



PITSFORD SCOUT GROUP 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting

30th June 2018





AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Campfire songs
4. Minutes of 2017 AGM
5. Approval of Group Scout Leader Report
6. Approval of reports from Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report and Accounts
8. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of Group Chairman
9. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Executive Committee
10. Campfire songs
11. Election of Officers:
 - a. Group Secretary
 - b. Group Treasurer
12. Appoint a Group Auditor
13. Election of the Group Executive Committee as members of the Group Council
14. Presentation of Chief Scout Awards
15. District Commissioners remarks
16. Group Scout Leaders remarks
17. Chairman's closing remarks
18. Campfire songs
19. Date of next AGM - TBA



Chairman's Report

Welcome, everyone, to the Annual General Meeting of Pitsford Scouts – as we are now known. This is my first AGM as Chairman, and it is just over a year since I received the fateful email from Georgina, “asking” whether I would like to succeed Phil Wintle – to whom I am indebted, for leaving things in such fine order. It has been a fascinating year, with many fabulous achievements, which Georgina and the leaders will outline in their reports. This year, we wanted to make the AGM as inclusive as possible. To misquote Winston Churchill – “less jaw, jaw; more ging-gang-goolie”! I trust we have managed to achieve that with this ending to a (hopefully) warm and sunny day that celebrates everything good about Scouting.

This year's AGM has a very special theme, as we celebrate Georgina's 50 years in Scouting. That's worth saying again – 50 years of selfless dedication and hard work. On behalf of everyone, I would like to formally record our sincere thanks to Georgina for everything she has done (and continues to do) for Pitsford Scouts. It is not just Georgina, of course, who makes the magic happen week in, week out. Our thanks are also, rightly, expressed to all of the leaders, young leaders, assistant leaders and helpers. They all make a massive difference to the lives and futures of our young people.

For those who are relatively new to Pitsford Scouts, the AGM has always been a great time to showcase the diverse range of activities offered to our young people, and I hope that the content of the reports – available at www.pitsfordscouts.com - will help inspire everyone to progress through the sections, and maybe consider becoming a young leader themselves in the future. These skills, learned through the sections, are invaluable life skills. I have seen Scouts use their experiences to great effect when trying to convince prospective employers of their potential.

The AGM is an important moment in the scouting year, as it reminds us all that Pitsford Scouts is so much more than just a place to drop our children off for an evening. A Scout group is a community and is part of the worldwide Family of Scouts. Everyone of us is a part of this family – whether we were Scouts in our younger years, or not. It is therefore so important that we gather, for just a short while, so that everyone in our family knows how well Pitsford Scouts are doing. I know, from conversations with other Scout leaders, that not all are as fortunate as we are.

A final word of thanks goes to our Executive Committee. Many may not know what this group does, but these are the enablers for the group. The Exec is charged, not with providing the content – as that is for the leaders – but with providing the resources to allow the leaders to put on such a splendid programme. The Exec, which includes parent representatives for each section, and community representatives, also provides a healthy check and challenge to the leaders, of behalf of all of us. This year, we have seen a long-standing member of the committee step down – Rev. Stephen Trott has been a steadfast friend to Pitsford Scouts through all of the last 10 years, and I would like to end with my formal and sincere thanks to Stephen for all he has done for us.

Here's to a great night, and a fantastic 2018/19 programme. It is said every year, and I make no apologies for repeating – if you can contribute any of your time – as a leader, helper or assistant, to assist with events, or just have an interesting skill or occupation that would enliven a cold, wet evening next February, please do let Georgina know, as I'm sure you will be put to good use!

I hope you enjoy the evening

Adrian Palmer

Chair



Group Scout Leaders Report

The highlight of summer 2017 was our Group 10th birthday outing to Wicksteed Park. This was attended by the majority of the group and we all had a great day.

In recognition of the Group's involvement in the village annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service we were invited to become affiliated to The Pitsford branch of the Royal British Legion which we have done. The Legion have been very supportive of the Group since we opened.

