



# Everyday adventure, Skills for life

**1st Hensingham Scout Group  
Annual report 2022-23**



## Welcome to our 2022-23 annual report

Our team of Leaders continues to change, Matthew has gone off to University, I would like to thank him for his time with us.

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.

We have had more new recruits to the leadership team this year with Drew Brown, Keith Purkiss, James Harling joining us to become leaders. and our newest leader having just turned 18 Kenzie Watson who moved from being a Young Leader. It is good to see more recruits than those leaving but we have room for more.

It is great to continue seeing 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.

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. We are looking to increase our Active Support section which is a team to help run specific one-off activities like camps and events away from the school.

I have managed to attend Beaver, Cub and Scout camps in the last year and it has been great to see them out again and having a good time. There are, of course, more in pipeline.

I would like to thank everyone (leaders, parents and young people) for helping make the last 12 months a success.

I hope all of you who attended our Family Camp back in June enjoyed it and the cooking was OK. We will have another in a few years I suspect.

I know the section leaders are already planning lots of exciting activities for the next year, both indoors and out. I look forward to having you share the fun, challenge and adventure with us.

Alf Branch  
Group Scout Leader



We were so sad at the loss of Steve Southward one of Cub leaders (and resident Viking) late last year. Steve is greatly missed by all who knew him. Steve was a wonderful and kind man, and a great dad to William and to Alex, one of our Scouts. The group are in the process of siting a commemorative plaque at the Ennerdale Scout Campsite.



Another sad loss to us at 1st Hensingham was that of Bill Arnot from Western Lakes Scouts and formerly of Ennerdale Scout Centre and Cumbria Scouts Trustees. He gave over 58 years' service to Scouting and will be remembered fondly by many.

Bill was grandfather to Freya one our Scouts.



# BEAVERS

Hello Everyone.

This year has seen us do lots of activities and completing lots of badges.

At the start of the year we litter picked on Whitehaven Harbour as part of our Community badge requirements.

We had a visit from a dentist who helped us gain part of the Skills Challenge badge. We walked in the freezing, snowy cold at Moresby and star gazed, and our Beavers gained their Gardening badge by growing three different types of vegetables. Planting them during the normal weekly sessions and looking after them at home afterwards, sending us lots of pictures charting how the plants were growing.



We continued with our swimming sessions at Mayfield School pool, covering badge requirements, learning pool safety and playing lots of water games. We even 'dry swam' following the pool not being available one night at short notice.



In connection with West Cumbria Rivers Trust we had a day tree planting at Moresby Woods with Beavers, Cubs and their families planting in excess of 200 trees.



Tree planting



Phoenix in Korea

Our Young Leaders who are a great help in delivering sessions, games and activities covered some of their own badge modules by organising two nights of activities around an international theme of Korea. Encouraging the Beavers to taste new foods, learn new greetings and playing Korean games. With Young Leader Phoenix actually taking part in the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree which was held this summer in Korea. Well done Phoenix!

This year we've welcomed George as Assistant Leader and very recently, Charlie, Isaac and Alex as new Young Leaders.

Going forward for this year we have a sleepover at Branthwaite organised for the end of September. We are going in search of bats at Moresby Woods. We have planned an evening of performing to cover the performance element of the Creative activity badge and completing our Communicator activity badge which will have our Beavers using the new rugged smartphones the group has recently purchased for all of the sections to use.

And finally, as always, we need to give a **huge thank you** to all parents, families and households that have helped us this year. We can't do this by ourselves, we need your help. If anyone would like to get more involved, be it occasionally in the weekly sessions or when we have our camps, please see one of the Beaver Leaders for more details.

Thanks again and here's to another good year at Beavers.

Lisa, Ross, David and George  
Phoenix, Jamie, Jacob, Charlie, Isaac and Alex



Hello Everyone.

This year has seen us do lots of activities and completing lots of badges, with more than 300 challenge and activity badges issued and four Chief Scout awards issued there is more than we can discuss tonight, but here are a few highlights.

At the start of the year we litter picked on Whitehaven Harbour as part of our Community and Environmental Conservation badge requirements.

We had a go at carving our own pinewood derby racers which helped us gain part of the Skills Challenge badge. Our Cubs worked towards their navigation badge by learning about four figure grid references and how to identify features on a map.

Just before Christmas we went on our now customary night hike through walkmill woods, which was extra exciting as it was frosty underfoot, and with clear skies we were able to do some good star gazing.

After Christmas in connection with the Rivers Trust we completed part of our Community Impact badge as we had a day tree planting at Moresby Woods with Beavers, Cubs and their families planting in excess of 200 trees.



We continued with our swimming sessions at Mayfield School pool, covering badge requirements, learning pool safety and playing lots of water games.



