



Everyday adventure, Skills for life

**1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual report 2018-19**



Welcome to our 2018-19 annual report

I think it has been another good year for 1st Hensingham Scout Group in its 70th. We had a great birthday party back in March attended by over 200 of you I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

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 Rebecca Raby joining us. Sadly we've also said good bye to some of our volunteers; I would like to thank Eddie Stewart for his work with the Cubs over the last ten years as he has to retire from scouting due to ill health. We hope that Eddie is doing well and looking after himself. Laura Bell joined the Cub team for a while but unfortunately has had to step down.

As well as our adult 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 June for Family Camp where we had a relaxing weekend of camping and activities, made even better by the good weather!

I have managed to attend a number of camps with the sections this year which I have enjoyed and hopefully was some help to them.

I'm also delighted that a number of our former members, including one of our current young leaders (Charlotte), have been to the World Scout Jamboree in North America. Dan Easdon (assistant Scout leader) also attended as a contingent Leader with Manchester Scouts.

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. I look forward to having you share the fun, challenge and adventure with us

Alf Branch
Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

This year saw our Beavers completing a number of their badges both activity and challenge. They have had sessions that included their hobbies, sports, collectors, readers and pets. This saw them bring their interests into the sessions, no live animals just pictures and reports. We scavenger hunted to fill matchboxes, we practised emergency aid, we learnt about space using our space umbrellas. We've catapulted mints, cooked on barbeques and played host to a traditional Viking complete with his very large and fierce weapons. We even had a trip to the local Police Station where we had a tour of the cells and finger printing process. All those that attended were let free including their family members...

We have held several sleepovers and camps throughout the year with one of our Beavers reaching their ten nights away badge and a few others on the way to gaining this award by the time they move onto Cubs. This is a huge achievement for a Beaver and the Group and is to be greatly congratulated. At Ennerdale in November the Beavers cooked the cakes that parents and families later enjoyed at an afternoon tea party. May saw us at Branthwaite with the Beavers under canvas with a new camp fire karaoke special featuring George Ezra.



Group and District activities had the Beavers involved in the Groups 70th Birthday Bash in March, which was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. May saw the District trip to Beamish. June was Family camp at Ennerdale which included some firm favourites of archery, water balloon rockets and tie dye to mention a few activities.



We have said goodbye to Michael and Emily this year, both off to pastures new with work and university. We have Ben due to leave for university this year. We wish them all the very best and thanks for their help. Sandra Chester has made a welcome return to the group

helping with Beavers and Cubs and we must welcome Zak Charlton and Tim Palmer as a Young Leaders, both of whom were our Beavers, how old do some of the Leaders now feel!. We have also had a couple of parents ask to become more involved with the Group which is great to see. Others would be more than welcome.



We finished the year with our traditional getting wet and mucky nights including a slip n slide night and our first attempt at a foam party which had both Leaders and Beavers getting very wet.



So far this year we are attending the Challenge Activity Day at Newton Rigg, have plans for further camps, completion of more badges and lots and lots of fun. Lastly a **huge thank you** to all parents and families that have helped this year both with session help, camps and trips, we can't do this by ourselves so thank you.

cubs

This year saw our Cubs completing a number of their activity and challenge badges. They have had sessions working towards craft/artist, local history, and pioneering and disability awareness to name a few. They learned about WW1 and what scouts would have done during the war as well as learning about the war in general. They have learned about what guide dogs do to help people and also how to tie a variety of knots. They were excited by our trip to the local Police Station. especially the tour of the cells and finger printing process.



In March many Cubs and their families attended the Group's 70th Birthday Party which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. May saw the District trip to Beamish. June brought Family camp at Ennerdale which included the usual favourites of archery, tie dying and water fights, with soap stone carving being the up and coming activity.



In July we had a Cub camp at Ennerdale where the Cubs went for a hike down one side of the lake and back again with a picnic at the far end, they also learned how to cut and prep wood correctly for a fire. The final day of the camp saw the Cubs split into groups to work on some problem solving and team challenges and as a bonus the weather stayed nice all weekend.



The year wouldn't be complete without our end of term wet/messy nights. The Cubs enjoyed a foam party and slip n slide – we can't say who got most wet, the Cubs or the leaders!



In addition to Sandra Chester returning to help with Cubs, we have also welcomed Matthew Martin as a Young Leader. Matthew was previously one of our Cubs so we're pleased to see him helping out.

Our plans for the year ahead include further camps, completion of badges and more fun. Thank you for all your support whatever it may be.

SCOUTS

Another year has flown by and it's been fantastic to see how our Scouts have jumped into tackling the different experiences and challenges that we've been able to offer; in the last year we've awarded 155 challenge and activity badges, welcomed 13 new Scouts to the Troop and clocked up over 230 Scout nights away across 6 different camps.



The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest award a Scout can earn and completing it takes a lot of commitment, we were delighted to be able present Zak Charlton with his last year before he moved on to Explorers. Several of our other Scouts have made significant progress with their award; Josh, Jacob, Alfie, Ben & Jaydon faced torrential rain and blazing sun to complete their Expedition Challenge in June, and we were very proud of Orion whose Personal Challenge to himself was to raise money for charity by completing a sponsored bike ride.



One of our highlights for the year was knife making camp. Taking inspiration from our Danish Scouting friends, we made our own whittling knives – carving the handles and sewing the sheaths – with some really superb results. We also introduced the Scouts to Patrol camping and our Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders admirably stepped up to the challenge of leading their fellow Scouts to set-up and run their own campsites and cook for themselves (and the leaders); we'll certainly be camping this way again! This year's summer camp saw us head out of Cumbria into neighbouring Lancashire (which it turns out is no drier). Despite the rain the Scouts enjoyed raft building, snow sports at Chill Factor^e, rifle shooting and the on-site ropes course amongst other activities; we even persuaded them all to have a wash by taking them to Sandcastle Waterpark!