In January, we unfortunately had a reduction in numbers but this has soon been rectified during the year. Very sadly Evonne, a brilliant Scout Leader, has moved to Finedon and is starting up a Troop there which is in need of her enthusiasm and adventurous spirit. We will miss you Evonne, but I hope she will continue to help us occasionally with the camps.

Tony and I have made another visit to Outspan School, Bwaise, Uganda with three other Scout Leaders from Northampton and Spratton. The visit was as ever rewarding and we achieved the momentous task of raising £12,000 to pay for an additional piece of land near to the Primary School so that the pupils have a sports area. The report is enclosed in the AGM report. This could not have happened without your support, support from my family, friends and generous grant making trusts.

The Group would not be so successful if it was not for the dedication of all my Leaders who provide and run such exciting activities week in and week out for the Young people. However, I would appeal for some more Leaders, they are needed in most of the sections, and for a Group Secretary. This is a voluntary position open to anyone over 18 years of age who is happy to have a DBS check. It is very rewarding and really beneficial for ones C.V. It is rewarding and fun otherwise I would not be here after 50 years of Scouting!

A huge thank you to the Executive Committee for all their continuing support and especially to Adrian the Chair and Tony the Treasurer, who keeps an eye on the finances which is a huge role, and to all the Leaders for their dedication to their sections. We have a great team and do help one another but we do need more help PLEASE

Georgina Miles Group Scout Leader.

I am sorry to report that Geoff Yeoward, Explorer Scout Leader, has resigned, another role to fill I am afraid.

Georgina Miles GSL



We started the Spring term with the St George's Day Parade. We had an excellent turn out with Tom carrying the flag and ended at the Griffin for a BBQ. We saw many Beavers at the May Day village fete but we only had a small turn out to the AGM. This term we have gained our Navigator badge, by drawing maps of where the Beavers live, learning how to read a compass and map symbols. The Beavers thoroughly enjoyed building bug hotels, quite a lot of competition between lodges to build the biggest and best!! They have survived well and have quite a lot of bugs which the Beavers love going back week after week to look at. We have also been learning 3 different knots, and pioneering which the Beavers loved and did an excellent job of building washing bowl stands.

The highlight for me and the Beavers this term had to be the sleepover. We had an American Indian theme with a treasure hunt to find items to later make dream catchers, fire lighting, tracking, and the bouldering wall and challenge course. There was also some tent pitching tepee making, various games and a very loud camp fire with smores. The Beavers gained their night's away stage 1 badge, camp craft and outdoor activity badges.

We ended the term gaining the cyclist badge, with the help from Kettering cyclones cycling club, learning bike safety, repairing a puncture and a small bike ride. Also, the wet and wild evening which always goes down well.

I was really pleased that Harvey has decided to stay as an Explorer Scout Young Leader having completed his D of E volunteer section – he is a great help and the Beavers really like him.

We have started the Autumn term working on our creative badge, making leaf insects and drawing our own super heroes. We have also earned our Experiment badge in a sublime science evening, which they loved and didn't mind when things didn't always go to plan!! – the more mess the better. The Beavers made crispy cakes and decorated fairy cakes to donate to the Cubs' Macmillan's coffee event. We finished this half term making masks for the Explorer Halloween party. We enjoyed an amazing Halloween party – a big thanks to the Explorers. We made some glittery Christmas Xmas crafts and some robin Christmas cards. We ended the term with a fun Christmas party finishing the evening with a visit from Father Christmas. One of our Beavers switched on the Christmas tree lights at the Village carol and light switch on evening.

We started back in the New Year with a visit from the District Youth Commissioner; Joyce came in to talk to the Beavers about badges. We have run 2 sessions on Emergency Aid with the help of a nurse to gain our badge. We also cooked pancakes on stoves for Shrove Tuesday. We had a hobbies and collectors evening to gain those badges and finally a board games evening. For Mother's Day we planted daffodils and decorated the pots. We visited Gallones Ice cream parlour which was a huge hit. We ended the term with a film night organized by the Scouts, everyone loved Paddington, and an Easter egg hunt.