We visited the local police station where our Cubs learned about local policing.

Our Young Leaders worked towards their own badges by running their own sessions, including an evening of being homeless, and pioneering the Eiffel tower.

We rounded the year off with a trip to the beach, which after a torrential downpour, we were treated to a spectacular double rainbow.



This year we've welcomed George, Keith, James and Kenzie as Assistant Leaders and very recently, Zach, Jacob and Blake as new Young Leaders.

So far this year, we have visited the local fire station to learn about fire safety and used our new rugged mobile phones to take pictures as part of a scavenger hunt of local landmarks in Whitehaven, which we'll use in the coming weeks to complete a number of badges. Later this term we'll be going to walkmill woods to work more on our community impact badge with activities voted for by our Beavers and Cubs.

Finally, a **huge thank you** to all parents, families and households and especially our Cubs. We can't do this by ourselves, we need your help. If anyone would like to get more involved, be it regularly in our weekly sessions, occasionally or when we have our camps, please see one of the Cub Leaders for more details.

Thanks again and here's to another good year.

John, Amy, Matt, Rebecca, Oscar, George, Louise, James, Kenzie, Thomas and Ben

# SCOUTS

It's been another busy year for our two Troops with our Scouts earning over 20 Challenge Awards and 139 activity badges between them.

A huge congratulations to Zack Evans and Josh Brocklebank on achieving their Chief Scout's Gold Awards. This is the top award for the Scout section and earning it requires a significant commitment as Scouts must gain all nine of the Challenge Awards plus earn at least 6 activity badges. We don't get to award many so it's been a privilege to see two of our Scouts complete it!

It's sometimes hard to get your head around how big Scouting is, so it was great to be able to turn our store into a cyber cafe for a weekend and take part in JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) last October and chat with other Scouts from all over the world. A big thank you to Sellafield Ltd for the donation of laptops that made it possible – now that we're fully equipped, we're hoping to do it again this year!



Through the year our Scouts have been getting creative with pancake art, sock puppet theatre, building bat boxes and, thanks to a national partnership with Games Workshop, entering the Warhammer universe to complete the Model Maker badge.



Fire and food continue to be a universal favourite, especially when combined so, as well as planning and cooking our own menus on gas, we've cooked foil packet "cowboy suppers" and discovered woofums (anyone who made it to family camp will know what we're talking about).



As part of the World Challenge Award, we've really enjoyed working with the West Cumbria River's Trust, including tree planting at Walkmill Woods, making bat boxes and himalayan balsam bashing. Also on a community theme, it was great to have Dan, some of our Scouts' parents and their colleagues from Wasdale Mountain Rescue join us for an evening to explain what they do and "rescue" our accident prone leaders.



Throughout the year we've also refreshed some of our traditional Scouting skills (knots, first aid, navigation, axe & saw skills). Although we've struggled to fit in as much as we'd hoped, we have managed some weekend activities including climbing and air rifle shooting.

March saw us heading to Rattlingate for a different style of camp, inspired by our Scouting friends in

Denmark. Starting with a bare blade and a piece of wood, we carved our own whittling knives and then made a custom sheath from leather.

As well as family camp, the summer term saw some of our older Scouts join forces with 3rd Cleator Moor to finally complete their Expedition Challenge in the South Lakes, hiking over two days solving some tricky navigation challenges created by the local farmers and surviving some torrential weather along the way!



Our highlight of the summer was undoubtedly our summer camp at Great Tower (near Windermere). We camped for 7 nights with an action packed programme including climbing, tomahawk throwing, geocaching, high ropes activities, paddleboarding and ghyll scrambling. We also put our pioneering skills to the test building a pontoon bridge and went Wally Hunting.



Looking ahead to the coming year we have a patrol camp planned for the end of September and are hoping to go to the Red Rose jamboree next

summer, with hopefully a few more camps in between. We're also hoping to run another Master at Arms shooting course, as well as odd hikes, climbing and hopefully some water activities through the year.



None of our amazing programme would happen without the support of our volunteer leaders; so on behalf of both Troops, a huge thank you to Drew, Iona, Mike, Nic, Nikita, Josh, Sam, Paul, Dan & Stuart for their enthusiasm, energy and giving up so much time to help deliver all of our activities. Also, a huge thank you to the parents who've supported some of our activities this year. Finally, as leaders, we're lucky to get work with a great group of young people and we'd like to thank all our Scouts for their energy and always being willing to give things a go and embrace some of our bizarre and crazy activities.



Jon, Drew, Iona, Mike, Nic, Nikita, Josh, Sam, Paul, Dan & Stuart





## Treasurer's Report

The group finances for the financial year 2022/2023 remain healthy.

