



Everyday adventure, Skills for life

1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual report 2020-21



Welcome to our 2020-21 annual report

The Year started with Covid 19 restrictions, and they have not gone away yet. At 1st Hensingham we have tried our best to keep going whether on Zoom or face to face. Of course, Zoom is not the best way to run Scouting activities and we lost members during that period. Our team of Leaders have kept going regardless and hopefully kept our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts entertained throughout the year. We have been running outdoor activities until now but should be moving indoors before too long.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders

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 David Smallman, Steven Southward, Marie Carter, and Amy Watson joining us to become Leaders. We have had Dan Easdon move back to Manchester and Harry Brook will be leaving us too. It is good to have more recruits than those leaving but we have room for more.

A number of our former Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been 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 also looking to run an Active Support section; this is not a frequent commitment but a team to help run specific activities like camps and events away from the school. I did manage to attend Scout camp in August which was great to see them out again and having a good time. I recently managed to support the Beaver and Cub teams to run a camp which was, I felt, a success.

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

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

Alf Branch
Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

Hello Everyone. What can we say, we're back! After a very strange 18 months it looks like we are resuming some sort of normality, well within Beavers anyway!!

So, what have been up to over the last year? Briefly and not extensively, over Zoom we learnt to do some finger spelling, how to make birdhouses from recycled material, cooked dough twists, scrambled egg, naan breads and cake in oranges to mention a few dishes. We printed with vegetables and grew seeds. Our Zoom sessions continued through spring with us starting the disability badge where we were shown how assistance aids can help where mobility is an issue.

And we were guided through saving water via United Utilities. Did you know that one bath can use 80 litres and a flush of a toilet 7 to 10 litres!!!



We took a couple of trips up to Moresby Woods, pond dipping on one session and a night walk as our last meeting just before Christmas.

By April we were allowed to meet up in person which was fabulous. To be able to spend the sessions back outside was wonderful.

A trip to St Bees was in order where we tried to beat the record for stone / pebble balancing stones.

We finished the disability badge where we learnt what it was like not to have all our senses, and how a wheelchair works. We practised our circus skills, spinning plates and juggling.

We became scientists and made things go pop, bang, whoosh. And took part in some traditional village games, cheese rolling, gurning, wool sack racing and a traditional East Anglian pub game of dwyle flanking, no alcohol involved - wet cloths thrown at each other using small sticks, yes honestly....



In November we took part in the District Virtual Activity Day. We had challenges of making the strongest structure from marshmallows and dried spaghetti. What and how to pack a bag for a camp, and an activity bake off, which showcased some superb baking skills.

Some of our Beavers, and Cubs, took part in the RSPB Birdwatch national event. This was an hour's birdwatching where between both sections 205 birds were recorded, across 10 different types of birds.





We have started to cover the activities to meet our Cumbria Welcome Back Challenge Badge where we must do an activity related to the letters that spell CUMBRIA

Cumbria – we gurned and played village games

Under canvas?

Mountain – we built sand mountains at St Bees

Backwards

Roll – we rolled our cheeses

Invent – our scientific experiments of different ways to clean coins with household products

Away – Beaver camp

Since starting back after the summer holidays in September we have seen our Beaver numbers start to increase and have welcomed David Smallman as our new Assistant Leader. We even managed to re-arrange our annual slip n slide event.



And we have finally been able to get back out on camp and over the weekend of September 25th- 26th we joined

our Cubs at Ennerdale. For some of our Beavers this will have been a huge step, first time under canvas for some and first time away from home for others, which of course they get a badge for and camp breakfast!



This term some of the activities we have planned are our Cycling Activity and First Aid badges and more outside cooking.

And finally as always we need to give 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**.

**Lisa, Ross, John, David, Matt, Rebecca & Amy
Erin, Jamie & Jacob**

cubs

Well these strange times rumble on and we are now meeting face to face again and we have done a lot of Zoom meetings.

Over Zoom our cooking sessions were a popular activity with the Cubs making Pancakes, Pizzas and fruit crumble. We learned Makaton which is a language programme that uses signs together with speech and symbols, to enable people to communicate. We also made glove puppets and many other things.