Oscar has joined us as part of his D of E and is proving to be a great asset.

We started back after Easter with a great turn out for the St Georges Day parade – Imi was so proud and thrilled to carry the flag for us. We worked towards our Experimental badge by creating miniature rainforests and our Pets Awareness badge by visiting Pets at Home, where the Beavers enjoyed holding the different animals. We finished this half term with a blind fold trail in the quarry, which was excellent for teamwork and trust.

The highlight of this term has to be the sleepover at Overstone. 17 Beavers in total enjoyed a Teddy Bears picnic theme. Activities included the Bouldering wall, Challenge Course, tracking, fire lighting and tent pitching and finally a camp sing song and smores with the Cubs. Everyone had an amazing day and went home very happy and tired.

We are looking forward to the Group day on the 30th.

Nicola Cebak, Beaver Scout Leader



We currently have 20 Cubs and have, as always had the support of Rebecca (Rama), Jas (Raksha) our Assistant Cub Leaders, Sally (Hathi) our Pack Assistant and Evan our Young Leader. Once again, we have had a busy and fun packed year and the cubs have earned numerous badges such as Teamwork, Our World, Global Issues and Our Skills.

In April we had our annual St George's Parade and practised our pioneering skills and made knotting boards.

During the summer we had a guided tour around the nearly complete Delapre Abbey. We also had a trip through the decades at our 100-year Cub Camp at Overstone.

We had another Camp, the theme was Space, at John Lowther Centre with Cubs from Daventry District. We also built dens in aid of Save the Children, raising nearly £230 and had a rounders night and a bug hunt and hike around Brixworth Country Park.

We hiked through the Great Oxendon Tunnel and joined the Beavers and Scouts at Wicksteed Park to celebrate 10 years of Pitsford Scout Group. We finished the term with the wet and wild night.

In August, we joined the Scouts at our Water Activities and Sailing day at Pitsford Reservoir.

For the start of the new term in September we celebrated World Peace Day and learnt about healthy eating.

During the Autumn, we had another successful Macmillan Coffee evening and enjoyed roller skating at Benham. We also helped save the world by making machines out of recycled materials.

The Explorers organised a Halloween party with the Beavers and Scouts and did a great job in ensuring everyone had an enjoyable time. We also celebrated James Bond's Birthday by having a Spy Night learning about codes and communications. We all took part in the annual Remembrance Parade and service at Pitsford Church. We played the Cub's favourite game Commandos which is always a good night and finished the Christmas term with ten pin bowling and a meal at Pizza Hut.

We started the New Year learning about the world's different religions and did a silent night with (almost) no talking. In February, we had our pancake night and celebrated the year of the Rooster for Chinese New Year.

In March, we learnt about influential and powerful women from all around the world for International Women's Day, which tied in with celebrating our own mums for Mother's Day. For St Patrick's Day we made our speciality "Cub Guinness" and learnt some Irish Dancing. We also enjoyed popcorn and Paddington with the Beavers for our film night.

Congratulations to Samuel Palmer and Jessica Butcher for working hard and earning their Silver Chief Scout Awards.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the Cubs for coming along and to all your parents for their continued support.

Another big THANK YOU goes to my leaders Sally, Rebecca, Jas and Evan for all your help and support and to Georgina, our GSL for your continued support., I couldn't do it without you, and to Georgina for all your much-appreciated help and support.

Vicky Toone, Cub Scout Leader.



We now have 22 Scouts 2 Leaders and 1 Occasional Helper

We have been working towards the Outdoor Challenge badge for all Scouts with tent pitching and backwoods cooking at Overstone cooking cake in oranges. Some enjoyed some didn't.

We took 12 Scouts on a hike and overnight stay at the Dutch shelters at Fineshade Woods near Corby. All enjoyed seeing how many Scouts we can get in a hollow tree and investing 3 Scouts up a tree.

