

365 Days of Adventure, here's what happened ...



1st Hensingham Scout Group Annual Report 2014-15

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2014/15.....

I have recently taken over as the 1st Hensingham Scout Group's Group Scout Leader having previously been the Helvellyn Troop Scout Leader. I first of all would like to thank Karen Jackson, our previous GSL, for all her hard work over the years.

It's great to take over with the Group doing well and I'm pleased to see the quality of program reflected by the increase in our youth membership this year. However, there is always the chance to improve things!

For the first time in years we have decided to increase subs, reflecting the steady increase we have seen for our storage and rental costs.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders. I've been delighted to welcome new faces to the leadership team over the last few months. We've also regretfully had to say farewell to others; Ross left us at Christmas to start a new job overseas and we're looking forward to welcoming him back when his secondment ends. Alex joined us this time last year and will shortly be leaving us to return to his studies in Manchester, he's been a huge asset to the Beaver leadership team and we wish him well and hope that this is a temporary departure.

We are well supported by our enthusiastic Young Leaders in Beavers and Cubs who are a great help in running these 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 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 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 Cub Scout

Centenary,

return of District Camp, and plenty more on the cards - I'm sure that 2015/16 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

This year we lost Ross and family to start their adventures in Poland and had the arrival of Alex, on his adventures from University. Ross being greatly missed and Alex being greatly received.

Our Beaver numbers are at a steady 18-20 per night and since January we have seen our older Beavers move to Cubs, with the majority of them achieving their Chief Scout Bronze Award. We start the next transitions in September.



We have seen the introduction of some new badges this year, some of which the Beavers have already worked hard for and received. They have learnt how to use semaphore and Morse code for the Communicator Badge. Become more aware of constellations and planets for the Space Badge. Had races with a wheel chair, tried to understand more about the different senses and their importance and trying to make all we do more inclusive to all for the Disability Badge. They have re-visited some familiar badges including Healthy Eating, and built some fantastic K'nex models for a

Challenge Badge, some of which actually travelled along tracks!

We've been on a trip to St John's Church at Hensingham where the Beavers were able to try their hand at hand held bell ringing and toured the bell tower to witness the mysteries of bell ringing.

We have had our own BBQ fire and introduced the Beavers to S'mores, not sure how many 'flew' home that night from the sugar intake or from Alex's new found campfire voice.

A good number of our Beavers were able to attend Family Camp recently which they and their parents, fought through the midges, survived, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves with the activities on offer. Hopefully this has wetted their appetite for more camping.

We've had Alex and his magic wizard's stick, Lisa and her confusion over night's away badges and inevitably Matt and his whistle! We've also had some great support this year from our Explorer Young Leaders, Leah, Amy, Dan, Emily and Robert, thanks to all of you for your continued help.

Alex is heading back to University after the summer, we wish him all the best and hope to see him soon.

There are more plans for next year with visits, trips and activities, watch this space!!!

Lisa, Matt & Alex



Another fun filled year for Cub Scouting at 1st Hensingham.

Our numbers have remained stable throughout the year, with 40 regular attenders on Monday and Tuesday nights

We have had a number of Cubs move up to Scouts. All of those cubs moving on achieved their Chief Scout silver Award.

A number of Beavers have moved up to Cubs, and have made a successful transfer, and a few have joined the group new to scouting.

Activities this year

The start of the year saw the Cubs prepare to put on show for the beavers, which included songs and sketches which the Cubs and leaders performed with great gusto.



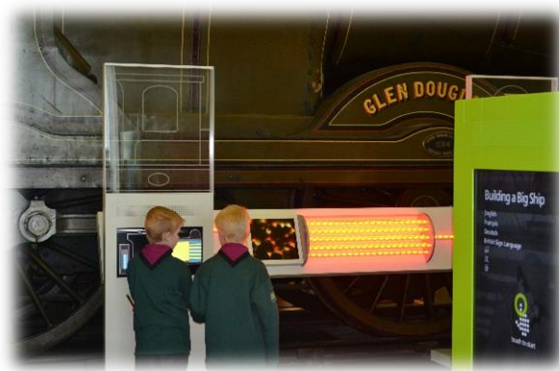
We also looked at the Cubs' hobbies, and the stars, as well as exploring our town, beaches and woods.

