



Everyday adventure, Skills for life

**1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual report 2017-18**



Welcome to our 2017-18 annual report

I think it has been another good year for 1st Hensingham Scout Group.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders.

We have had more new recruits to the leadership team this year with Laura Bell, Brian Penny, Dan Pocock, Dan Easdon and Michael Bannerman joining us. Sadly we've also said good bye to some of our volunteers; I would like to thank Becky Sparkes for her work with Beavers and Cubs over the last few years as she moved back to Cheshire, and wish her happy Scouting with 15th Macclesfield Beavers.

As well as our adults leaders it's great to see a number of our former Beavers, Cubs and Scouts coming back to help their old sections as Young Leaders. Our Young Leaders do a fantastic job helping our adult volunteers run the sections and sharing their enthusiasm with the young people. However, these Young Leaders are with us to train to be leaders of the future, not as a substitute for adults now. As Group Scout Leader my biggest concern is ensuring we have enough adult support to continue delivering the active programme that our young people deserve and have come to expect, and my top priority is ensuring that we strengthen the adult support for our Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs.

If you or someone you know is up for the challenge of learning new skills, inspiring our young members to achieve their best and having fun whilst you're doing it, speak to myself or your child's section leader. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment.

I am pleased to report that all the sections have been

active getting out and about locally during the year, and I've been pleased to see all three sections putting on lots of nights away experiences.

As Group Scout Leader, it was good to see all the sections come together in July for Group Camp where we had a relaxing weekend of camping and activities, made even better by the good weather! There are of course hundreds of photos and some video from this on our Flickr stream (there are links from the website).

During August I managed to visit the Scouts at their summer camp for a couple of days and it was great to see them getting so well with the Danish Scouts who had come to join them. (The Danish Scouts were from the Group who hosted our Scouts on their international trip to the Danish National Jamboree in Sønderborg last year).

I'm also delighted that a number of our former members, including two of our current young leaders (Josh & Charlotte), have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in North America next summer as part of the Cumbria contingent.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone (leaders, parents and young people) for helping make the last 12 months a huge success. I know the section leaders are already planning lots of activities for the next year, and with 2019 marking the 70th birthday of the Group I'm sure that 2018/19 is going to be another fantastic year. I look forward to having you share the fun, challenge and adventure with us.

Alf Branch
Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

Last year saw the Beavers doing lots of activities, camps and a multitude of badges. They made bug houses which they took home and we're sure were well loved. They became scientists and made wonderful gooey multi-coloured slime. They have also made fudge by 'cooking' it under their armpits!

We looked at a number of traditions from different parts of the world. From New Zealand we learnt about Oratio, the Kea Parrot, Beavers in New Zealand are called Keas. We tried our hand at the HAKA which had the Beavers making very strange faces and very loud shouts. We carried sacks of wool up and down hills from Tetbury and rolled cheeses from Gloucester.

In January we had a sleepover at Branthwaite where the Beavers tried their hands, very successfully, at archery. They made homemade desert pizza and partied with glow sticks and some very cool dance moves (and that wasn't just the Beavers)!



May saw us on District Camp at Ennerdale where the Beavers launched water rockets, and climbed along the low ropes. In June we had a Taster Camp, where we purely camped and played games much to all our enjoyment. Our newer Beavers got a taste of being under canvas and camp breakfast, yummy. And then finally in July we were on Group Camp. The Beavers got to experience a mammoth water slide, built by the Scouts. They lit fires and sang at the camp fire.



Breakfast on Taster Camp



Pebble skimming on Taster Camp

Last year saw us say goodbye to Becky as she headed off to a new job and Beaver Group. Michael made a much-welcomed return and has slotted back into the Group like he's never been away. We've also said goodbye to two of our long standing Young Leaders, Daniel and Robert. Both are going off to University and

we would like to sincerely thank them for the time and effort they have given the Group over the years and wish them both the very best for their next adventures.

We finished the year with what seems to be becoming an end of year tradition. We held a 'slip n slide' night which had Beavers, Young Leaders and a certain Leader, namely Ross, flinging themselves down a wet soapy tarpaulin. We also had a Colour Run evening which had clouds of powder being deposited on the Beavers, Leaders and a couple of willing parents.