For a pioneering task the Scouts went looking for sticks in the quarry and then made washing up and draining board stands with some help with the lashing. But all held water.

The Scouts have had fun designing/showing how they would set up a camp with the Leaders tents not always in the nicest places.

Most Scouts had a good try at using saws, axes and knives learning safety and the proper use of them.

At Pitsford Reservoir the Scouts had fun making shelters, and seeing if the whole patrol can fit in them.

We had a good Japanese night learning some of the language, making sushi and trying green tea. There was some very good sushi made and all enjoyed making and eating it.

We finished the summer term off with a wet and wild night with paddling pool rounders, mop hockey and sliding on the long plastic

We took 12 Scouts to Wells-next-the-Sea scout hut for a fab few days summer camp enjoying crabbing, a boat trip to see the seals and a dinner challenge with the Scouts having £6.00 a patrol to spend on food to cook dinner for themselves and then time on Sheringham beach. We hiked to Holkham Hall and then onto the beach finishing at Wells-next-the-Sea and more crabbing and time on the beach. We all enjoyed the good weather.

When we came back after the summer break we had an American themed evening, followed by a visit to Gallones ice cream parlour, finding out a bit about the company, how ice cream is made and finishing off with an ice cream each.

We took 10 Scouts to Spotley Wood for a zombie themed camp with some weird and wonderful games and challenges finishing off with an investiture of 1 Scout.

We had an evening hike around Brixworth with it lasting a lot longer than we thought, with Scouts orienteering the way.

One team took part in the District Star Trek challenge with our team doing this for the first time and really pleased that they came 3rd in the competition. Well done to all of them as it was their first time finishing in the dark at 3 a.m.

The Explorers put on a really good Halloween party for all sections finishing off with the Scouts, with fabulous decorations and games. We went on a visit the Buddhist Centre learning about one of the ceremonies and doing some meditation, a very relaxing time/ We finished with our Christmas treat, a visit to Pinnacle Climbing Centre with the Scouts climbing and caving.

We have an interesting St Andrew's night with the Scouts and the Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts came along to join in with a Scottish quiz with some interesting results and all trying neaps and tatties with haggis which quite a few enjoyed.

We took 9 Scouts to Walesby Winter Scout Camp with the Scouts trying various activities and putting up with the very windy conditions. We are heading back there for an international camp in the summer.

The Scouts have been working towards their Fundraising badge making piñata, making sweets and cookies to sell, and have all written letters to Outspan School in Uganda which Georgina took with her when she went in March and returned with replies. The Scouts always enjoy hearing about the lives of other people from another country

I would like to thank Evonne and Julie (Chilby) for their invaluable help and planning the events and Ollie when he can. We are all very sorry to lose Evonne but she has moved to Finedon and wants to restart a Scout Troop there. Finedon's gain! We need another Leader as the Troop is getting quite large in numbers so please if you feel you could assist then come and talk to me

Brenda Faulkner, Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

Numbers dropped at the end of last year as Explorers reached 18 and had to leave. This is a great shame as some of them would love to have stayed on.

We now have officially 8 Explorers, (five male and three female).

We have three new members since the last AGM.

Our aim is to mentor the Explorers from childhood

into adulthood and we continue to seek out events and ideas to challenge and inspire them.

It is amazing to see how these young people blossom in the four years that they attend Explorers. Very few leave before they are eighteen.

Our activities cover community, fund raising, outdoor pursuits, hobbies and many other subjects.

In the last twelve months they have cooked, undertaken a clothes collection to raise money for Uganda, organised and run a Halloween party for the whole of the Pitsford Scout Group, helped repaint the interior walls of the sports field pavilion.

They have been introduced to model aircraft making and flying.

They've been ten pin bowling and trampolining.

They have eaten pizzas and burgers., they have been to fright night, they have made cakes for a charity event and much more.