We also did a couple of science nights. On one of these we enjoyed making enjoyed making snot and eyeballs. The other was the more serious work about water usage and waste with United Utilities. Did you know that turning off the tap when you brush your teeth can save 96 litres a day for a family of four.



We had visitors to sessions as well when we were able to restart face to face meetings . We had a visit from the Police dogs unit who put on a display for use. We also went to the Fire Brigade and the Cubs had a go at rolling out and rolling up fire hoses. They also got spray a lot of water about too and had a great time.



We went for a hike at the woods at Moresby where we learned about the country code. Surprisingly with the noise we made we managed to see among other things a deer and an owl. We managed to have a colour run again which was messy but went down well as usual.

We also had a Viking visit us (yeah Steve is a Viking but doesn't always dress like one). Trying on a Viking Helmet and chainmail went down well. Then we had our mock own battle using Viking fighting techniques.



We have recently been on camp at Ennerdale where we managed 2 nights under canvas. The Beavers joined us for one night. For some this was a challenge as their first night away from home and they did well. The weather was not too bad mostly but of course it rained as we took the tents down. Thankfully our Sneckyeat store is a great place to dry them. We would like to thank the Scout Leaders Jon and Paul for running archery for us. There was backwoods cooking (Matt did cook a fish in newspaper in the fire), games, challenges and crafts.



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 face to face sessions and also virtually.

Matt, Brian, Harry, Rebecca, Oscar, Steve, Amy & Marie

Charlotte, Matthew, Thomas & Ben

SCOUTS

Despite the challenges of the past year our Scouts have still been incredibly busy; we've packed in over 50 different activities and events, awarded over 160 challenge and activity badges and invested 18 new Scouts (with another 7 due to make their Promises soon).

As a leadership team, we'd like to say a huge thank you to our Scouts and parents for your patience, cooperation, and continued enthusiasm as we've hopped on and off of Zoom and kept changing the arrangements for our face-to-face meetings.



It's reassuring to know that the pandemic hasn't changed some things – the way to our Scouts' hearts is still through their stomachs, although we're not sure if Zoom baking has over-taken fire as our Scouts' preferred way of getting tasty treats! We're very grateful to the welding apprentices at GenII for making us a shiny collapsible altar fire to increase our range of options for backwoods cooking.

Although the November and Spring term returns to Zoom weren't what we'd wanted, they provided us a good chance to do some of the activities that didn't lend themselves to wet and windy meetings outdoors in the dark, including the Digital Citizen, Local Knowledge and Emergency Aid badges - thanks to all the parents and siblings who volunteered to play along at home as casualties to help our Scouts literally develop "skills for life!"

Our face-to-face meetings and this year's Cumbria Challenge Award has seen some new twists on some favourite traditional activities. To complete the Award, Scouts need to take part in 7 activities each linked to a theme. One of these was "under" so, as well as whittling tent pegs and butter spreaders, we went "down-under" tried our luck at whittling Australian bull-roarers ... hopefully these didn't cause too much mayhem when they came home! The "roll" challenge saw us battling the midges at Ennerdale as we tried to harness our pioneering skills to build giant marble runs through the woods.



Returning to face-to-face activities has also allowed us to embrace the ridiculous, from some of our weird and wonderful team building and problem solving challenges (if any of our Scouts fancy a career in bomb disposal or plumbing, they're going to need a lot more practice) to the return of the disgustingly messy chaos that is our slip'n'slime night.



In addition to our regular weekly meetings, we've restarted our ad hoc weekend activities. Eskdale has been the hub for our adventurous activities this year; we've hiked, swum in a tarn and added a new adventurous activity to our repertoire – climbing (thanks to everyone that put tokens in our Tesco bags of help slot back in 2019)! However, the biggest highlight of the year has probably been our return to camping. After 18 months in limbo, it felt good to have the trailers loaded and heading back out to Ennerdale. 11 Scouts joined us for a weekend of traditional Patrol camping; running their own campsites and catering for themselves whilst completing a number of challenges throughout the weekend (some of our frying pans will never be the same again). Everyone also got to try out stand-up paddle boarding (thanks Copeland Canoe Club for letting us borrow the boards); this proved to be a popular activity and one we suspect we'll be trying to offer again in future.

