



PITSFORD SCOUT GROUP 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting

11 June 2020



Chairman's Report

Two years ago, we held the AGM at Overstone, as part of a day of activities for all sections. At that time, we referred to an AGM with a difference. We thought about doing something different again this year – if only we'd known!

At the time of writing, HM Government have just announced the first relaxation of the lockdown. Fingers crossed that it works, and that we can begin to look forward to when we can resume some form of Scouting activity.

In the meantime, there are formalities which must be attended to, such as an AGM in some format. We are all members of Pitsford Scouts and all have a vested interest in where we are, and the road ahead. Notwithstanding the current situation, there has been the usual myriad of well planned and creatively executed content for our young people during the last 12 months, and the Leaders, Assistants and helpers have continued to put their all into every aspect of the group's work. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the efforts and sacrifices that they make week in, week out, for our children.

The coming months will continue to be a challenge for all of us, and here will the gaps to be filled left by camps and other activities which had been planned and can no longer proceed. All we can do is stay safe, cherish our loved ones, and look forward to the time when we can all meet again. And if by then you find you have enjoyed home schooling so much, that you fancy a new challenge – please get in touch. Our Leaders will welcome all of the creative ideas and support you can offer!

Stay safe

Adrian Palmer, Group Chair

Group Scout Leaders Report 2020

I am sitting in the garden writing this report whilst we are in lockdown due to Covid-19. We had to end our meetings suddenly after 12th March and it looks doubtful that we will resume before the summer term ends. It is a surreal situation nothing like this has ever happened before in our lifetime. It makes one realise what we miss in our everyday lives and I know I speak for all the Leaders we miss each and every one of you every day!

I am reflecting on this last year and some of the memorable events that I have so enjoyed being part of and seeing the Young people getting so much out of the activities that the Leaders plan for them. In May 2019 the Beavers had a great sleepover at Overstone to the theme of Roald Dahl and his adventures and all the Beavers wholeheartedly took part in the theme with great enthusiasm. The Cubs were also camping at Overstone and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves in a 'free' outdoor space

I enjoyed being at Holcot to witness the Scouts Investiture after their hike from Pitsford, and at their cooking session for Northampton's Night Shelter. The Scouts cooked a two-course meal of cottage pies and fruit crumbles which was then taken to the Shelter and greatly appreciated. It was amazing to see how well they did in the short time they had.

Pitsford Village were very pleased to see that the Scouts helped clear an area for bulbs and wild flowers in Pudding Bag Lane. It looked very pretty in the weeks that followed and I received several favourable comments on how lovely the lane looked.

At the AGM in July we saw three Scouts Daniel, Isabel and Amelia being presented with their Chief Scouts Gold Award which is the highest Award in the Scout section and equated quite closely to the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. Well done.

On the last night of the summer term we all got together as a group at Brixworth Country Park for some teamwork and games which everyone enjoyed. The Scout Summer camp was held at Brownsea Island and Tony and I joined the Scouts on one of the days. It is a very special place where Robert Baden Powell held his first Scout camp.

A group of us who helped plant saplings donated by the Woodland Trust and daffodils donated by some residents along the wall of the Sportsfield in November. I am pleased to say that the daffodils flowered beautifully, and the trees are showing signs of life.

Another lovely memory was a joint night of the Cubs and Scouts in February at Overstone. We all built and lit fires, they made dampers and had smores at the end. There was great teamwork by everyone, we should do more evening like this.

The church parades we take part in St Georges' Day and Remembrance Sunday are always something that I take great pride in and find them quite emotional it is always gratifying to see the Scout Group coming together with flags waving and the band accompanying us when they can. Thank you to everyone who supports these events. Reverend Stephen Trott really loves to see us all fill the Church.

I would like to thank my Chairman Adrian and all the Executive Committee for their support and guidance. A big thank you to my Leadership team who are so supportive and give up so much of their time to prepare exciting programmes for your young people to enjoy. Congratulations to Rebecca Brightwell ACSL on her appointment as a County Youth Commissioner, we all hope she enjoys the role. Rebecca comes to Cubs when she can, Sue her mother has kindly stepped in to help Vicky as an ACSL. Sue was a Scout Leader at Whitehills some years ago, thank you Sue we are pleased to have you and to Sue McTaggart who also has years of experience, who is helping Brenda as an ASL. If anyone wants to know anything about D of E then ask Sue!