This year we have already got plans for a sleepover. We are looking into a session at the swimming baths. We are going to continue with tying shoelaces as part of the Beaver Personal Challenge award and many others.

Lastly a huge thank you to all parents and families that have helped this year, we can't do this by ourselves so thank you and here's to this year's Beavers.

cubs

2017 was a great year for Cub Scouting, here is a round-up of some of our activities.

The Cubs put on a show within the section meetings, each of them learnt a song, or little sketch in small groups which they performed to the enjoyment of the other Cubs and the leaders.

Once again Remembrance Day saw a great turn out

from the Cubs, which gets larger each year. Hopefully we can get maximum attendance this year to show our respect to celebrate the Centenary of the end of WWI.





Christmas laser quest was once again “get Eddie night” with all of the opposing team, and some on his side determined to shoot him as much as possible, however he has developed even more ingenious ways of cheating so he wins. (though this year for some reason he didn’t – the Cubs are getting wise to him obviously)

The summer term saw our Cubs take part in a colour run, which they thoroughly enjoyed, including our adult volunteers - apologies for car seats which are now various colours of the rainbow, it may become a fashion trend!



We also completed our Community Challenge badge with the Cubs clearing the weeds from part of the hardstanding at St Nicholas church in Whitehaven, after a plea for help was put out by the Church, and they were grateful for the amount the Cubs achieved and how clean the area looked after their hard work.



Throughout the term we took part in some challenges which go towards the Challenge Cumbria badge, these ranged from racing oranges down a hill, to how many knots can be tied in a minute, having all your six wearing bin bags and keeping Haribo sweets on your face for a minute.



A big thanks has to be given to our cubs, who have tried and done their best all the activities we have given them to do.

Two of our leaders left due to other commitments, and we all would like to say a great big thanks to them both for the time and energy they have given.

We also welcomed three new leaders in Brian, Laura and Leah, so our cub leadership team is still as strong as ever.

In 2018, cub scouting promises to be even more challenging and adventurous so watch out for news as it appears.

SCOUTS

It’s been a very busy year for Helvellyn & Skiddaw Troops – we’ve awarded over 200 Challenge and Activity Badges, invested 30 new Scouts and have racked up 393 Scout-nights away across 9 different camps!

There’ve been plenty of opportunities for the Troop to find out about Scouting in other countries with our first JOTI sleep over last October proving a big hit with the

Scouts and then our epic Summer Camp with Danish Scouts from Østerhøj-Måløv in August.

Summer camp was a huge success – with approximately 55 Scouts and leaders from both Groups camping together for 7 nights at Scout Adventures’ Great Tower activity centre. As well as some traditional Scouting and team building challenges, we took full advantage of the adventurous activities on offer with ghyll scrambling, rock climbing and axe throwing proving to be some of highlights for the Scouts. It was great for the leaders to see our Scouts

integrating with the Danish young people so well, and we hope that they'll be able to stay in touch with their new friends. We've already started talking with the Danish leaders about another joint camp in 2020 and/or joining them for the next Danish Jamboree in 2022!



Through the year we've had a varied programme including some traditional Scouting – including cooking on open fires at various Troop meetings and at our “smokey hammocks camp” in April, team building & problem solving and developing our pioneering skills leading to us building a water slide at Group camp.



We are very proud that Otter and Eagle Patrols bagged 1st and 2nd place in the District cooking competition in

July. Otter Patrol will be representing the District at the County competition this October.



A number of our older Scouts successfully completed their Expedition Challenge in Eskdale last October, and our younger Scouts have started to develop their navigation skills, enjoying a hike over Cat Bells (followed by a swim in the lake) in the summer term.

We've also been getting involved with some environmental projects, helping the the National Park rangers remove non-native trees from Eskdale and planting native trees in Wasdale with the West Cumbria Rivers Trust!

