



Scouts
1st Hensingham



Everyday adventure, Skills for life

**1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual report 2019-20**



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Welcome to our 2019-20 annual report

I think this started out as a another good year for 1st Hensingham Scout Group. We did some good stuff between October and March and had more planned and I am sure we would have done more. Of course world events got in the way of everything in March with Covid 19.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders. Our Leaders have kept going throughout with a variety of virtual sessions and as usual some great ideas.

We have had more new recruits to the leadership team this year with John Smallman joining us and Josh Musgrave and Oscar Craig moving from young leaders to become Leaders.

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 even during the lockdown and we have restarted face to face activities which we hope to continue. Face to Face activities may not be the same for a while though.

I did manage to attend some camps with the sections this year though not the virtual ones which seems to happen when I was at work. Everyone who joined in seems to have been enthusiastic and had fun.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone (leaders, parents and young people) for helping make the last 12 months a success. This has been particularly important for the last 6 months

I know the section leaders are already planning lots of zoom and face to face 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

Where do we start? What a Year this has been. September 2019 saw us welcoming Beavers new and old alongside a new Assistant Leader John Smallman.

Western Lakes District held an Activity Day at Newton Rigg, Penrith where the Beavers spent a full day taking part in lots of activities: climbing and nerf archery to name but two of them.



Within the sessions we made vegetable food people, twisty pets and armpit fudge, (always a favourite).

To commemorate Remembrance Day we made sugar craft poppies and plastic bottle poppies which we then 'planted' at St John's Church. How fabulous they looked, especially by lamplight.



We played games a plenty with some super indoor hockey players who had some excellent team skills. We held hobbies nights where the Beavers shared their collections, reading books, sporting, and animal stories.

The Beavers have completed a number of badges this year including the Space activity badge where we learnt about the solar system and space missions. There was also Camp craft activity where we tied knots, made fires and learnt about the history of Scouting badges.

We hosted a sleepover at Ennerdale Camp site in February where we had 14 Beavers plus Leaders stay overnight. We made homemade pizzas, bottle rockets and glow in the dark t-shirts which were proudly worn with glow sticks at the evening disco.





The Group's Curry Night took place in February where a selection of different 'temperature' curries were on offer alongside lime pickles that had been made by the Beavers.

And then, we went **VIRTUAL**, but that didn't stop us



Whilst hosting our virtual meetings we have seen our Beavers become Pirates, cook toasties and mug cakes, make sponge boats, learn about birds of prey, make puppets, go on scavenger hunts, tie laces, learn about computer communication skills, create beautiful soapstone necklaces, tell jokes, show magic tricks, play instruments, make bug hotels and lots of home camping. Some we know have spent very few nights in your actual beds....



And not forgetting our NHS and Key Worker thank you video and Ross's scout award postal video. Looking forward to this year we have another full programme planned.

We have new skills to be learnt - cooking, communication, and navigational. Talents we want the Beavers to share with us and grow over a mixture of virtual and face to face sessions. We look forward to welcoming our new Beavers and wishing our older ones well as they move to Cubs, thanks for being such brilliant Beavers.

And finally a **huge thank you** to all parents, families and households that have helped us this year, be it physically or virtually, we can't do this by ourselves so **thank you**. Stay safe to all and we will see you soon.

Lisa, Ross, Rebecca, John, and Matt

cubs

The Cubs did some star gazing to finish off part of the space badge – luckily the weather was in our favour and we could see the stars and some constellations like Orion's Belt.

For the session just before Remembrance Parade the Cubs decorated poppy cookies that had been kindly made for us by a parent. Once again Remembrance Day saw a great turn out from the Cubs, which gets larger each year.



Christmas trip was bowling this time with the laser quest no longer being there. Everyone enjoyed themselves - we're not sure who was more competitive, the Cubs or the parents!



2020 started off as a good year: the Cubs made snowflakes out of paper and made flowers out of spoons for Women's Day. They completed their disability badge as well as bits of other badges that have enabled them to also be completed.

Then came the challenge for everyone – no face to face sessions. After some discussion with the other leaders the decision was made to host Zoom sessions to keep some normality to people's routines which brought it's own challenges for the leaders in terms of how to do activities virtually and keep them as fun as possible.



Activities that we managed to do virtually ranged from scavenger hunts around the house either as find a named item or work out a clue first. We challenged the Cubs to see how many tops they could get on in 1 minute with the record being 14 tops (the Cub had to be peeled out of them afterwards!)