It is also very heartening to have our older Scouts return to help us as Young Leaders, either as Explorer Scouts or doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, their help is invaluable. We hope beyond hope that we see you all in soon!

Georgina Miles, Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

During the Summer Term 2019 the Beaver Scouts had a sleepover at Overstone Scout campsite to the Roald Dahl theme which was greatly enjoyed by everyone attending and also completed the Health and Fitness Badge, making fruit kebabs enjoying evenings outside, and completing sporting activities making full use of the sports field. The Beavers also completed their very own "Tour de Pitsford" to achieve their cyclist badge. The last meeting of the term saw the Beavers enjoying a game of rounders with the Cub scouts at Brixworth Country Park.

We started the autumn term by raising money for Jeans for Genes. The Beavers wore their jeans to the meeting and we played games and discussed the charity and who they helped; the Beavers took great interest in this.

The term also saw the Beavers given the opportunity to complete a great number of badges, they enjoyed cooking in their lodges and made some savoury and sweet treats to share with the other lodges.

The completion of the space badge included lots of fun and games which helped increase their knowledge of the subject.

Air Activities Stage One was a huge hit, with activities spread over several meetings, the beavers were able to complete the badge in great depth and met a pilot who helped us set up our very own airport and aeroplane ride.

We ended the half term at Gallone's Ice Cream Parlour, the Beaver's enjoyed a tour of the factory and an ice cream of their choice at the end of the evening.

We had our very own indoor bonfire party to celebrate bonfire night, we sang campfire songs and enjoyed hot chocolate and smores around our indoor bonfire.

There was a fantastic turn out in numbers from the Beaver section at the Remembrance parade, and all who attended impressed us with their excellent behaviour.

The Beavers enjoyed an evening at Pinnacle Climbing centre where we saw Ned invested from halfway up the climbing wall. It showed great perseverance of such young people to climb to the top

The behaviour within the colony remains excellent, the respect in which the young people have towards their peers, leaders and other adults is incredible.

The Beavers continue to sign "good evening" as we do the register each meeting, even the new members of the colony join in with this now.

As we headed into 2020, the Beaver scouts completed their safety badge, they worked so hard making posters and completing a quiz within their lodges as well as acting out some scenes regarding water safety, it appears that the colony love to perform and it's great to see their individual personalities as well as seeing their confidence grow. As part of our music night the Beaver's learnt how to sign a song – their interest in signing continues and they appeared to thoroughly enjoy learning to sign a song – they also had the opportunity to perform this to Irene (District Commissioner) and Patrick (Deputy District Commissioner)

I am extremely proud of Toby, Olivia, Vivienne, Ava and Amelie who achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award, the highest Award in the Beaver Section which they worked so hard for, before they moved to Cubs

they made great team leaders within the colony and the support they showed towards new members of the colony was incredible. They are missed greatly within the Beaver section but I'm so pleased to hear they are doing so well in Cubs.

I had arranged for a visit Boost Trampoline Centre but due to the Covid -19 lockdown, it was postponed. I plan to ensure that Boost is one of the first places we visit as a section when it is safe to do so.

The feedback from the parents is great, I really appreciate the positive comments and emails regarding the Beaver section. I feel the Beavers are happy within themselves whilst they attend the meetings and it is so great to see them thrive and watch their confidence grow.

The Beaver section is desperate for support regarding leaders and adult help, with my work commitments getting greater the Beaver section requires a strong team to ensure the young people continue to get the most out of scouting and remain to have such fun filled evenings.

Kathy resigned as an Occasional Helper and Charlie who is an Explorer Scout Young Leader has had to leave temporarily due to her GCSES and both of them are missed greatly within the section. Sue and Sally have stepped in to help where needed and I can't thank them enough for their support and help. Ami, an occasional helper has always stepped in to help the section where she can and her support is second to none.

Penny who is a Section Assistant continues to do an amazing job in supporting myself within the Beaver section, she gives so much time to the colony and we all appreciate everything she does. We are pleased to have Amelia to help us too ,Amelia is doing her Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme service but as the section is growing we really do another adult leader to assist us so please if you can help or anyone you know then please get in touch with Georgina

Jessica Burrows, Beaver Scout Leader



cubs

We held our first sixer/seconder camp at Spotley Woods in April 2019. Sixers are the Leaders of their 'six' and the seconder is the 'deputy'. They camped in the woods, cooked their food in cardboard ovens and had a stretcher race. We started the summer term with our St George's Parade during which Fred, Pip and Rowen were presented their Chief Scout Silver Awards, the highest award in the Cub section by Patrick Richardson Assistant District Commissioner.