Events

Two district trips were arranged this year;

One to the Liverpool Docks area, where the Cubs had the chance to look around the history of shipping and trade in the Liverpool Area.

The second was to the Glasgow motor museum, where the Cubs had a good look at a wide range of motor vehicles, and also visited a tall ship. We also took the opportunity to renew our Promise in our St George's Day Celebration.



Future

Next Year will see the 100th Birthday of Cub Scouting, and preparations will start in September.

The District is planning a number of events and camps which will bring all the District Cubs together a number of times, as well as various Group-only events. - news to follow after summer break.

This year also see a significant numerical milestone for some of our leaders who will; be hitting a significant numerical milestone in their own lives. We intend to let the Cubs celebrate these in style.

The Cub leadership team, would like to thank all the Cubs for their patience with us this year, and they must remember that as leaders we must try all activities and food before them, to ensure their safety – but also because we want a go as well – we are all big kids after all (but don't tell them that)

Eddie, Dave, Matthew, Vic, Gail and Sarah

SCOUTS

Wow! It's been another incredibly busy year. Since our last report another three of our Scouts have achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Award; congratulations to Gavin MacDonald, Emily Owen and Thomas Stanaway on achieving the highest award a Scout can earn.

We took full advantage of last summer's good weather with rafting in Whitehaven harbour, fire lighting and backwoods cooking at Ennerdale, and a GPS treasure hunt around the town centre being just a few of the highlights from our summer meetings.



August saw the return of Summer Camp and twelve Scouts joined us for an action packed week at Ennerdale. By the end of camp opinion was divided on the highlight of camp but axe throwing, ghyll scrambling, and our day out in Keswick topped the list.

The autumn term started with a "bang" (or was it a "woomph") with a silly science night, before we focussed on some more traditional Scouting skills. The Cubs joined us for a "back to basics" camp at Branthwaite and the Troop night programme included pioneering, whittling and first aid (not as the result of whittling!). Our "Scout fireworks" meeting produced some truly impressive results as the Scouts got to grips with light painting using glow sticks.



We started the Spring term with a return visit to WinterCamp at Hawkthirst – the Scouts survived just about every type of weather imaginable and had a fantastic time. A large number of the Troop earned their Entertainer badge by planning and performing their own shadow plays - if you haven't seen them have a look on our YouTube channel.

Our photo Scavenger hunt around Carlisle during half-term proved a big success, even if we cut things a little fine getting to the station from LaserQuest! Equally popular was our evening of climbing and caving at King Kong, and I think we'll be planning a return visit next year.

Lighter evenings have seen the relaunch of our Monday night water activities sessions on Bassenthwaite Lake. As part of our Troop night programme, the Scouts have been showing off their culinary skills to plan and cook a main meal that they could make on camp.

We've also squeezed in a trip to St Bees life boat station, had a fab time at Family Camp, and it wouldn't be summer without pioneering plant pot catapults!

Planning for our summer holiday programme is well in hand, including a Bear Gryll's inspired backwoods camp at the end of August. We're also bracing ourselves for adrenaline fuelled camp at Alton Towers at the start of next term.

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.

Alf, Mike, Paul, Pete, Ruth, Stuart & Jon





Treasurer's Report

The Group Finances remain healthy, despite significant rise in rent for the hall, we have also seen rising costs of rent, rates and insurance for our temporary equipment store in Egremont. In light of this we have decided to slightly increase termly subscription costs from September 2015 to £25 for Beavers and Cubs; £30 for Scouts. We will continue to offer the family discount of £5 for additional sibling(s). We hope all parents/guardians have received a copy of his letter outlining the subscription increase.

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, in fact this is the first raise in subs for 10 years.

A monthly direct debit 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!

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.

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.

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, Family camp and fun day. 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 £1616. Furthermore we applied for a grant from Cumbria County Council this year and were successfully awarded £2500 which has allowed the group to purchase a box trailer to help transport equipment between camps and our store. We are hoping to have the trailer present at the AGM complete with Group Logo supported by Tannahill Reay Visual Communications - we hope you will approve. Sellafield Ltd also kindly pledged £250 to our group, this has been used to buy supplementary equipment for the new trailer for group use.

As usual, the year-end accounts for the previous financial year 2013/14 had 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 2015 Annual Report. We've had another fabulous year.