Adventurous activities have remained a big part of this year's programme. In January we returned to WinterCamp where the Scouts got to try caving (in a bus), the big air bag drop, quad biking, laser tag and host of other activities (and the leaders got to try out the new wood-burner for the mess tent)!. May saw the return of District camp where we helped run many of the big activities. The warmer weather allowed us to return to Scarness for another season of kayaking and sailing, and we're thrilled that our new store has enabled us to set up an air rifle range so that we can offer the Master at Arms badge again.



Finally, we'd like to thank our young leaders Josh & Sam for all their help. We've had a great year and want to thank the Scouts for their enthusiasm and energy - we hope they're looking forward to 2018/19 as much as we are.



Treasurer's Report

The Group Finances for the financial year of 2017/18 remain healthy, increases in our major expenditure have occurred during this reporting period most notably being the need to secure a commercial storage unit to store and maintain our equipment. With just over 110 members and approximately 30/40 new starters/leavers each year our subscription and subsequent accounts are constantly changing.

The transition to using the Online Scout Manager (My.SCOUT) system for payments for camps and subscription has helped the Group leaders regain time to concentrate on running the respective section programmes. Please could I ask all those still paying by the other options to please consider switching to OSM for payments as it really helps our leaders! The system also automatically reminds you if you have overlooked making a payment, so for me this is great as we all sometimes need a little reminder in the busy lives that we lead! It is very important that our normal income can meet the expected annual costs and that the subs can be kept as low as possible, so thank you to everyone who pays promptly, your co-operation is very much appreciated.

In addition to our current account, in the 2017/18 the Committee looked to move funds from our reserve account to an account that would generate a small return on investment. Unfortunately the terms of this account changed and this changed our risk – the money has been moved back into the Natwest Business reserve account that we have held for a number of years. A slight increase in funds was generated in the new account and no monies were lost. The total amount held in reserve is considered to be sufficient to allow us to operate the normal activities of the Group for 12 months should income and fundraising activities fall short, as well as having adequate provision for future maintenance / disposal of our storage facility at Hensingham School. This account currently is "stable" as the current financial

market and subsequent low % returns on interest - yield very little for the group

The major source of normal income to supplement our funds from subscriptions remains our annual Gift Aid claim. With your help, gift aiding generated income to the order of just over £1900 this year. If you haven't signed up but are eligible, please do so - it's very simple and won't cost you a thing. Gift Aid is essential in helping the Group finances go further; together subs and the money claimed from Gift Aid cover the basic running costs of the Group.

Most events and trips are self-financing but we do fundraise to allow us to offer financial support to those members who need it, as well allowing us to organise subsidised Group and social events (such as the AGM and Family camp for example). We have a nominal budget for each section's programmed activities throughout the year, any surplus money goes directly back into the Group funds.

Our main fundraising activities in the last financial year were the Fiesta night and the annual bag pack at Morrisons. These, together with other fundraising supported by friends and family of the Group raised in excess of £1800. Furthermore we were gifted generous donations, from both individuals and company/community funds, of just over £6000. These vital funds support the Group to renew "worn out" equipment, purchase new equipment to allow leaders to offer our members even more activities, and fund our programmes.

As usual, the Annual Returns and the year-end accounts for the previous financial year (2016/17) and updated Trustee information were submitted to the Charity Commission. A summary of our accounts is available on the Charity Commission website.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, benefactors and fundraisers for their continued support during this year.

Daniel Frankland
Treasurer

Summary of Accounts

Income	2016/17	2017/18
Membership subscriptions	£ 8,193.76	£ 9,394.23
Donations	£ 4,268.10	£ 6,053.93
Gift aid	£ 1,704.36	£ 1,939.24
Fundraising	£ 2,206.20	£ 1,870.99
Group activities	£ 17,229.10	£ 17,060.96
Uniform	£ 1,685.80	£ 2,364.80
Other income	£ 3.44	£ 9.64
Total	£ 35,290.76	£ 38,693.79

