

365 days of everyday adventure



1st Hensingham Scout Group Annual Report 2016-17

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2016-17

I think it has been another good year for 1st Hensingham Scout Group. I have enjoyed my time working with all sections again this year which since becoming GSL has increased my enjoyment of Scouting.

We have recovered from a dip in numbers in Beavers and Cubs and the Scouts section is recovering now with spaces becoming limited on some nights.

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 team this year with Leah Vaudrey and David Smallman joining us. We are expecting the return of Dan Pocock and Michael Bannerman this autumn. We can always use more help somewhere in the Group. I would like to thank Harry Brook and Jordan Rickard for their help with Cubs as they leave us to return to university after their year in industry. I'd also like to thank Robin Cowley for his help with Scouts, and wish him well in his new job.

Last year I reported that Pete Brough was retiring from his weekly Scouting commitments in the Troop which he has. He has though started a new section for us which is a Scout Active Support Unit. This is for adults who are able to help with events or activities but not able to commit to regular sessions.

We had a Family Camp this year in summer where we had mostly nice weather as far as I choose to remember. A special mention goes out to our catering team Mike and Margaret James who did a great job all weekend. We had some good activities and fun together as a Group with families camping and coming together to have a relaxing weekend of camping and activities. There are of course hundreds of photos and some video from this on our Flickr stream (there are links from the website). We also had a visit from Alex Crow (who helped with Beavers a few years ago) for the weekend.

The Scout section ran a successful international camp to the Danish National Jamboree in Sønderborg. While they were away I enjoyed seeing the daily tweets from Denmark. I am pleased to report we had another Beaver sleepover which was a great

success though they didn't catch the bear. We have a Cub sleepover coming as I write this. All sections have been active getting out and about locally during the year. I am sure much more is planned too.

We are well supported by our enthusiastic Young Leaders in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who are a great help in running the sections and 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 is 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.

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.

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 going to WinterCamp 2018, another District Camp a potential Group Camp and plenty more on the cards - I'm sure that 2017/18 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

Another fun-packed year for Beavers last year, with lots of activities, badges being achieved and MESS!! We've cooked scones in the school kitchen with flour everywhere, predominantly Lisa's fault, but all tasted good and we've even had some ideas for different flavours.



We have modelled with mountains of recycling creating some superb creations from robots, birds, musical instruments, lots and lots of Zombies!

Beavers enjoyed a sleepover at Branthwaite in May where they took part in scientific experiments, made and cooked their own pizzas for lunch, tracked on a nature trail, toasted marshmallows and partied like Ibiza.



We've made catapults from plastic tubing and balloons firing mint imperials at targets. Not sure who was more competitive: the Beavers, Leaders or Young Leaders, but this is likely to be re-visited.

Beavers and their families took part in the Group's Family Camp in June where they carved soap, got creative with para cord, engraved drinking glasses and shot Angry Birds to name but a few activities.

We have had a couple of trips out, one to St Nicholas' Church Gardens completing a quiz and another to St Bees and built sandcastles.

We ended the year with some very wet and colourful activities with a 'slip n slide' night which had Beavers, Young Leaders and a certain Leader, namely Ross, flinging themselves down a wet soapy tarpaulin. We nearly lost Ben W off the end of the slide, Young Leaders slide much faster than Beavers we found! We held our first, but not last, Colour Run. Clouds of colour being deposited on the Beavers, some not quite so keen as others, but certainly messy and worth doing again.



This year holds lots more activities and badges planned, from a Highland Games night to more traditional scouting knots. We are in the process of arranging a couple of nights away, with at least one under canvas.

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.

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



Well another year of Cub Scouting has started, which means we have to look ahead to the challenges ahead for both the Cubs and leaders, as well as looking back at the successes and failures from last year

Visits from both the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team and Whitehaven Coastguard, started the last Cub Scouting year off, to a safety orientated start. Cubs were shown how both of these volunteer organisations were run, and how the volunteers helped in the recovery of people in distress on both the Lakeland fells, as well as the coastal areas around Whitehaven.

The Cubs found both visits very informative and learned how to be safe when visiting both areas, as well as learning some useful new knots, and first aid skills (which hopefully they won't have to try out for real).



Remembrance Day saw one of the biggest turnouts for the Cub section we have had, with all the Cubs turning up in full uniform and coats, however as now become the norm, these were handed to the parents so they could walk proudly displaying their uniforms – despite the cold weather



All Cubs worked towards the challenge badge, which involved a personal challenge set by themselves as well as a leaders' challenge which involved them tying knots on a knot board, which they had to return for us to view and approve before taking back home to fix to their walls, using (in the terms of one leader) a big nail and a big hammer. Hopefully this advice was not followed

Our end of year visit to St Bees once again allowed the Cubs to have a bit of fun, and a water fight was held on the grass, with the one instruction not to get me wet. Hopefully one of these years they will listen to instructions, as driving in cold wet pants is not for the faint hearted, take my word for it!