During the summer term we had our 'out of this world' space themed camp, the Cubs made models of the solar system and gained their astronomer's badge. We participated in a litter pick around the quarry for SNAPP, (Scouts Northamptonshire Avoiding Plastic Pollution) filling up nearly 3 bin bags. We had a den building night and discovered our inner Robin Hoods when we had an archery session at John Lowther Activity Centre. In July we joined other cubs from Daventry District at Cosgrove for the District Cub camp, the Cubs had a great time caving, pioneering and rifle shooting. We then ended the summer term with a group night at Brixworth Country Park. In August we joined the Scouts at our annual Water Activity day at Northampton Sailing Club where they learnt new skills on the water.

In the autumn term we were joined by Sophie who is an Explorer Scout Young Leader. We took part with Harry and Callum at the District Sixer Camp in Overstone. During the term we had a human hungry hippos night thanks to NAYC, which was fantastic. We continued our work with SNAPP and made machines out of recycled materials. We had a night playing sit down volleyball for our disability awareness badge. Our Halloween night was Day of the Dead themed, so we decorated sugar skulls and had a piñata. In November we learnt about Divali. We also played the Cub's favourite game, Commandos. We then made and decorated Christmas cakes. The term ended at Sixfields with a Christmas treat of bowling and pizza.

In January, Sue, Rebecca's mother, joined us an Assistant Cub Scout Leader, you might recognise her from our various camps, and she has lots of experience and is a fantastic addition to our team. In the Spring Term at our Investiture evening Eve, Imi and Harry were presented their Silver Chief Scout Awards by Irene Lockley the District Commissioner. We invited a guest, Lana to come in to tell us all about the Chinese New Year and we made fortune cookies and tried pork dumplings. In February we had a night with the Scouts at Overstone, making dampers and practising our fire skills. It was great fun and good teamwork. We celebrated World Book Day in March with characters like Miss Trunchbull and Fantastic Mr Fox where the Cubs worked towards both their artist and book readers badge. We also had our annual pancake night, with a lot of sugar (sorry parents!). We had a knotting night, where the Cubs practised different knots, with rope as well as strawberry laces. We even had a go at a human knot.

Sadly we had to stop our face to face meetings due to Covid-19 lockdown, but that hasn't stopped the Cubs doing activities towards badges. We even held our first ever 'virtual sixer and seconder camp'. The Cubs did the activities they would have done on the camp with the theme of the Jungle Book, they made a den, had a quiz, made animal masks and cooked a meal as well as campfire singing. We are planning the same for our camp in May, with hopefully all the Cubs joining in.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Cubs for joining in, especially in these difficult times, your enthusiasm is fantastic to see. Thank you also to your parents for all your support. BIG thank you to my Leaders Jas (Raksha), Rebecca (Rama), Sue (Kaa) and Sophie Explorer Scout Young Leader for all your amazing ideas, help and support. Lastly thank you to Georgina for all your help and support through the past year.

Vicky Toone, Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

In April 2019 four Scouts Daniel, Archie, Isabel and Raya took part in their Expedition Challenge badge , planning and completing a two day hike and camp. They walked to Cosgrove Scout campsite and then walked back by the canal path to Stoke Bruerne. All four carried out the Challenge very well especially as they have to carry all their kit for the duration of the Expedition. The annual St George's Day Parade and service was very well supported, thank you to everyone who supported it.

Sue McTaggart joined me as an Assistant Scout Leader, Sue is a very experienced Scout leader .Thank you Sue.

The Scouts have been undertaking some community work in and around the village with preparing and cooking two main meals, cottage pie, a vegetarian meal and puddings for the homeless shelter, which were all gratefully received later that evening. On another night they undertook a job clearing weeds and planting new plants on the edge of a path in the village which they did extremely well and they have also been working towards their SNAPP (Scouts Northamptonshire Avoiding Plastic Pollution) a county initiative and badge and carried out a litter pick and talked about plastics pollution.

The Scouts participated in the Northampton trail round the town centre finding out about different places of historic interest around the area.

We went on a hike from Pitsford to Holcot participating in a scavenger hunt along the way and at the end I invested two Scouts into the Troop.

Sadly we said goodbye to Nicola Ceback Assistant Scout Leader as Amelia has now left the Troop to pursue her cycling career. Good Luck Amelia and thank you Nicola .We also said goodbye to six Scouts who had reached the age of 14+ .It is always sad to see our older Scouts leave but we hope they continue Scouting and maybe return to assist us.