Expenditure	2016/17	2017/18
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,305.25	£ 3,915.00
Programme and activities	£ 16,038.29	£ 24,872.71
Rent & rates	£ 1,960.00	£ 3,707.62
Insurance	£ 591.96	£ 588.86
General administration	£ 160.38	£ 333.90
Uniforms	£ 1,619.40	£ 2,268.00
Fundraising expenses	£ 326.74	£ 91.73
Asset & investment purchases	£ 2,160.29	£ 6,070.47
Other expenditure	£ 228.11	£ 589.21
Total	£ 26,390.42	£ 42,419.50

Statement of assets & liabilities	2016/17	2017/18
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 16,393.33	£ 7,717.92
Restricted cash funds	£ 10,053.48	£ 15,003.18
Non-monetary assets	£ -	£ 18,988.63
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 885.30	£ 553.92

NB: The value of non-monetary assets held by the Group was not recorded in 2016/17.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee plays a vital role behind the scenes to support the activities of 1st Hensingham Scout Group, most of which go unnoticed but are important in ensuring that the leaders can concentrate on providing the full and varied programme that they do.

Recently we have welcomed Louise Hodgson to the Committee as our new Treasurer, replacing Daniel Frankland who has kindly stayed on to see the handover take place. This September we also say goodbye to Alan MacDonald, a long-standing member

of our group, and also Adrian Pavey, Janette Lount, and our Secretary Andrea Bird. Most of these parents have seen their children grow up through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and are leaving us because their association with 1st Hensingham has come to an end. We give them all our thanks for their contribution to the running of the group.

I'm pleased to report that, as a result of our plea for help earlier this year, we have a number of parents ready to fill the vacant positions following the AGM.

New Equipment Store

The main focus of the first half of the year was finding suitable alternative premises for our equipment store.

After much searching, we finally found a unit at Sneakeat Industrial Estate and the move from our previous store at The Whitehaven Academy was completed in February under some quite wet conditions. A massive thank you goes to everyone who lent a hand, or a car or a van that day. Thanks to a donation from Shepley's of some shelving units we also have things more neatly stashed and accessible for use. In addition, our resourceful Leaders managed to find a way of setting up a range for air rifle shooting within the new store. This means that the Scout section can now run the Master at Arms course which wasn't previously possible.

Fundraising

Bag packing: Our supermarket bag pack took place at Morrisons, this time in June, allowing our members to come face to face with the public and demonstrate their helpfulness, resulting in funds being raised for the group. Thank you to all members, parents and leaders who helped with this event.

Kit Sale: This year we collected your unwanted kit and clothing and a number of our families benefitted by picking up a bargain at the Kit sale held across a number of section nights. A respectable £70 went into our group funds, so thanks to all who supported this endeavour.

Donations: We have been fortunate this year to receive donations from companies (Jacobs and BEPDT) due to members of staff nominating 1st Hensingham Scout Group as a worthy charitable recipient. If your company operates a scheme for grants or donations which you feel might benefit our youth members, please let us know.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds.
- Kerry the caretaker for opening and closing the school on every session.
- St John's Church Hensingham for the occasional use of the hall.
- All the section leaders, assistant leaders and young leaders, without whom 1st Hensingham would not be the fabulous Group that it is.
- All Exec members and parents for their support for our Group.

Ann Walkingshaw
Group Chair

Group Information 2017-18

Registered Name: 1st Hensingham Scout Group

Registered Charity No: 520612

Registered Address of HQ:

Hensingham Primary School

Main Street, Hensingham

Whitehaven, CA28 8QZ

Bankers: NatWest, Lowther Street
Whitehaven, CA28 7AH

Independent Examiner: N/A

Investment Advisers: Not required as the Group only holds cash

Insurance Advisers: Unity Insurance Services

Executive Committee:

Mrs Andrea Bird	(Secretary)
Mr Alf Branch	(Group Scout Leader*)
Dr Jonathan Cheesewright	(Scout Leader*)
Mr Daniel Frankland	(Treasurer)
Mrs Janette Keenan	
Mr Alan MacDonald	
Mrs Kam Massey	
Mr Adrian Pavey	
Mr Jonathan Stamper	
Mrs Lisa Stanaway	(Beaver Leader*)
Mr Eddie Stewart	(Cub leader*)
Mrs Ann Walkingshaw	(Chair)

* Ex-officio appointments by nature of their role.