We have had a review of the members subscriptions and we are postponing any increase at the moment. If anyone is suffering from any hardship please speak to your leader, any information that is discussed is confidential.

With just over 100 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 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 £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 group finances go further together subs and the money claimed from Gift Aid cover the basic running costs of the group.

We are more or less back to normal after the pandemic and we ran camps which was great for all members involved.

As usual, the annual return and the year-end accounts for the previous year (2021/2022) 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 and benefactors for their continued support during this year.

**Louise Hodgson**  
Treasurer

## Summary of Accounts

<b>Income</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Membership subscriptions	£ 7,108.77	£ 11,172.94
Donations	£ 1,579.50	£ 990.62
Gift aid	£ 2,323.70	£ 1,731.96
Fundraising	£ 282.29	£ 199.89
Group activities	£ 3,795.61	£ 6,574.56
Uniform	£ 3,028.02	£ 1,981.65
Other income	£ 9,432.96	£ 184.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 27,550.85</b>	<b>£ 22,836.47</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,773.00	£ 4,719.00
Programme and activities	£ 6,096.48	£ 10,034.52
Rent and rates	£ 5,485.31	£ 7,372.73
Insurance	£ 904.59	£ 991.15
General administration	£ 265.42	£ 269.51
Uniform	£ 1,376.30	£ 2,548.84
Fundraising expenses	£ -	£ -
Asset and investment purchase	£ 7,170.17	£ 2,604.44
Other expenditure	-£ 256.49	£ 873.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 24,814.78</b>	<b>£ 29,413.71</b>
<b>Statement of assets &amp; liabilities</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 46,582.48	£ 40,429.69
Restricted cash funds	£ 424.45	£ -
Non-monetary assets	£ 25,562.12	£ 26,485.87
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 1,823.26	£ 339.97



## Trustee Board

### General

The Executive committee has continued to provide management oversight and administration to the 1st Hensingham Scouts Group.

From April 2023, the Executive Committee and Executive Committee Members were rebranded as a Trustee Boards and Trustees respectively.

The Trustees make sure the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Policy, Organisation and Rules.

The Trustees' support helps the section leaders run a fantastic programme that gives our young people skills for life and experiences they'll remember forever.

So the Trustees are an essential cog in the wheel of a successful scouting group, this year we've managed to recruit John Smallman onto the Trustee Board, volunteers are always welcome. Sadly we have lost our long standing secretary Gemma Pattinson; I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gemma for her contribution.

As a Trustees Board we have continued to work in the background dealing with the usual financial, maintenance, rental, insurance, safety and training issues.

### Equipment store

We continue to lease the equipment store at the Sneckyeat Industrial estate, with 4 years left to run on our current leasing arrangement.

This facility continues to provide invaluable storage and easy access of plant and equipment.

### Hensingham School

We are now in the process of negotiating the extension of our current agreement with Hensingham School. Our current lease concludes in September and it's essential that we extend this arrangement.

### Funding

The group continues to maintain a healthy financial position.

As a result of this the Executive took the decision to hold funds at the 2022 level, we considered this a prudent decision particularly when considering the current cost of living increasing that everyone is experiencing.

Throughout the year the group has purchased bat detectors, new mobile phones, new event shelters, new harnesses and tables.

### Hardship

As a Trustee Board we recognise that the cost of living crisis places a significant burden on some families, with scouting activities one of the first casualties of a tightening family budget.

As a consequence, this year, we have increased our hardship fund budget and now review any requests in each of our board meetings.

The hardship fund is available to support any member of the Group whose financial circumstances are now stretched with the cost of scouting.

### Thanks

I would like to extend my thanks to:

- The Section leaders, assistant leaders and young leaders, as the health of our organisation depends on the ability, availability and commitment of these individuals.
- The Trustee Board members and all parents for their support.
- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds as our base.

The group relies so heavily on these volunteers who provide their time and commitment and as ever we are seeking support from anyone who would like to get involved in the running of the group

### Joy

Finally on a more positive note congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs James, Rebecca and Matt married in August and the Trustee Board pass on their best wishes for their future together.

Dave Martin  
Group Chair

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## Group Information 2022-23

**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

## Trustee Board

Mr Dave Martin	(Chair)
Mrs Louise Hodgson	(Treasurer)
Mr Alf Branch	(Group Scout Leader*)
Dr Jonathan Cheesewright	(Scout Leader*)
Mr John Smallman	(Cub Leader*)
Mrs Lisa Stanaway	(Beaver Leader*)
Mrs Kam Massey	
Mrs Clare Bethwaite	
Mrs Ann Walkingshaw	

\* Ex-officio appointments by nature of their role.