



**PITSFORD SCOUT GROUP
2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual General Meeting

07 July 2022





Agenda for the Annual General Meeting for Pitsford Scout Group 2022
Thursday 7th July 6.30pm
at
Pitsford sports field

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2021 AGM
4. Approval of Group Scout Leaders Report
5. Approval of Treasurer's Report and Accounts
6. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of Group Chair
7. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Executive Committee
8. Election of Officers:
 - a. Group Secretary
 - b. Group Treasurer
9. Appoint a Group Auditor
10. Election of the Group Executive Committee as members of the Group Council
11. Comments by the District Commissioner
12. Closing Remarks – Chair
13. Date of the next AGM tba

CHAIR'S REPORT

What a difference a year makes!

At the start of the 2021-22 reporting year meetings were still a hybrid mix across Teams and some in person meetings with strict controls, but the leaders continued their groups with rigorously planned covid safe activities within the permitted regulations. Then with the lifting of all restrictions on Scouting in September it has been a privilege to see all the groups thriving on being able to spend time together and the youngsters fully re-engage with scouting. The number of investitures says it all!

It never ceases to amaze me the fantastic programmes of activities that Georgina and her leaders put together across all the sections. Scouting is all about new challenges, adventures, teamwork and fun (Oh - and mud!) and our young people definitely have that in abundance with Pitsford Scout Group. Therefore, a massive thank you must go to Georgina, all the leaders, volunteers and those behind the scenes for their continued work and support for the group. If you feel you would like to be involved, or have a specific skill or talent to offer, please do get in touch you will be most welcome.

Please take time to browse through the Facebook page over the summer as it is a great record of all the activities undertaken. On behalf of the Executive committee, I thank you all for attending tonight and wish you all a very happy and enjoyable summer.

Janet Wilkins, Group Chair

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2022

How refreshing it is to feel 'normal' again. It's been a long two years for everyone.

Our section meetings were allowed to return again at the end of March 21 face to face outside in small groups. The Cub section were the first to return which meant that we had a rolling programme over two weeks. In June we were all allowed to meet again outside but in late July we could resume indoors which meant that in September when we restarted after the summer break, we felt we could be 'normal'; but taking care of hygiene. Covid was and still is around and quite a few members including Leaders went down with it.

However, we now feel we can get on with organising our programme and look forward to summer camps in 2022.

We do need more Leaders though especially in the Beaver Scout section and the Scout section. If any of you feel you could help us or know of anyone who might like the challenge, then please get in touch with me. These young people love coming to the meetings and the Leaders put a great amount of time and work into organising an interesting programme. Thank you to all the leaders, Executive Committee and parents for keeping the Group going in what has been testing times.

Georgina Miles, Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

We started back after Easter, with half the Colony meeting on alternate weeks due to the Covid restrictions. We had a treasure hunt round the sports field then den building was the next activity which the Beavers always love and do a great job. We then had a tracking event round the quarry, taking it in turns to lay the track and follow it. On another week we had an obstacle course / sports evening.



After half term we did a leaf collection and identification, the Beavers found lots of different types of leaves. We then made father's day's cards which looked lovely. Claire (Squirrel) was ideally suited to teach the Beavers about France and we learnt a French song and played French school games to gain our international badge. We ended the term with a campfire eve and then the AGM with lots of fun games.

In September we were allowed to all meet as one Colony and indoors and started the term introducing some more new Beavers we all participated in getting to know you games. Then making the most of the light evening we did a hike round the quarry with a match box challenge. To gain our space badge, the Beavers learnt about planets and constellations and made some colourful planet models. We went to the village hall where we could use the ovens and made some pitta pizza and cornflakes cakes to gain our cooks badge, as well as learning about kitchen safety. To finish before half term the Beavers bought in a range of collections to show and tell for their collector's badge.

We started after half with a bonfire themed eve – sparklers, smores and campfire songs. We had a good turnout for the Remembrance Day parade, with Edie carrying the flag for the Beavers. The Beavers did some role playing outside and, on the phone, to practice emergency calls, to gain our safety badge. This was completed next term with fire drill practices and water safety activities. We then had a games night which the Beavers enjoyed. We ended the last two weeks of term with Christmas crafts making Christmas garlands. The Christmas party is always a delight with a lot of games and a visit from Father Christmas



We started the New Year with 'getting to know you' games to introduce the new Beavers to the Colony and they learnt the promise and the code of conduct. The junk modelling evening was a huge success, with some great creations being made, and this earned our builder's badge. To celebrate Chinese New Year, we made some beautiful dragons and did some dragon dancing. We made armpit fudge which the Beavers love and always find amusing, we even got to taste it. To gain our disability badge we practiced writing with our toes, blind tasting different foods and ball games only using one hand. To celebrate world book day, we made some fantastic bookmarks and the Beavers talked about their favourite books. One of our Beaver

parents is a paramedic, so to help us gain our emergency aid badge, she came in and talked to the Beavers about her job and what to do in an emergency. The Beavers also learnt the recovery position and how to bandage a wound. The trip to the Pinnacle Climbing Centre was a highlight of the term, with the Beavers having a great time and really getting involved with the activity and conquering their fears. For Mother's Day we made beautiful tulip cards. We ended the term with an egg hunt round the quarry and the beavers taking home an Easter gift.



Congratulations to Brodie Smith and Evie Wadsworth for gaining their Chief Scout Bronze award. My thanks go to Claire Carvallo who has been so supportive and to Amelia Cebak and Samuel Palmer who have been really helpful Young Leaders. We could not do all we achieve without you.

