



Annual Report 2012-13

1st Hensingham Scout Group

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2012/13.....

Well I can't really believe that we are coming towards yet another very successful year in scouting - how time flies!

We are continuing to grow from strength to strength and it never ceases to amaze me the number of new scouts that always want to start - whether it is from word of mouth or friendship groups or from the school playground.

We have had a very busy year within each section from visits to community work to camps and walks but none of this would take place without the enthusiasm and their own time given up by all Leaders and assistant Leaders to which we are indebted. Your children (and I know by mine) are truly lucky to have such a talented and dedicated bunch of leaders and the skills in which they have learnt will be used and taken with them into their adult life.

We are a volunteer run charity at the end of the day, and we only run with the dedication and effort from all our Leaders, Young Leaders and Executive Committee who give many hours of their own time. I would also like to thank many of the parents who also regularly support us and help out, without this we would not be able to run.

Let us hope that we have another successful year ahead.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours in Scouting

Karen Jackson
Group Scout Leader

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We are very grateful for the support given to us by Aker Solutions in the form of printing, laminating etc, often at short notice. In particular we would like to thank Site Administrator Carliene Stagg.



Scouting: make every day an adventure





Leaders:

Lisa Stanaway, Ian Richardson, Natalie McIntosh and Matt James

The number of Beavers has grown throughout the year and we now have nearly 20 Beavers attending both the Monday and Tuesday night sessions. A number of the long serving Beavers have moved on up to Cubs to continue their adventures in Scouting. The regular leaders – Ian, Lisa, Natalie and Matt – have been joined by Ross who is on temporary loan from the Scout Leadership team and the Beavers are also enjoying the assistance of a number of Young Leaders from the local Explorer groups.

Over the year the Beavers have enjoyed a wide range of activities as they have worked on challenge and activity badges. They have (amongst other things) had visits from the Fire Service and a bee keeper, made healthy fruit kebabs (and less healthy traffic light biscuits!), tried some smelly cheeses on a French themed night and tried a range of crafts. Our final meeting of the year will be a trip to St Bees lifeboat station where we will be presenting the Beavers with their hard earned badges.

The Beavers also attending the Remembrance Day parade and helped with the fund raising bag pack at Morrisons. Nine of our Beavers also joined with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from across the county for a wet but fun day out at Cumbaree where they enjoyed drumming, street dance, circus skills, sumo suits and a climbing wall.



Thanks for a great year and looking forward to seeing you all again in September!

Ian, Lisa, Natalie, Matt and Ross

The adventure starts here...



cubs



Leaders:

Eddie Stewart, Dave Forsythe, Matthew James, Pauline Wignall, Dave Thornley

Another great year for cubs.

Our numbers have remained stable throughout the year, with cubs moving up to scouts successfully, beavers joining the cubs, and some young people joining scouting for the first time.

Activities this year

Badges this have been varied, from cubs giving presentations on their hobbies, home safety, nature, – where spiders snails and beetles made an appearance –, science, map reading. We have attempted to make aeroplanes, as well as fly a remote controlled one – crashed, burned rebuilt, crashed and burned again – not a big success but cubs found it great fun.

One event which was a good success was the karate evening, arranged by Dave F and his contacts at the ESKK club, the cubs were shown exercises, strikes and blows. The three guest martial artists were all made honorary cubs with 1st Hensingham, as a way of a big thank you to them. Much to the pleasure of the cubs



Camping and Events

A number of the cubs went ice-skating at Dumfries as part of the district trip. Fortunately no injuries, but a good laugh and great fun

We joined in the Scout winter camp held at Ennerdale, just as the snow fell. Those cubs that attended found the more challenging scout activities – whittling, fire lighting etc to be great fun, and joined in with great gusto.

Attending the Cumbaree event – as normal not in good weather – gave our cubs the chance to interact with cubs throughout Cumbria, as well

as allowing leaders to refresh friendships, and make new ones as well. They got to see the Chief Scout Bear Grylls, some close up and some at a distance – Karen however did manage to get my hat signed. Activities included Funfair rides, wall climbing and drum beating, Karen enjoyed this as much – if not more – than the cubs.

This summer sees two of our leaders leave. Many thanks and best wishes for the future go to Pauline and Dave T – remember both of you DYB. DYB. DYB., and you are both welcome back anytime

Thanks and looking forward to more fun next year.