The Group continues to be one of the strongest in the Western Lakes Scout District and continues to thrive. The past twelve months has seen a slight increase in numbers to around the one hundred and twenty mark. This shows what a wonderful experience our Group offers to the young people of the Whitehaven area.

During the past year our long standing Group Scout Leader Karen Jackson sadly had to resign due to personal reasons. Karen had been involved with Hensingham Scouts in one form or another for over ten years. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Karen for all her hard work and support over the past decade and wishing her well in the future.

In addition Ian Richardson has had to sadly step down as our Beaver Section Leader due to family reasons. This has seen Lisa Stanaway kindly step into the void and take on the role. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Ian for his work as Beaver Section Leader.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Alf Branch as the new Group Scout Leader, I am sure the appointment of Alf will help the Group go from strength to strength.

This past year has also seen several new members of the Executive Committee. Daniel Frankland (Treasurer), Andrea Bird (Secretary) and Anne Walkinshaw (Scout Parent Representative) have all settled in well and have complimented the established members of the Committee.

The Executive Committee plays a vital role in the effective running of the Group, supporting the leaders and providing long-term stability. We're always looking to for people who can bring new ideas to the team, and currently we're especially keen to recruit parent representatives for the Beaver and Cub sections.

As part of succession planning we are in need for both Beaver and Cub Leaders and additional Executive Committee members, we will not say no to anyone who offers their services!

This summer sees scout Nat Dempsey travelling to Kirara-hama, Japan to join 30,000 scouts and guides from over 200 countries at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Nat and I hope he enjoys every minute.



Joining Nat will be Scout leader Jon Cheesewright who has been selected as an adult volunteer. Jon will be part of a team of international adults whose aim is make sure the jamboree runs as smoothly as possible and that the young scouts and guides get as much enjoyment and an unbelievable experience out of the event.

Fundraising

This year we have Claiming back Gift Aid on membership fees continues to contribute to the group funds by a considerable amount, £1720 this last year. 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.

Once again we have benefitted from several grant allocations from Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood forums with £2500 being awarded to allow us to purchase our own trailer which has already proved its worth at the recent Family Camp. Our thanks goes to Cumbria County Council Community Grants Panel for their support.

Once again Mother's Day weekend saw the Group undertake a successful bag packing day at Morrisons in Whitehaven. As always the people of Whitehaven proved themselves to be very generous and donated a brilliant £1616. I would like to thank our young people (and adults) for all their hard work. The Group have provisionally booked the corresponding weekend, Saturday 5th March 2016, for next year for which I would like to express the group's gratitude to Morrisons for their ongoing hospitality.

The Future

Those of you with good memories will recall that we launched the Group's new website at last year's AGM. With the exception of few hiccups the website has been a wonderful shop window for the group with regular updates detailing recent activities and upcoming events. Our thanks go to Jon Cheesewright for his efforts in keeping the website running and up to date. For those of you who don't visit the website on a regular basis please do so at your earliest opportunity, it is full of group information and photos of recent activities.

www.hensinghamscouts.org.uk/

The Group currently have use of a building in Egremont as a store. Unfortunately the Group have been given notice and we are currently on the lookout for a suitable alternative. Similarly are looking for suitable storage for our new trailer. So if you know any potential facilities please do not hesitate speak to myself or one of the Leaders, alternatively you can email info@hensinghamscouts.org.uk.

Although parental support is fantastic within 1st Hensingham, our size means that we always

Group Information

Registered Name: 1st Hensingham Scout Group

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

Elected representatives

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

Parent representatives Mr Alan MacDonald
Mrs Ann Walkingshaw

Co-opted representative: Mrs Kam Massey

need help! We can never have too many volunteers.

We're always looking to improve the scouting experience we offer to our members and we welcome feedback on all our activities, good or bad. You can provide your feedback either verbally, by email or in writing to any leader or alternatively by contacting the Group Scout Leader, Alf Branch.

Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds
- Kerry the caretaker for continuing to open and close the school
- All our Leaders, Young Leaders and regular helpers.

Gary Wright

Group Chairman

Bankers: NatWest, Lowther Street
Whitehaven, CA28 7AH

Independent Examiner: N/A

Investment Advisers: Not required as the Group only hold cash

Insurance Advisers: The Scout Association

Charity Registration No: 520612

Charity Contact: Mr Daniel Frankland
c/o Scout Group

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