One of our scout leaders/parent came onto one of the sessions to do cake in a mug which was enjoyed by everyone even siblings who joined in.

We had 2 visitors to sessions as well; Rachel from Beckermat Cubs joined us for a pets session to talk about her tortoise telling the Cubs about how she cares for him and what tortoises eat. To keep the animal theme going we had Joe from Joes Bows join and showed the Cubs 3 different birds of prey: Barn Owl, Kestrel and Hawk.



A big thanks has to be given to our Cubs, who have tried and done their best with all the activities we have given them to do both at sessions and also virtually.

Matt, Brian, Harry, Rebecca, Sandra and Oscar

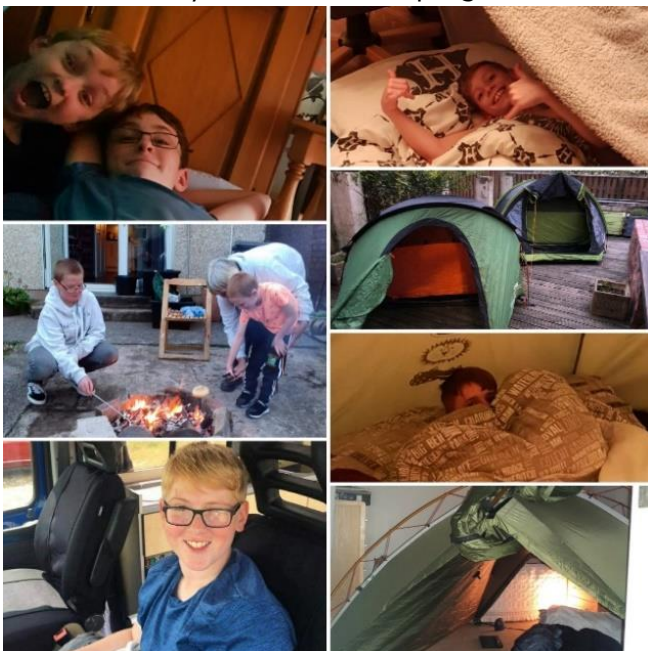
SCOUTS

As another Scouting year draws to a close it's been fantastic to have so many of the Troop join us for as we restart face-to-face activities.

As far as we know we were the first section in Cumbria to resume meeting so, on behalf of the Scouts, thank you to all of the adults who've helped make it happen.



On behalf of the leadership team, thank you to all of the Scouts (and parents), for sticking with us through lock-down and joining in so enthusiastically with our virtual programme.



As leaders it's been fantastic to see the way a number of our Scouts have been trying to help others through lock down. Several of the Scouts took up the challenge to help keep our local area tidy by litter picking during the daily exercise. 18 members of Troop and their families took part in the Hike to the Moon, clocking up 222 miles towards our Group total of 375. Thomas Pavey and Lacey O'Neill have both undertaken sponsored challenges to raise money for charity, Lacey even donated her hair (and I'm sure there are others we've not heard about).

Lacey and Orion O'Neill also helped put together hundreds, if not thousands, of PPE packs for local community health care workers to use on home visits to patients and we're delighted that they have been awarded the High Sheriff's Shield by Cumbria Scouts in recognition of their efforts.



Before the world went topsy-turvy we'd already been having a busy year. We've awarded 179 Challenge and Activity badges in the last 12 months, including a Chief Scout's Gold Award (the highest award a Scout can earn) – congratulations to Josh Fearon on a great achievement.

The big event pre lock-down was our return to Winter Camp where we joined over a thousand other Scouts for an action packed weekend in Kielder Forest. Camping at the beginning of January is never easy, but this year was one of the toughest camps with 60 mph winds and horizontal rain – not that it seemed to bother any of our Scouts!

Food themed meetings proved particularly popular with the Scouts (a trend that continued in our virtual meetings), a definite culinary success was baking chocolate brownies in cardboard boxes! The Scouts' creative skills were also tested as we took advantage of a new partnership with Games Workshop to complete the Model Maker badge. Our last activity before lock-down struck was the final session of our spring Master at Arms air rifle shooting course – it's incredibly rewarding seeing how the Scouts' skills develop over the 7 week programme with some excellent shooting in the end of course competition. Once again, thank you to all the Scouts for their enthusiasm over the last year and their willingness to give things a go.

