

**One amazing year,
here's what happened ...**



**1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual Report 2015-16**

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2015/16

I have been the 1st Hensingham Scout Group's Group Scout Leader for over a year now and I am feeling like I am starting to make a difference to the Group.

We are recovering from a dip in numbers in Beavers and Cubs but the dip is affecting the Scouts section though it is showing signs of recovery.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders. The team is changing again with Ross back from his job abroad and helping us with Beavers again. Dan, Alice and Michael have left us after their time with us and we now have some replacements in Harry & Jordan. We have had two new Sectional Assistant join us for Scouts with Alison and Robin starting to help us this year. We can always use more help somewhere in the Group.

Our Group Executive Committee Chairman, Gary Wright, is standing down after a number of years as Chairman. Gary has been helping out in various ways for 10 years and I would like to thank him for all of his support over that time.

Also stepping down from helping us on a week-to-week basis is Pete Brough, after 24 years as a Scout Leader with 1st Mirehouse and 1st Hensingham Scouts. Pete has done many things in Scouting over the years and I am glad to say I have worked with him for over 15 years. I can only hope now he is retiring that he has time to come up with some better jokes!

We had a Group camp this year in summer where we had nice weather and good support from parents which made the camp enjoyable. A special mention goes out to our catering and tent waterproofing team who did a great job all weekend. We had some good activities and fun together as Group with all sections camping and coming together to have a relaxing weekend.

We are well supported by our enthusiastic Young Leaders in Beavers and Cubs who are a great help in running these sections and it is great to have some young people come back to us having been through our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. 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 at the moment is the ensuring we have enough adult support to continue delivering the active programme that our young people deserve and have come to expect. My top priority is ensuring we strengthen the adult support for our Beaver Colonies, the reintroduction of a parent rota is part of this but we also need to recruit more leaders. Our Cub section leader base has improved in recent months, but additional help is still required.



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 doing it, speak to myself or your child's section leader. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone (leaders, parents and young people) for helping make the last 12 months a huge success. With the Scouts having an international Camp and another Group Camp of some sort and plenty more on the cards - I'm sure that 2016/17 is going to be even better. 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 gain a number of their badges with nearly all those moving to Cubs achieving their Chief Scout Bronze award. We held a Beaver sleepover in February at Branthwaite Camp Site which was very well received and attended and which was thoroughly enjoyed by Beavers and leaders alike.



After helping with Beaver sessions throughout the year we saw Mike and Alice head back to their respective university studies.

Over the summer there was a Group Camp held at Ennerdale Camp Site where Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all had the chance to mix between the age groups and get to know some of the other Leaders. The Beavers got to try out the climbing frame the Scouts had built as well as make and sail in hand built coracles.



This year has started off nicely as Ross and his family have rejoined us after returning from their adventures in Poland. Our ever faithful Young Leaders Emily, Dan, Robert and more recently Ben have just started the Beavers on their Cycling Activity badge. And we have had a trip to the Life Boat at St Bees where we had a tour of the Control Room, were allowed to

climb into the Life Boat and Tractor and try on some of their safety equipment.



The Beavers got to grips with their pioneering skills and constructed pyramids with wooden poles and elastic bands. The Egyptians would have been proud.



We have held a chocolate session to mark the birth of George Cadbury where we played games trying to eat chocolate with a knife and fork after having thrown a 6 on a dice, we try not to make things too easy. Many Beavers, much to Becky's delight thought this was the best session ever!!! Not too sure why. And are holding an end of term indoor camp fire next week, who needs dry weather when we can have marshmallows and hot chocolate indoors!

Other plans for the year include another Beaver Sleepover, hopefully after New Year, completing some of the new challenge Badges and welcoming even more Beavers to 1st Hensingham.

Becky, Matt, Ross, Lisa, Dan, Emily, Robert and Ben



Well another year of Cub scouting has begun, and it is time to reflect on what happened last as well as look forward to the next 12 months.

With the Cub Centenary year coming to an end, we look back on what we have done to celebrate, with a number of '100 events' - 100 things in a tin, 100 ways to wind the leaders up (currently at about 987 so that has been a great success, or not, depending on which side of the fence you sit!) The plan is to finish off the Centenary with a get together with leaders old and new, (some older some younger – but all very much young at heart still) to celebrate what Cubs has brought to the young people in the area.

So we started this year with a trip to tesco looking at healthy eating and where the produce comes from. All the Cubs and the leaders enjoyed the visits especially the free samples of various foods.



A cold but dry day in February saw all the Cubs from the Northwest ascend on Blackpool Pleasure Beach, to hold the Cub Centenary Beach Party which was the only day in the history of the pleasure beach, that it was closed to the public, and open only for a 'private' party

We are trying to involve parents in our evenings, the first of which was a 'Sport Night', which allowed both parents and Cubs to cheat - sorry – "work together." A number of parents attended, and seemed to enjoy themselves if the pictures are anything to go by...



We are hoping to continue getting parents involved by having participation in our 'Cubs got talent' event later in the year.