As the new Scouting year gets underway, it's already shaping up to be packed full of adventure. Another camp is planned for mid-October and we're looking forward to restarting our Master at Arms air rifle shooting courses later in the autumn term.



None of our amazing adventures would happen without the hard work and dedication of our leadership team. We're delighted, and feeling very lucky, that Thomas & Ethan (two of our former Scouts) have joined the leadership team as young leaders; and that one of our young leaders (and former Scouts), Sam, has agreed to join the adult leadership team. Sadly though, we're saying goodbye to Dan E who's moving away from the area; we're incredibly grateful for all the help he's given the Troop over the last 4 years.



Once again, thanks to all our Scouts for their enthusiasm and willing to give things a go, and making our Troops one of the best in the County!

**Jon, Mike, Dan, Nic, Josh, Sam, Stuart, & Paul
Ethan & Thomas**



Treasurer's Report

The group finances for the financial year 2020/2021 remain very healthy this is due to us receiving significant amounts of COVID Grants. This has enabled us to safely return to face to face scouting as some of the grant money has been used to make it a safe environment for all.

We were due to have a review of the members subscriptions however we are postponing any increase at the moment as we will be using the COVID grant to offset any increase.

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. If you don't currently use this system, please could I ask you to 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 £2400 this year. If you haven't signed up but are eligible, please do so – its very simple and won't cost you a thing; you can complete a declaration on OSM. 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.

Unfortunately this year we have had no events, trips or fundraising events and this was all due to lockdowns and restrictions from the pandemic.

As usual, the annual returns and the year end accounts for the previous year (2019/2020) 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

	2019/20	2020/21
Income		
Membership subscriptions	£ 12,250.90	£ 9,569.12
Donations	£ 304.78	£ 480.36
Gift aid	£ 2,573.88	£ 2,435.20
Fundraising	£ 692.12	£ 0.00
Group activities	£ 12,510.54	£ 1,778.54
Uniform	£ 1,484.50	£ 282.50
Other income	£ 5,315.96	£ 21,041.99
Total	£ 35,132.68	£ 35,587.71

Expenditure		
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,989.50	£ 3,326.00
Programme and activities	£ 17,246.26	£ 2,341.98
Rent and rates	£ 6,418.04	£ 4,780.14
Insurance	£ 941.75	£ 858.14
General administration	£ 189.70	£ 385.77
Uniform	£ 1,704.60	£ 188.00
Fundraising expenses	£ 293.71	£ 0.00
Asset and investment purchase	£ 4,808.90	£ 6,824.08
Other expenditure	£ 297.19	£ -189.11
Total	£ 35,889.65	£ 18,515.00

Statement of assets & liabilities		
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 27,198.15	£ 44,270.86
Restricted cash funds	See Note 1	See Note 1
Non-monetary assests	£ 19,513.28	£ 25088.67
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 110.00	£ 116.29

Note 1: Now included in Unrestricted cash funds as we don't hold any restricted accounts



Executive Committee

The Executive committee has remained a stable force behind the group this year, with all 9 members meeting regularly on Zoom. Although this year has been quieter than usual, we have still had the usual maintenance, rental, insurance, safety and training to oversee. In addition we have had to produce and update COVID risk assessments for activities each time the restrictions and Scouting guidance changed.

Equipment store

We continue to rent the equipment store at Sneckyeat Industrial estate, which has proved invaluable for easy access to equipment to run outdoor meetings whilst COVID restrictions have meant our usual indoor meeting place was not available. We will be looking to extend the lease upon it's expiry in March 2022.

Funding

Outdoor face to face meetings were given a boost in the autumn/winter when we were able to purchase portable lights and set up a temporary outdoor shelter, thanks to grant funding secured from the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).

As a result of having the Sneckyeat unit, over the past year the group became eligible for COVID grant funding, some of which has already been used for essential COVID related expenditure, summer term subs relief and subsidised group hoody costs.

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 exec members and all parents for their support, especially during the difficult circumstances of the past 12 months.
- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds as our base.

After five years as the Executive Group Chair I have decided to step down after the AGM. It has been fantastic to be able to contribute in some way to such a thriving group and a privilege to work with such dedicated volunteers.

Ann Walkingshaw Group Chair

Group Information 2020-21

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.