In the Summer holidays Sue, Evonne, Chris and Keith came with us to take twelve Scouts from Pitsford, Spratton and Finedon for our summer camp to Brownsea Island in August, Graham and Carol joined us on Saturday and we all went canoeing on the sea which we enjoyed and we took part in various activities that Robert Baden Powell did on his first Scout camp there in 1907 which included carrying out some community service of litter picking, tent peg collecting and collecting kindling to help the wardens on site. We had lovely sunny weather for all the camp and enjoyed the various types of wildlife in and around the campsite.

In August some of the Scouts took part in the annual Water Activity day at Northampton Sailing Club which they always enjoy and gained their Water Activities badge and it was good teamwork with the Cubs. The autumn term started off with a Jeans for Genes fundraising evening followed by covering the Global issues badge.

The wet autumn and high winds meant we had to cancel a cooking night at Overstone and a camp at Spotley campsite which was very disappointing and Star Trek which is a popular District event was also cancelled.

Thank you again to all the Scouts who supported us for our annual Remembrance Parade and Church Service and for the duties they performed so well.

The Scouts had a brilliant time karting for their end of term treat at Christmas. Some of the Scouts were very unsure about taking part but ended up enjoying it. A first for many of them but they all did really well.

We were very pleased that Archie was chosen to read a lesson at the Nine Lessons and Carols service at Pitsford Church. Well done Archie

We started 2020 with work for their model making badge, and had a couple of evenings making and painting War Hammer models and the Scouts have also gained their fire safety badge on another evening doing tasks.

We had a joint evening with Cubs at Overstone Scout campsite with fire building and cooking dampers which everyone enjoyed, ending with the investiture of two Scouts into the Troop.

The Scouts finished of their World Challenge badge with a nurse coming in to talk about different illness that you can contract when travelling to different countries, and we talked about Malaria, Ebola and Coronavirus. To follow up the Scouts made flags and held a Commonwealth games evening with a wide range of fun games.

We ended our term earlier than expected due to the Coronavirus lockdown in the country Currently we have eighteen Scouts with Sue and myself as Leaders. I would like thank Sue for all her help and support and I am pleased that the behaviour in Scouts has markedly improved, thank you Scouts.

We don't yet know when we will be meeting again but I have sent badge work out for the Scouts to do whilst we are unable to meet.

Brenda Faulkner, Scout Leader



GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

Under normal circumstances an AGM report is a look back at what has happened in the previous 12 months but these are not normal times and I want to take this opportunity to look ahead as well.

During the last 12 months the Group's financial position has remained sound , Gift Aid has been claimed (two years' worth as promised in last year's report), subscriptions have been received – largely on time thank you – Capitation was paid on time and we have been able to meet all our outgoings without recourse to our reserves. All looked financially healthy. And then along came Covid 19 and our financial position going forward looks very different.

The Group Executive do not feel that it would be right to ask parents to pay subscriptions whilst we are unable to hold face-to-face meetings although Leaders have and will continue to organise online activities for the young people. We are fortunate in that we do not have too many ongoing or fixed costs that we have to meet during the lockdown. As a Group we are also in the very fortunate position of having reserves which many Groups do not.

In March 2021 when Capitation falls due we will without question need to use a substantial part of our reserves to meet that payment. It has been indicated to us that our Capitation payment for 2021 will be very similar to this year, in the region of £3000. Our current reserves are more than double that figure and will therefore enable us to make the payment when it falls due whatever income we may receive in the meantime.

It will however mean that in 12 months' time I will be reporting on a rather different financial position particularly as we do not know when normal Scouting will resume and with it our income source. I am nevertheless confident that financially the Group can and will survive this crisis.

My thanks as always to James Bellamy for preparing and scrutinising our accounts, which this year he has fitted around the many hours that he has given up to organise a Food Bank for the homeless and those in need. The Group has made a donation as a small thank you and our front drive has become a collection point for food donations.

Tony Miles, Group Treasurer

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CHIEF SCOUT AWARD ROLL OF HONOUR 2019-2020



Bronze Award

Beaver section

Toby Wadsworth

Olivia Passchier

Vivienne Whitbread

Ava Thompson

Amelia Wells



Silver Award

Cub Section

Pip Corbett

Harry Knights

WELCOME TO OUR ADVENTURE...