Looking to the next year, we are hoping to challenge our Cubs in more varied ways, building on what they and we have learned over the years. We are hoping to ensure that all the Cubs who attend regularly have, the opportunity to get their Chief Scout's Silver Award when they are ready to move to Scouts.

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; I know they give us some memories we will keep forever – some of which we would like to forget.

Becky, Dave, Eddie, Matt, Sarah, and our young leaders Emily, Stefan, Cameron and Kathleen

SCOUTS

It's been another great year for the Scout Section, and we've been especially proud to recognise three members of the Troop with the highest award a Scout can earn. Congratulations to Stefan Thied, Nathan Walkingshaw and Matt Charlton on achieving your Chief Scout's Gold Awards – it's a fitting recognition of your commitment and enthusiasm!

It's also been with great pride that we've welcomed one of our former Scouts, Josh Musgrave, back into the leadership team as a Young Leader.



Probably our biggest challenge this year was our first ever international trip – 15 of us headed to Denmark to join 37,000 other Scouts at the Danish National Jamboree. We were really fortunate to have been buddied with the Østerhøj-Måløv Scout Group who hosted us in Copenhagen on our first night before we travelled to South Jutland for the Jamboree.



It was a definite challenge to have to build our tables and benches from scratch and to be cooking all our meals on wood-fires, but one that the Scouts rose to meet. As well as the science and culture "travels" programmes (we proved that you can lift a car with basic pioneering) we got to experience some of the traditions of the region – jousting (Scout style)

and the delicious delicacies of a Jutland cake table.

Besides the excitement of meeting hundreds of people from all over the world (yes, our Scouts found the only Australian Scout at the Jamboree) and trading badges and neckers, we got to slip and slide our way around the world's biggest bouncy castle!



We had such a good time that we're pretty certain that this won't be our last overseas trip (pencil 2020 or 2021 in your diaries).

Having got the international bug we're planning to connect with Scouts from around the world during October as part of Jamboree on the Internet, and we're hoping that our buddy Group will be able to join us in the UK for our 2018 summer camp – watch out for more details!

Denmark wasn't our only camping adventure this summer, 18 Scouts spent a weekend hanging around (quite literally as we were sleeping in hammocks) at Scarness for a weekend of water activities and target sports. We've also been running our weekly water activity sessions through the summer months and it's been fantastic to be able to hand out so many (49) water activity badges this year!



Traditional Scouting skills have formed a big part of our programme this year, with our first

ever expedition camp held last October and 12 of our older Scouts planning expeditions for the start of October this year.

As well as traditional skills, the last 12 months have also seen a focus on the Creative and Skills Challenge Awards, we've made our own designer headwear, learnt how to fix punctures and tackled all manner of team building challenges!



This year we're hoping to get more active in the local community – we're already planning a project with the National Park rangers, and as part of the National "Million Hands" campaign we're planning to take action to raise awareness of mental health.

Having had a year off to run our own winter residential for 37 Scouts and older Cubs at Ennerdale in 2017, 2018 will see us returning to Hawkthirst to camp in January at WinterCamp, mud is almost as guaranteed as awesome adventurous activities.

All that remains is to thank the Scouts for a brilliant 2017 – it's incredibly rewarding to be able to work with such an enthusiastic group of young people.



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



Treasurer's Report

The Group's finances for the financial year of 2016/17 remain healthy, increases in our major expenditure have stabilised. With just over 110 members and approximately 30/40 new starters/leavers each year our subscription and subsequent accounts are constantly changing.

Subscriptions are due at the start of each term and should be submitted as soon as possible, 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 on line 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 groups. With your help, Gift Aid generated income to the order of just over £1,700.

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 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 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 in this financial year was the very tasty pudding night and we supplemented this with our Christmas tea towel fundraiser both items accounted to a total in excess of £1000. Furthermore we were gifted generous donations, both being personal and company/community fund to the total of £4,268.10. These vital funds support the group being able to purchase new equipment to fund programmes and renew "worn out equipment".