Jon, Mike, Dan, Dan, Nic, Josh & Paul



For Remembrance Day all sections contributed to 1st Hensingham's tribute to the fallen by making poppies out of plastic bottles, which were then installed outside St John's Church Hensingham. Many positive comments were received from church members and the Vicar who really appreciated the temporary poppy field.





Treasurer's Report

The group finances for the financial year 2019/2020 remain healthy. An increased cost in this year's expenditure on rent and rates was due to having to back pay Non-Domestic Rates for years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 to Copeland Borough Council for the store we rent at Sneckyeat. When we took the rental of the store on we were informed that we wouldn't have to pay Non-Domestic Rates, but in fact we do have to pay them at the charitable relief rate.

With just over 110 members and approximately 30/40 new starters/leavers each year our subscription and subsequent accounts are constantly changing; this year income from membership subscriptions was slightly down from the year 2018/19.

The Online Scout Manager (OSM) system is now the main method of payment for subscriptions and various events. Could I please ask if you don't currently use this system if you would consider using it.

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 £2550 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 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-funding 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 activity in the last financial year was curry night which raised just over £340. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and donated to it.

As usual, the annual returns and the year end accounts for the previous year (2018/2019) 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

[Louise Hodgson](#)
Treasurer

Summary of Accounts

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| Income | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership subscriptions | £ 2,888.41 | £ 12,250.90 |
| Donations | £ 2,589.59 | £ 304.78 |
| Gift aid | £ 1,792.27 | £ 2,573.88 |
| Fundraising | £ 3,328.93 | £ 692.12 |
| Group activities | £ 17,788.18 | £ 12,510.54 |
| Uniform | £ 1,856.00 | £ 1,484.50 |
| Other income | £ 18.57 | £ 5,315.96 |
| Total | £ 40,261.95 | £ 35,132.68 |

| Expenditure | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership subscriptions | £ 4,247.25 | £ 3,989.50 |
| Programme and activities | £ 19,270.81 | £ 17,246.26 |
| Rent and rates | £ 6,005.86 | £ 6,418.04 |
| Insurance | £ 922.23 | £ 941.75 |
| General administration | £ 292.55 | £ 189.70 |
| Uniform | £ 2,011.50 | £ 1,704.60 |
| Fundraising expenses | £ 224.96 | £ 293.71 |
| Asset and investment purchase | £ 1,807.53 | £ 4,808.90 |
| Other expenditure | £ 245.24 | £ 297.19 |
| Total | £ 35,027.93 | £ 35,889.65 |

| Statement of assets & liabilities | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Unrestricted cash funds | £ 2,933.37 | £ 27,198.15 |
| Restricted cash funds | £ 15,021.75 | Now in above as we don't hold any restricted accounts |
| Non-monetary assets | £ 19,277.98 | £ 19,513.28 |
| Liabilities (accounts not yet paid) | £ 350.23 | £ 110.00 |



Executive Committee

Following our 2019 AGM we were pleased to welcome Jenny Walker as a parent representative 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 any of the sections. When the COVID-19 restrictions set in we have continued to meet regularly using Zoom, ensuring that everything continues to operate in the way in which it should.

Funding

Unfortunately we were unable to raise funds this year through our supermarket bag pack which was scheduled for 21st March – right at the start of lockdown.

However, in February we did manage to enjoy a group social event, with the return of Curry Night (even bigger and better than before). Thanks to the curry chefs, and all who contributed to making the evening a good one. As a bonus over three hundred pounds was raised for our funds.

Thanks to a lead from one of our parents, we applied for a grant from the LLWR Community Fund, and were successful in obtaining £3150 for an additional box trailer. This will make the transportation of equipment to and from camps considerably easier. We now have the trailer awaiting its new pictures and Scout logo, ready to make its first journey. Without grants such as these it would not be possible to acquire such

significant items, and we thank the LLWR Community Fund for their generosity.

Update on Development Plans

Over the past few years, the committee has been looking at the possibility of acquiring land or buildings to make a permanent facility for Hensingham Scouts. In November 2019, after extensive discussion ruling out a possible option, the executive committee came to the decision not to actively pursue any further development options, and to focus on effective use of the current facilities available at Hensingham Primary School. We will continue to ensure the group is financially secure and leaders are able to deliver a full and varied programme of Scouting activities, whilst working in partnership with Hensingham Primary School as a base for 1st Hensingham.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds.
- 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 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 | |
| Mrs Clare Bethwaite | |
| Mrs Jenny Walker | |

* Ex-officio appointments by nature of their role.