This year heavily focused on emergency services and the role they have in the community. This included a visit to our local fire station, visits from the coastguard and mountain rescue and brushing up on our first aid skills with the first responders. We learnt all about fire safety, the importance of been prepared and more uses of knots than you can ever imagine.

Looking to the year ahead – we are hoping to get a better understanding of the new badge requirements to ensure the Cubs are challenged in various ways in preparation for Scouts. Also we hope to host a Cub camp, as it's been a while since a Cub only one.

I would like to thank the Cubs, for their hard work during the last year, and look forward to spending another year with them and the Cub leadership team and Young Leaders. It is a pleasure to be involved with your young people, and hopefully we bring something that they will remember going forward

Becky, Dave, Eddie, Matt, Sarah, and our young leaders Josh W, Josh M, Thomas, Ben and Kathleen



SCOUTS

With another busy year already in full swing it's proving hard to think back and remember what



we've been doing over the last 12 months.

Both 2015 and 2016 have started with the same international flavour. Last year Nat was back from Japan brimming with

excitement as he told us all about his adventures at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. The Scouts were really interested to hear what the experience had been like and to see all of the international souvenirs he'd brought back with him.

This year we've started with a celebration of all things Scandinavian as we take our very tentative first steps to our own international jamboree experience next summer!

Through the year we've been mixing traditional scouting skills with activities to allow us to explore different issues.

Cooking has featured quite heavily in the programme with the Scouts frying pancakes over their home made solid fuel stoves, making designer burgers, and cooking a host of tasty treats on open fires.



As part of the national "Million Hands" campaign we've found out about mental well-being and the issues about water quality and sanitation that affect the Third World.

Through the summer term the Scouts were developing their pioneering skills which were put to good use at Group camp to build a slippery pole challenge and adventure playground. We also took the Patrol Leaders and their Assistants away for a training weekend to help make their lives easier.

Camping has been an even bigger part of this year's programme than usual with a return to Alton Towers last autumn, followed by a snowy start to WinterCamp at Hawkthirst – we took

our biggest contingent to date and survived some of the most challenging conditions yet.



We survived District Camp with the Scouts enjoying a return of air rifle shooting and axe throwing to the programme. Group Camp proved a huge success and the Scouts were able to show off their skills to the younger sections on and off the water!



The summer months have seen us back at Scarness for canoeing, kayaking and, this season, a lot more sailing.

We've been out geocaching in the local area and hiking in Borrowdale. The Cumbrian weather granted us a glorious half-term so we celebrated with swimming in Derwent water before fish and chips and an exhausting couple of hours at King Kong climbing centre.

Summer Camp was the finale to the summer. We returned to Great Tower and the Scouts got to try their hand at rafting, crate stacking, bouldering. Another first for us this year was the chance to swap tents for hammocks which received an almost universal thumbs up!

Looking to the year ahead – we're trying to get to grips with the new Challenge badges, including our first ever expedition challenge later this term. As we get closer to the summer we'll be focussing on developing our skills ready for next summer's jamboree adventure.

All that remains is to thank the Scouts for another fantastic year, it really is a privilege to work with such a fantastic bunch of young people.

Alison, Mike, Paul, Robin, Ruth, Stuart & Jon





Treasurer's Report

The Group Finances remain healthy, increases in our major expenditure have stabilised. The annual subscriptions received have slightly fallen due to group numbers slightly "shrinking".

Subscriptions are due at the start of each term and should be submitted as soon as possible, with over 100 members we would normally remind parents that the subs are expected in a general newsletter if one is being issued. If not, the leaders will mention it verbally at the beginning or end of the first couple of sessions in the new term. Thank you to everyone who pays promptly, your co-operation is very much appreciated. It should be noted that to minimise administration, individual reminders are only sent out by exception if payments have not been made after 4 weeks. A fair amount of effort is spent in ensuring missed payments are kept to a minimum, which no doubt are usually due to oversight, 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.

A monthly standing order option is also available on request, it is worth emphasising that the instructions need to be followed in order that the subscription can be tracked to the member making the payment! If you would also like to make a one off payment for your subs online this can also be accepted – please use the standing order account details for this payment – including the reference for your child to aid traceability.

In addition to our Current Account we also have funds in a Reserve Account. The total amount held is considered to be sufficient to allow us to continue to operate the normal activities of the Group for 12 months, also 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 – this being set by the bank at 0.05%!

The major source of normal income to supplement our funds from subscription remains our annual Gift Aid claim. Gift Aid is essential in helping the Group finances go further, if you haven't signed up but are eligible, please do so, it's very simple and won't cost you a thing. The subs and Gift Aid money covers the basic costs of running the Group.

Most events and trips are self-financing but we do fund raise to enable us to organise subsidised Group and social events such as the AGM and family camp. We have a nominal budget for each section's programmed activities throughout the year, any surplus money goes directly back into the Group funds which together with any other funds raised are spent on equipment expenditures, such as new tents and camping equipment which is a shared resource and benefit the whole Group.

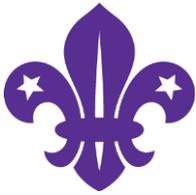
Our main fundraising carried out this year was yet again the bag packing at Morrisons, which raised a massive £1585. Furthermore we were gifted donations and the group curry night was a great success, both items accounted to a total in excess of £1200. These vital funds support the group being able to subsidise events like our very successful family camp.

