony hosted a Ugandan themed night.

We finished off the year with a Scandinavian craft night and had our Christmas Party at Ten Pin Bowling.

At the start of the New Year we did some map reading and started our knotting boards. We also had an Australia and New Zealand themed night where we learned the haka and had a boomerang race.

In February we celebrated Pitsford Scout Group's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday by having a big party with all sections and we enjoyed seeing some old faces. We also completed our road safety badge.

In March we perfected our pancake making skills as well as beginning the Disability Awareness badge by learning sign language and braille, we also played sit down volleyball. We finished the Spring term by having an Easter egg hunt around the Quarry

Congratulations to George Darlington, Archie Corbett, Finley Myles, Emma Buckingham, Cameron Ault, Jack Farebrother, Jemima Hawkins, Edward Mackaness, Charlie O'Neill, and James Wilkins on achieving their Chief Scout Silver Award and moving up to Scouts. As usual I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the Cubs for coming along every week and to all the parents for their support. Another thank you needs to go to Sally, Rebecca, Jas and now Evan for all your support and commitment, I couldn't do it without you, and to Georgina for all your much appreciated help and support.

Vicky Toone Cub Scout Leader



The Scout Section has now reached 20 in number.

We held a night where the Scouts had to set up a camp site using a paper item, which was a good task and interesting answers as to where things were put.

We hiked around Hannington village which was good and Scouts practiced their compass skills.

We had a fun evening at Overstone making a very large swing using pioneering poles and rope, but we ran out of time.

In May the Scouts had a fun night backwoods cooking in a field in Pitsford, joining us were 2 rather large horses, the Scouts made fires, then cooked camp twists and popcorn. Fun had by all!

In June we took 12 Scouts camping at John Lee camp site in Leicestershire, we had a challenging camp, enjoying days out at Conkers and Bradgate country park.

The Scouts all finished their circus skills badge with the help from Leaders from the county bringing different skills and equipment.

We finished the summer term with a wet and wild night with water slide rounders and they all enjoyed getting wet.

We started in September with sorting out their code of conduct and also a three strike rule, all the Scouts were involved in the choosing of the code and three strike rule. We have so far only used the 3 strike rule once.

The Scouts enjoyed the visit of Ian and his fire investigation dog, demonstrating various things they do with the fire service.

We had a night at Overstone backwoods cooking making cake in oranges, some liked it some did not, and toasted sandwiches which were enjoyed by all.

We took the Scouts on a walk round Sywell Country Park for the Geocaching badge and at the end of the evening we invested a Scout on the rope bridge in the play area, which was a challenge in itself.

Scouts had a brilliant time at Boost Trampoline Centre and they would like to go again.

We had a good turnout for the Remembrance Parade with 2 scouts reading a poem in Church which resulted in their receiving the Personal Challenge badge.

We also participated in the Christmas carols on the village green with a good turnout in the cold for the Christmas Tree light switch on.

For the Scouts' end of term treat they went ten pin bowling which they all enjoyed.

In January we took 6 scouts on Brass Monkey camp, in the very cold, all enjoying activities based around the Winter Olympics.

We had a visit at the Pavilion from Tony a reptile keeper who gave an interesting talk on the care of his reptiles which he clearly loves and the Scouts had fun being able to touch everything from snakes to meerkats.

The Scouts have all been working hard towards their Skills Challenge badge with various challenges along the way to include changing a light bulb, wiring a plug, cleaning and mopping, ironing their neckers and folding them. The best night was their supper challenge round the village where they had 4 different venues to go to, at each one they had to do a task to win part of a supper, they all enjoyed doing it and a big thank you goes out to the helpers that night.

The Scouts also completed their Physical Recreation badge with all the exercise they did.

We all had a fun filled night in February celebrating Pitsford Scout Group's 10th birthday. A very interesting quiz was set by a Chilby and all took part. We also enjoyed seeing photos from the last 10 years. A big thank you goes to Evonne, Julie Assistant Scout Leaders and Oliie, and to Georgina for all the support.

Brenda Faulkner Scout Leader



Whilst it seems like only yesterday that we started the Pitsford Explorer Unit, it was four years ago when we first met. Since then we have welcomed new Explorers every year.

A number of young people who came into the unit at 14 years of age have recently left or will be leaving this year.

As Leaders we hope they enjoyed their Explorer experience and that in some small way we were able to 'mentor' them from childhood into adulthood.

We have tried to give them new experiences that both entertain and educate them.

Just some of the memorable events:

A guided tour of Westminster Palace, by our MP Chris Heaton Harris.

A tour of the F1 Force India facility.

A holiday to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg in Switzerland.

A humanitarian trip with Georgina and Tony to the Outspan School project in Uganda.

Fund raising for our community.

An inspirational talk from Chris Plowman on his treks to Everest Base Camp and an Expedition to the Arctic.

Camping at Overstone Scout Activity Centre and a residential at Whitemoor Lakes.

Karting, wall climbing, ice skating, scuba diving, swimming, and hiking.

We will continue with programmes designed to excite and engage our young people.

Our unit has depleted slightly with the loss of so many 'founders' of the Explorer unit but we look forward to welcoming new faces every term.

Whilst Explorers upholds the values and traditions of scouting it is more relaxed and informal, allowing young people to develop and express themselves.

If you are 14 to 18 years old, male or female, and you have not experienced being an Explorer please do not hesitate to contact [geoffyoewart@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffyoewart@btinternet.com) to find out more.

The unit is open to young people from surrounding villages not just Pitsford.

A big thank you to Jess unit assistant and Evonne who covered for me whilst I was unwell in the New Year.

Geoff Yeowart Explorer Scout Leader

## GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

*giftaid it*

My last report referred to all the fundraising that had gone on in the last financial year towards the Explorer trips to Uganda and Kandersteg and the Outspan project to build a new girls' dormitory at Outspan Secondary School. Since the last AGM both trips have taken place and the new dormitory has been finished, painted by those Explorers who went to Uganda and formally opened by them.

As a result this financial year has been a little quieter for the Treasurer although the routine incomings and outgoings give me plenty to do. The Gift Aid claim for the year to 31/3/16 has been made and to the revenue's credit the sum of around £1000 appeared in the Group's bank account within days of the claim being submitted. The amount we are able to claim underlines the importance and benefit to the Group of all who are able to do so completing a Gift Aid form. It has helped us enormously to be able keep subscriptions at the same level since the group opened.

Once again James Bellamy has been kind enough to undertake the scrutiny of the books and preparation of the Accounts and my thanks to him. And a thank you to all the parents who pay the subscriptions, mostly on time, and thus help keep the Group's finances in good shape .

*Tony Miles*

Group Treasurer



*Above: the new dormitory block at Outspan Secondary School (left) and the some of the Outspan Scouts in new uniforms donated by a Scout Group member (right).*



# CHIEF SCOUT AWARD

## ROLL OF HONOUR 2016-2017



### Bronze Award

#### Beaver section

Joshua Carley  
Pip Corbett  
Tom Farebrother  
Mason Gray  
Harry Knights  
Alice Mackaness  
Rowen Myles  
Oliver Stanbridge



### Silver Award

#### Cub Section

Cameron Ault  
Emma Buckingham  
Archie Corbett  
George Darlington  
Jack Farebrother  
Jemima Hawkins  
Edward Mackaness  
Finley Myles  
Charlie O'Neill  
James Wilkins



### Gold Award

#### Scout Section

### Our 10 Year Birthday Cake