Eddie Stewart

Scouting: make every day an adventure

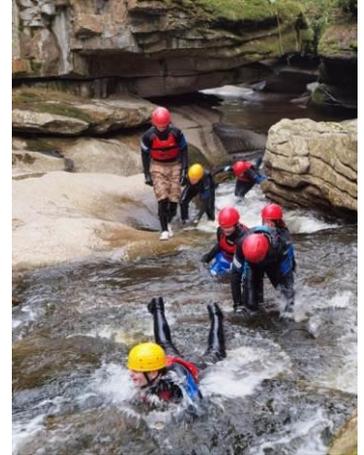




Leaders:

Alf Branch, Mike Hawkrigg, Pete Brough, Jon Cheesewright, Ross Cleeton, Stuart Kane, Paul Tyson

Wow, what a busy year we've had – the challenge is going to be doing justice to it and keeping within our word count! Over the course of the year we've seen a number of our regulars move on to Explorers but their shoes have been more than filled by the new faces who've moved up from Cubs or joined us directly. As a result troop numbers have stayed stable at around 20 scouts per night. After the last AGM the summer saw us spend the driest 5 days of the summer holidays at Ennerdale with the scouts navigating their way around and across the Lake, improving their archery skills and building coracles. The wet theme continued at the end of the holidays with an afternoon of wet games, BBQ and wide games at Ennerdale.



Our autumn term programme was focussed around the fitness challenge with a number of the troop earning their badges, although healthy eating went out the window for our sweet themed cookery night at Mirehouse (toffee strong enough to pull teeth) and our camp at Alton Towers (we joined scouts from across the UK to sleep in park and make full use of the water park and rides – a great time was had by all, even if we were a little bit late getting home)! Our Halloween night in half term was our penultimate event at Mirehouse and we took full advantage of not having to worry too much about cleaning up – if the scouts were surprised at how messy they got, it was nothing compared to the parents!

Our spring programme saw a mixture of challenges from playing the Price is Right to inflicting some truly terrifying injuries on each other (all fake) as part of practising for the first aid badge. Probably the biggest challenge of the term was getting to Ennerdale for our joint Winter Camp with the Cubs but everyone made it eventually and even though there was no snow everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



Easter saw our second major camp as our Traditional Summer Camp was brought forward a few months. Building on the success of our last two Summer Camps we went to the far and distant lands of Yorkshire for our longest camp yet (7 nights under canvas), and managed to get our highest turn-out so far! With tents pitched we battled it out in the cooking competition,

avoided hypothermia whilst ghyll scrambling and caving, and went crate stacking in the dark to name just a few highlights of the week!

Over the last term we've been getting back to some of the traditional scouting skills such as pioneering and map/compass work. An excellent turnout from the troop to clear litter from the local area as part of Scout Community Week got us our second feature of the year in the Whitehaven News and raised over £300 in sponsorship.

In addition to our normal meetings and weekend events Paul's expertise has allowed us to run two air rifle courses leading to either the Master at Arms or Master at Arms Plus activity badges, and our first air rifle shooting competition. Alf, with some help from Pete and Chris Evans, has been encouraging several of the troop to work towards their Photographer's badge with some evening workshops, and with the lighter evenings we've also been able to offer kayaking, canoeing and sailing thanks to the County water activities team's sessions at Scarness.

On behalf of all the leaders – thanks to the scouts for making running the troop something we look forward to and for their enthusiasm at getting involved with all the activities on offer. Hopefully 2013/14 will be just as exciting!

Jon

The adventure starts here...



Finance

Kam Massey



The Group Finances continues to be healthy, once again there is no need to raise the termly subscription which will remain the same as it has been for many years now (£20 for Beavers and Cubs; £25 for Scouts), as well as retaining the family discounts (£5 discount for a sibling(s)). Subscriptions are due at the start of each term and should be submitted as soon as possible, with over 100 members, we would normally let parents know that the subs are expected in a general newsletter if it is timely, else the leaders will try and mention it verbally. So thank you to everyone who paid promptly, your co-operation is very much appreciated. The administration required to track the payments can be very time consuming, and individual reminders are only sent out if payments have not been made after 4 weeks. This system is working well and achieving a low level of non-payment of subscription which has helped greatly to minimise deficits between our normal incomes against the expected expenditures. Additionally, a monthly direct debit option is available on request, it is worth emphasising that it is important that the instructions need to be followed in order that the subscription can be tracked to the member making the payment!