As usual, the year-end accounts for the previous financial year 2014/15 have been compiled and the Annual Returns and the accounts were submitted to the Charity Commission using the online account and the Trustee information updated. A summary of our accounts is available on the [Charity Commission website](#).

Finally 1st Hensingham Scout Group would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, benefactors and fundraisers for their continued support during this year.

Daniel Frankland





Executive Committee

Welcome to our 2016 Annual Report.

Well, 1st Hensingham Scout Group have had another marvellous year. The past twelve months has seen young member number remain steady. This is a reflection of the superb Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Young Leaders we have at our Group who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the young members have as much fun as possible and experience the wide range of exciting and challenging activities our Group offers.

We have a well-established and settled Executive Committee who have been bolstered recently by the addition of Adrian Pavey (Cub Parent Representative) who has settled in well.

We're also delighted to welcome Sophie Lowley to our "behind the scenes" team. Sophie will be helping us keep the website up to date, and shout about the great adventures we're having in the local media.

The Executive Committee plays an important role in the effective running of the Group, supporting the leaders and providing long-term stability. To be able to do this we must always have a healthy balance between Leaders and non-Leaders on the Executive Committee and we are always on the lookout for Parents to join. We will not say no to anyone who offers their services!

Fundraising

Fundraising is important as it allows us to pay for significant items rather than continually raising subscriptions.

We continue to claim Gift Aid on membership fees which add to the group funds by a sizable amount, so if you or your partner are a UK taxpayer and haven't filled in a Gift Aid form please do so at the earliest opportunity.

Mothers' Day weekend saw us embark on our annual bag packing day at Morrisons in Whitehaven. The hard work and packing skills of our young members and adult helpers saw

us raise a fantastic £1585.75. Thank you to all our young members and adult helpers who helped make the day a huge success. In addition a big thank you is due once again to Morrisons for their hospitality. Hopefully we can book the corresponding weekend for March 2017 so please save Saturday 25 March in your diaries.

This year saw the Group flex its culinary muscle and expand our fundraising events when we held our inaugural Curry Night at St. Johns Church Hall in January of this year. The night saw our Scouts dish up a variety of Indian dishes which were devoured by all the guests. The evening was a great success raising £388 and everyone going home well fed and having enjoyed the craic with fellow diners.

Building on the success of the Curry Night July saw the Group hold the 'Proof is in the pudding' fundraiser. The guests enjoyed an epic selection of carefully prepared puddings and took part a great social evening. We raised a total of £445.98, another great effort, which has allowed us to repair and re-waterproof our mess tents.



Re-proofing the cook tent on Group Camp

Both of these events were a great success both in terms of funds raised and bringing the Group's parents and leaders together in a relaxed social setting. Hopefully these will become annual events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Church for their hospitality and use of the Church Hall for both of these events.

Thank You

- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following:
- Alf Branch for doing such an important job as Group Scout Leader;
- All the Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders and young helpers without whom the Group would not exist;
- All the Executive Members for all the help and support they have given myself and the Group;
- Hensingham School for the continued use of the School facilities;
- Kerry for opening and closing the School regardless of time or the weather;
- St John's Church, Hensingham for the use of their church hall;
- Morrisons for the Bag Packing day;
- All the parents for the support throughout the year;
- and finally all the young members who make running the Scout Group so rewarding.

Finally

It is with great sadness that I am announcing that I am to step down as Chairman of the Executive Committee. I no longer have children in the Scout Group and after 10 enjoyable years on the Executive Committee, with 6 years as Chairman, I think it's now time for me hand over the baton to a new person.

Serving on the Executive Committee and filling the Chairman's role has been a great honour and I am proud to have played a role in an organisation that has had such a positive impact in the community and helped so many children and young adults reach their potential, my own children included. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Group and my successor every success in the future.

Gary Wright

Group Chairman

Group Information 2015-16

Registered Name: 1st Hensingham Scout Group

Bankers: NatWest, Lowther Street
Whitehaven, CA28 7AH

Ex-Officio Appointments (by nature of their role):

Group Scout Leader	Mr Alf Branch
Beaver Leader	Mr Lisa Stanaway
Cub Leader	Mr Eddie Stewart
Scout Leader	Dr Jonathan Cheesewright Mr Mike Hawkrigg

Independent Examiner: N/A

Investment Advisers: Not required as the Group only hold cash

Insurance Advisers: The Scout Association

Elected representatives:

Chair	Mr Gary Wright
Treasurer	Mr Daniel Frankland
Secretary	Mrs Andrea Bird

Charity Registration No: 520612

Charity Contact: Mr Daniel Frankland
c/o Scout Group

Elected Parent representatives:

Mr Alan MacDonald
Mrs Ann Walkingshaw

Registered Address of HQ:
Hensingham Primary School
Main Street, Hensingham
Whitehaven, CA28 8QZ

Elected general representatives:

Mrs Kam Massey

Co-opted representatives:

Mr Adrian Pavey