Nicola Cebak, Beaver Scout Leader

cubs

The past year has definitely been a rollercoaster in many ways, and we are so proud of our Cubs past and present for coping with everything so well. Thank you all.

In April we were allowed to restart outside due to Covid with two groups doing the same thing alternative weeks. We started with our annual Easter Egg Hunt and did the heritage trail around Brixworth. We also had a first aid night.

Sadly, in May we could not have our cub camp, due to Covid, but we did have a night of map reading and had our first night altogether in June with a hike through Great Oxendon Tunnel, helping to gain our navigator and local knowledge badges.

We made compass pictures, learnt tent pitching and fire lighting with smores at John Lowther Activity Centre.



We finished the term in July with a game of pioneer basketball where we made the hoops ourselves and, of course our AGM, where we had a games night with orienteering and croquet.

In September we were allowed indoors again and invested our new cubs, we had a nature night making bird feeders as well as a beetle drive which was a lot of fun.

We have covered many badges, enjoyed competitive games night, climbing at The Pinnacle Climbing Centre had a Halloween party and celebrated Diwali

In December, we had a Scandinavian night, finishing off our international badge and we ended the year with a game of ten pin bowling and a meal at Pizza Hut.

During the Spring term we covered the scientist's badge with a night full of experiments and a night on dinosaurs and the prehistorical era. The Cubs enjoyed the 'show and tell' night, Global issues, and international and celebrated Mother's Day

Congratulations to Toby for working hard and gaining his Silver Chief Scout Award.

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.

To Sue, Rebecca, Jas, Sophie and, of course, Georgina for all your help with everything over this past year, thank you. I couldn't do it without you.

Vicky Toone, Cub Scout Leader



Scouts

The Scout Troop continued their meetings on Zoom due to the Covid restrictions until June. During that time, we had a cooking session making a cake in an orange which the Scouts all did very well. The Scouts completed a virtual walking challenge that we set to complete the walk from Pitsford to The Scout Headquarters at Gilwell a total of 67 miles. Most of the Scouts completed it. The Scouts had fun completing task master, scavenger hunt at home, making Lanterns out of a tin can and making shortbread.

We returned to face-to-face Scouts in June but only doing outdoor meeting welcoming new Scouts at last, making a bag out of an old T-Shirt with good results by all. We did a hike along Brampton valley way with scouts taking photos towards their photography badge and we invested 5 Scouts at Brixworth Country Park. We were unable to do a summer camp due to Covid which we all missed.

In September we were able to restart our programme indoors with knife skills, and the Scouts worked hard at their meteorologist badge. We took the Scouts to Overstone Scout Activity Centre for a fire lighting evening which went well as some of the new Scouts moved up from Cubs and we went to Brixworth country park to make dens. The Scouts did some brilliant displays of their photos for their photography badge,

We started back in January challenging the Scouts for their creative challenge badge doing cartoon drawing, model building with florist's wire and doing live sculptures with Scouts using toilet rolls. We invested 4 new Scouts. The Scouts went round Pitsford completing a Pitsford 'fix my street survey' which was passed on to the Parish Council. We finished Spring term with a visit from our local MP Chris Heaton-Harris who explained about his role as chief whip in the House of Commons and also set the Scouts a the task of acting out a debate as though in the House of Commons .

A big thank you for all the help and support from my Assistant Scout Leader Sue McTaggart. We do need another Scout Leader so if you can help, please get in touch with me

Brenda Faulkner, Scout Leader



Investiture at Brixworth Country Park



Chris Heaton- Harris MP talks to the Scouts

GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

When I wrote my 2021 AGM report we were looking forward to life and Scouting returning to something approaching normality, but nothing during the pandemic has been straight forward. It has been a stop-start process and as the entries in the Group's books and Accounts will show the work of the Treasurer did not return to normal levels until the early part of the year when Activities and Camps could be organised once again.

Financially the Group is on the road to recovery. After a loss during the previous 12 months, fully anticipated and covered by our reserves, we have returned to a situation where our income has covered our expenditure. We were able to pay our Capitation to Headquarters, County and District in March this year without resort to our reserves.

The Executive Committee took the decision, as anticipated in my last report, to raise subscriptions with the effect from January 2022. May I thank all of the parents for accepting this without complaint, or at least not complaining to me, and for continuing to pay subscriptions on time, with the odd exception!

One plea as we endeavour to return our reserves to their previous level, if you are a taxpayer and have not completed a 'Gift Aid' form for the Scout Group please do so. The subscriptions that you pay are effectively then increased by 25% through the Gift Aid scheme. The most painless bit of fundraising for the Group that parents can do, sign the form and the Treasurer will do the rest!

My thanks as always to James Bellamy for his help with the Accounts. After two years of less entries and checking with the Groups books and accounts both James and I look forward to a rather busier 2022/2023

Tony Miles, Group Treasurer

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CHIEF SCOUT AWARD

ROLL OF HONOUR 2021-2022



Bronze Award

Beaver section

- Oliver Cebak
- Poppy Castle
- James Bodily
- Matilda Lendacka
- Kian Hancock
- Toby Wadsworth
- Brodie Smith
- Edie Wadsworth



Silver Award

Cub Section

- Samuel Palmer
- Constance Pinnell
- Lily Castle
- Rowen Myles
- Kian Hancock
- Caleb Holmes
- Oliver Cebak
- Toby Wadsworth
- Olivia Passchier
- Amelie Wells



Gold Award

Scout Section

- Samuel Palmer
- Jessica Butcher
- Libby Blackall
- Tommy Burholt
- Daniel Wilkins
- Amelia Cebak
- Isabel Ault