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 should income and fundraising activities fall short, as well as having adequate provision for future maintenance / disposal of our Storage Facility at Hensingham School.

The major source of additional income to supplement our income from subscription remains our annual Gift Aid claim. The main fundraising carried out this year was yet again the successful bag packing at Morrisons, which enables this year's Family Camp to be substantially subsidised by the Group. We have also received a donation of £1400 from the 8th Whitehaven Scout Group, which is their remaining assets on dissolution and merger with our group and is in accordance with charitable law. Additionally, due to the good will and contacts of some parents, the Scouts Easter camp expenses came under budget, almost all the refunds were kindly given back by the parents, these generous donations and the additional money from gift aid have further boosted the Group Funds. We have invested some of the available funds on equipment expenditures, including camping equipment, spare waterproof clothing and mobile phones for the benefit of the whole group.

The year-end accounts for the previous year 2011/12 were compiled and the Annual Returns and the accounts were submitted to the Charity Commission using the on line account and the Trustee information updated. A summary of our accounts is available on the Charity Commission website.

Kam Massey

Executive Committee

Gary Wright,

The last 12 months has seen Estelle Kay kindly taking on the role of Secretary, whilst Parent Members Caroline McDonald, Alan McDonald and Treasurer Kam Massey have help maintain stability within the committee by continuing in their Parent Member roles. Simon Kay has been co-opted into the Executive Committee due to his role on the New HQ Project. The Committee has met on average every two months and has been well attended by all members.

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



Scouting: make every day an adventure



I would like to finish by offering a big thank you to all our Section Leaders, Executive Committee members and parent volunteers for all their hard work over the past 12 months.

Let's all continue to support the group, working together to take scouting at 1st Hensingham to even greater heights for the benefit of all our young people.

Fundraising

We had a bag packing day at Morrisons in Whitehaven again this year. Once again we were fortunate to be allocated the eve of Mothers' day in what has become a bit of annual tradition. Our young people (and the adults) worked very hard indeed and we managed to raise a very credible £1560. I would like to express the group's gratitude to Morrisons for their hospitality. We have provisionally booked the corresponding weekend for March 2014 for our next bag packing fundraiser so please put that date in your diaries.

The group also benefit significantly from claiming back Gift Aid on membership fees. This year we have claimed back over £1400. 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.

The Future

Although parental support is fantastic within 1st Hensingham, our size means that we always need help! We can never have enough volunteers.

Following the loss of the Old Mirehouse Scout Hut the group have taken the opportunity to go into to partnership with Moresby Primary School to develop a multiuse Scout Headquarters/Pre-School/Nursery facility. The two parties are currently undertaking a feasibility study in to the joint venture. This will be a significant undertaking for the group and we will need support from all members of the group during this project.

We welcome feedback on all our activities good or bad, the Group will take anything you have to say into consideration. You can provide your feedback either verbally or in writing to any leader or alternatively by telephone to the Group Scout Leader, Karen Jackson on 01946

Gary
Executive Chairman

The adventure starts here...



Group Information

<i>Registered Name</i>	<i>1st Hensingham Scout Group</i>
<i>Ex-Officio Appointments</i>	<i>(by Nature of their appointment)</i>
<i>Group Scout Leader</i>	<i>Mrs Karen Jackson - 01946 814055</i>
<i>Beaver Leader</i>	<i>Mr Ian Richardson</i>
<i>Cub Leader</i>	<i>Mr Eddie Stewart</i>
<i>Scout Leader</i>	<i>Mr Alf Branch</i>
<i>Elected Representatives</i>	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Mr Gary Wright</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mrs Kam Massey</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mrs Estelle Kay</i>
<i>Nominated Representatives</i>	<i>Mrs Caroline McDonald Mr Alan McDonald</i>
<i>Co-opted Members</i>	<i>Mr Simon Kay – New HQ Project</i>
<i>Bankers</i>	<i>NatWest Lowther Street Whitehaven CA28 7AH</i>
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Investment Advisers</i>	<i>Not Required as the group only hold cash</i>
<i>Insurance Advisers</i>	<i>Scout Association</i>
<i>Charity Registration No</i>	<i>520612</i>
<i>Charity Contact</i>	<i>Mrs Kam Massey c/o Scout Group</i>
<i>Registered Address of HQ</i>	<i>Hensingham Primary School Main Street, Hensingham Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 8QZ</i>