As usual, the year-end accounts for the previous financial year 2015/16 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

Summary of Accounts

Income	2015/16	2016/17
Membership subscriptions	£ 7,452.50	£ 8,193.76
Donations	£ 808.15	£ 4,268.10
Gift aid	£ 1,530.42	£ 1,704.36
Fundraising	£ 2,248.48	£ 2,206.20
Group activities	£ 10,424.10	£ 17,229.10
Uniform	£ 1,534.65	£ 1,685.80
Other income	£ 4.02	£ 3.44
Total	£ 24,002.32	£ 35,290.76

Expenditure	2015/16	2016/17
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,240.50	£ 3,305.25
Programme and activities	£ 14,605.70	£ 16,038.29
Rent & rates	£ 2,570.48	£ 1,960.00
Insurance	£ 570.24	£ 591.96
General administration	£ 54.77	£ 160.38
Uniforms	£ 1,605.75	£ 1,619.40
Fundraising expenses	£ 233.36	£ 326.74
Other expenditure	£ 228.11	£ 113.90
Total	£ 22,994.70	£ 24,230.13

Statement of assets & liabilities	2015/16	2016/17
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 7,546.43	£ 16,393.33
Restricted cash funds	£ 10,050.04	£ 10,053.48
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 18.96	£ 885.30





Executive Committee

The Executive Committee plays a vital role behind the scenes to support the activities of 1st Hensingham Scout Group. This year we were pleased to welcome Janette Keenan and Jonathan Stamper as parent representatives to the committee. We are always looking for people who can bring new ideas and skills to the team, and currently we have vacancies for parent reps from the Beaver and Cub sections.

Sadly this year we say goodbye to Daniel Frankland as he steps down from the Treasurer's role due to family and work commitments. Daniel will do a phased handover to his successor, so please step forward if you can help to fill this essential role. Many thanks go to Daniel for his hard work and contribution to the Group.

Funding

This year, significant work has been put into applying for external funding which has resulted in a number of successful bids:

- We received £1,400 from Sellafeld Social Impact Team which enabled replacement of tents for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
- The Community Choices Programme (the one we asked you all to vote for) provided £1,000 towards new archery equipment which was used with great enthusiasm at Family Camp in June.
- We were also awarded £4,000 from the Sellafeld Behavioural Safety Programme, some of which was put towards the two new gala tents used this summer at Family Camp, and new buoyancy aids for our smaller members.

We are very grateful to these organisations for their generosity, without which it would not have been possible to acquire these significant items.

We have also organised a number of fundraising ventures ourselves through the year to boost group funds:

- The first was the creation of 1st Hensingham Scout Group's tea towel, personalised with all the member's artwork. We hope that this is gracing everyone's kitchen towel rail.
- Our annual bag pack at Morrisons in April was once again a huge success, and helped our young members with the valuable skills of packing shopping and being polite to the public. Thank you to all members and adult helpers who helped on the day.
- In May this year we swapped curry night for "Fiesta" night. This was a Group social evening with a selection of Spanish themed games for the children, although we did see the odd parent take part in the limbo! A big thank you goes to our resident chef Alf Branch and his team for the amazing choice of tasty Spanish dishes which were enjoyed by families and leaders. The evening was a great success and raised money towards our gala tents ("Fiestas").

Publicity and Social Media

We're always keen to tell you as parents what great activities and events are upcoming, or the fun that was had on our recent activities. Our website is a great source of information for both new and existing parents and members. Do keep an eye on it also for letters and forms which are distributed in the sections, at www.hensinghamscouts.org.uk

Recently, as is the current trend, more use has been made of Twitter and Facebook for giving a quick "as it happened" snapshot. This was particularly useful for parents in July when some of our Scouts were away at the Danish Jamboree for 10 days. If you're not currently following us, you can do so here: @HensinghamScout, or find 1sthensinghamscouts on Facebook.

Looking to the future

Equipment store

Many of you will be aware by now that we have been given notice to vacate the premises at The Whitehaven Academy where all our equipment for camps and outdoor pursuits is stored. We urgently need to find alternative suitable storage. If anyone has a suggestion or a contact please speak to a leader or exec

member, listed at the end, or email info@hensinghamscouts.org.uk

We will also need you, our wonderful parents and supporters, to help on moving day when that arrives. Many hands will certainly be needed to make light work of this job.

New Scout HQ

The committee continues to look at the possibility of establishing a permanent home for our Scout Group. This year we have actively engaged in discussions with various organisations including Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Police, in attempts to find either a suitable piece of land or building, which so far have not yielded anything positive. We will continue exploring options.

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 of our Group.

Ann Walkingshaw
Group Chair

Group Information 2016-17

Registered Name: 1st Hensingham Scout Group

Investment Advisers: Not required as the Group only holds cash

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

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

Insurance Advisers: The Scout Association

Charity Registration No: 520612

Elected representatives:

Chair	Mrs Ann Walkingshaw
Treasurer	Mr Daniel Frankland
Secretary	Mrs Andrea Bird

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

Elected Parent representatives:

Mr Alan MacDonald
Mr Adrian Pavey

Elected general representatives:

Mrs Kam Massey

Co-opted representatives:

Mrs Janette Keenan
Mr Jonathan Stamper

Bankers: NatWest, Lowther Street
Whitehaven, CA28 7AH

Independent Examiner: N/A