A number of the Explorers turned out for the St Georges Parade and carried the St Georges, the Union and the Explorer flags.

The spirit within Explorers is very good and they thrive on the informality and the freedom to arrange the things they want to do. A big thank you to Jess Burrows Unit Assistant who attends every week

Geoff Yeowart, Explorer Scout Leader

Unfortunately, since writing this report Geoff has resigned as Explorer Scout leader.

Outspan School Kampala Uganda



This is the area of land that we purchased

I have been supporting and visiting Outspan School in the shanty town of Bwaise just outside Kampala for 21 years. Last year we heard that a piece of land adjacent to the school was up for sale. We decided that this was important for the pupils to be able to play on and to use as a sports area as this was lacking within their school area. It was too good an opportunity to miss.

With the generosity of family, friends, fundraising events and three grant making trusts we managed to raise £12,000 which we took out with us on our last visit in March.



Some happy little children in the play area

The transaction with our money was quite an experience with several hours standing in the bank whilst the cash was counted and re-counted, any marked notes rejected and Tony's identity verified. All was well – eventually!

Tony dealt with the legal side of things. The legal completion took place at the Vendor's house with neighbours and local councillors from Bwaise present as is the custom there.



George and George (a teacher) painting the Secondary School Library

The most rewarding moment was when the Head Teacher told the pupils that the land had been purchased, there was clapping and cheering all round, but for me the happiest moment was when I saw the pupils playing on the land.

Whilst we are visiting we do not sit still. We painted two Libraries one at the Primary School and one at the Secondary School.

pupils. A new borehole is needed.

Around twenty pupils have to walk to the pump three times a day to collect the water in these yellow jerry cans for washing and cooking.

Georgina Miles

Next time we go we need to help raise funds to improve the Secondary School water supply as the existing water supply is inadequate for the number of



A photo of the village pump near to the school.



GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

giftaid it

It has been another busy year in the Treasurer's Department of Pitsford Scout Group. In addition to subscriptions there have been numerous camps and activities all involving payments of differing amounts to keep the Treasurer busy. My admiration goes out to the Leaders who organise and run all these events and my thanks go out to the parents who, almost always, pay promptly. I am sure that parents have as much difficulty as I sometimes do in keeping up with the paperwork and payments and if I occasionally mislead the GSL by saying that a payment has not been made when it has resulting in a chasing email my apologies to the parents concerned.

The Group's finances remain in a healthy state and our annual Gift Aid claim was made realising just over £1000. As long as all those parents who are taxpayers and therefore able to sign a Gift Aid form do so we are able to keep Group subscriptions at their present level. They have not risen since the Group opened 11 years ago.

The accounts show a substantial amount for fundraising as 2018 saw another visit to Outspan School in Uganda and a successful project to purchase some additional land for the Nursery and Primary School as a sport and play area. As always our GSL, or Namirembe as she is known at Outspan, worked tirelessly to ensure that the fundraising target was met. Many thanks to those who contributed in any way, it is genuinely appreciated by Outspan and the reaction of the children on learning that the extra land had been purchased was something special to see.

Our books have been scrutinised and the Accounts prepared once again by James Bellamy and my thanks to him.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that Georgina completes 50 years of Scouting in 2018 which is a tremendous achievement. I perhaps know better than anyone just how much time and effort this has involved and I hope that I have done just a little to help, and not hinder, over those 50 years.

Tony Miles

Group Treasurer

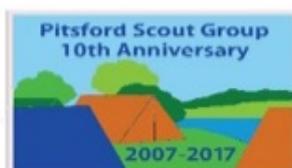
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful thanks for the support from:

- Pitsford Royal British Legion
 - Blue Skies Holdings
 - Wintle plumbing
 - Billing Finance Donation to Outspan School Uganda
 - The Frederick and Phyllis Cann Trust Grant received for Outspan School Uganda
 - The Phillips Charitable Trust Grant received for Outspan School Uganda
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TO OUR
ADVENTURE...**



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