Adventurous activities weren't just part of our camp programme; we've been climbing at Keswick, sailing and kayaking at Scarness through the summer and we've had twenty Scouts complete their Master at Arms activity badge and gain a national air rifle shooting award. We're already looking to see how we can keep this going over the coming year.



With last year's adventures already seeming a distant memory, we're planning the next year with a return to the national Scouts Wintercamp in Kielder Forest planned for January and a return to Denmark on the cards for summer camp. Regular Troop meetings continue to be a blend of traditional Scouting skills and more random activities suggested by the Scouts, we've been baking chocolate brownies in ovens made from cardboard and cooking sweet treats over open



Treasurer's Report

The Group Finances for the financial year of 2018/19 remain healthy. The increased costs previously accepted for the store at Sneckyeat are well embedded and the store has proved a real asset.

With just over 110 members and approximately 30/40 new starters/leavers each year our subscription and subsequent accounts are constantly changing.

The Online Scout Manager (OSM) system is now the main method of payment for subscriptions and various other events. Please could I ask all those still paying by other options to 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. 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.

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 just over £1700 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

fires. As ever, none of our programme would be possible without the commitment of our young and adult leaders and we wouldn't enjoy it without the enthusiasm and energy of the Scouts themselves – we're all looking forward to another fantastic year.

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).

Our main fundraising activities in the last financial year were 2 bag packs at Morrisons and the tea towel fundraiser at Christmas time. Together these raised just over the £3,000 mark. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who purchased tea towels and who volunteered their time at the bag packs, and of course to everyone who donated at the bag packing.

As usual, the Annual Returns and the year-end accounts for the previous financial year (2017/18) 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.

Louise Hodgson
Treasurer

Summary of Accounts

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Income	2017/18	2018/19
Membership subscriptions	£ 9,394.23	£ 12,888.41
Donations	£ 6,053.93	£ 2,589.59
Gift aid	£ 1,939.24	£ 1,792.27
Fundraising	£ 1,870.99	£ 3,328.93
Group activities	£ 17,060.96	£ 17,788.18
Uniform	£ 2,364.80	£ 1,856.00
Other income	£ 9.64	£ 18.57
Total	£ 38,693.79	£ 40,261.95

Expenditure	2017/18	2018/19
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,915.00	£ 4,247.25
Programme and activities	£ 24,872.71	£ 19,270.81
Rent and rates	£ 3,707.62	£ 6,005.86
Insurance	£ 588.86	£ 922.23
General administration	£ 333.90	£ 292.55
Uniform	£ 2,268.00	£ 2,011.50
Fundraising expenses	£ 91.73	£ 224.96
Asset and investment purchase	£ 6,070.47	£ 1,807.53
Other expenditure	£ 589.21	£ 245.24
Total	£ 42,419.50	£ 35,027.93

Statement of assets & liabilities	2017/18	2018/19
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 7,717.92	£ 12,933.37
Restricted cash funds	£ 15,003.18	£ 15,021.75
Non-monetary assets	£ 18,988.63	£ 19,277.98
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 553.92	£ 350.23



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee plays a vital role behind the scenes to support the activities of 1st Hensingham Scout Group, most of which goes unnoticed but is important to ensure that the Leaders can concentrate on continuing to providing a full and varied programme. Our new committee members are settling in well, although we are still low on numbers and have vacant positions for parent reps. Unfortunately Joanne Fisher had to leave the committee due to other commitments.

70th Birthday Celebrations

The group decided to celebrate this milestone birthday with events throughout the year. On 24 March Exec members and leaders laid on a birthday party for 207 people with a bungee run, inflatable pole joust, human table football and fairground games, to name but a few. Party food and a fabulous themed birthday cake were enjoyed by all, and the event was a great success. We extend our thanks to the venue, Campus Whitehaven, where the staff went out of their way to help us. At Family Camp in June, the group funded a visit from Hartley's Ice Cream van to provide ice cream for all participants in celebration of our birthday.



Equipment Store

Renting the equipment store at Sneckyeat Industrial Estate has brought benefits to the group such as ease of access, better fit-for-purpose like restoring, maintaining and preparing equipment for sessions and camps, and improved work space and facilities for leaders.

We have renewed the lease for our equipment store at Sneckyeat Industrial Estate for a further 3 years, accepting that these facilities come at a necessary additional cost to the group.

Fundraising

Bag packing: Our annual supermarket bag pack took place in February at Morrisons, resulting in significant funds being raised for the group. Morrisons staff

remember that our group return every year, and have commented on the excellent behaviour and attitude of our members. Thank you to all members, parents and leaders who helped with this event.

Grant application: Following a successful application to Tesco Bags of Help Scheme, the public voted with their blue tokens in Whitehaven Tesco store during May and June. We came second place and have been awarded funds for purchase of new climbing equipment, a fantastic boost for the group.

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 for us.
- 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 2018-19

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 Ann Walkingshaw	(Chair)
Mrs Gemma Pattinson	(Secretary)
Mrs Louise Hodgson	(Treasurer)
Mr Alf Branch	(Group Scout Leader*)
Dr Jonathan Cheesewright	(Scout Leader*)
Mrs Lisa Stanaway	(Beaver Leader*)
Mrs Kam Massey	
Mr Jonathan Stamper	
Mrs Clare Bethwaite	

* Ex-officio appointments by nature of their role.