



Scouts

1st Shiremoor

Annual General Meeting

Monday 14th September

Annual Reports 2020

#SkillsForLife

1stshiremoorscoutgroup.org.uk

Included on the following pages are reports to be shared at the 1st Shiremoor Scout Group's annual general meeting.

- A report from Ian Mackintosh, Chair of Executive Committee
- Statement of Accounts and Report from Carol Jobson, Group Treasurer
- Section Reports
 - Beavers from Tim Blake
 - Cubs from Mark Walters
 - Scouts from the Scout Team
- A report from Kathryn Fuller, Acting Group Scout Leader

Statement from the Executive Chair

I was elected as a parent (grandparent!) representative onto the Executive Committee at the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting. Shortly after that the previous Chair of the Committee, Father Tony Curtis, emigrated to New Zealand so I would like to express my thanks, and those of all involved in 1st Shiremoor, to Father Tony for the support and guidance he provided during his time as Chair.

Given my background as an experienced Charity Trustee I was asked to take on the role as Chair of the Executive Committee which I was happy to agree to and this was ratified in February 2020 – just before the world of scouting and everything else was turned upside down due to the impact of Covid 19.

That said the Executive has been very busy and highlights include:

- Supporting the improvement of the Group's online presence with a new public facebook page and developing a new website.
- Supporting the Group Leadership through lockdown and preparing to return to face to face scouting.
- Agreeing to changes to OSM to allow payments for subscriptions and events to be more streamlined going forward.

As a Group we are looking forward to a safe return to scouting and strengthening relationships with the school for our mutual benefit. Wherever possible we would also like to develop links with other local charities and community groups in the area for the benefit of our young people.

Several Executive Group members have decided to step down from their roles on the committee and I would like to thank them for their contribution to the continued success of 1st Shiremoor. In particular Carol Jobson as Treasurer for many years, Andrew Robinson as GSL, and Karen Blake as Secretary.

Moving forward we face difficult times and many challenges, not least will be returning safely to face to face scouting. I need to pay tribute to the leadership team for keeping us going throughout the lockdown with the amazing development of Zoom Scouting and I would also like to thank our young people and their families for continuing to support 1st Shiremoor Scout Group.

Ian Mackintosh
Group Chairman

1st Shiremoor Scout Group
Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2020

RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward	30/03/2019		
	CURRENT A/C	3,732.33	
	DEPOSIT A/C	0.00	
			3,732.33
Marra 2020		2,340.00	
SUBSCRIPTIONS		7,309.70	
EVENTS / CAMPS		3,280.30	
OTHER RECEIPTS		14.90	
DONATIONS		780.47	
			13,725.37
			<u>17,457.70</u>

PAYMENTS

BILLS (website,rent ,storage,etc)		1,470.00	
CAPITATION FEES		5,217.00	
INSURANCE		0.00	
EVENTS/CAMPS		8,483.60	
STATIONERY & POSTAGE		0.00	
EQUIPMENT		89.86	
COURSES		30.00	
UNIFORMS		0.00	
CASH FLOATS FOR SECTIONS		400.00	
BADGES		377.85	
			<u>16,068.31</u>
Balance carried forward (31st March 2020)			
	CURRENT A/C	1,389.39	
	DEPOSIT A/C	0.00	
			1,389.39
			<u>1,389.39</u>

Badge stock ??

Notes to the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020

Capitation

We have paid for two years within our financial year so for 2019 and 2020

Sponsorship

We received £620.47 from Caroline and Olivia Clarke for their Zip Wire over the River Tyne. Fantastic achievement and well done

Also, the Cub section did a sponsored walk and raised £160.00 towards their weekend visit to Beamish Open-Air Museum again fantastic and well done to all who joined in.

Website

As I hope you are all aware now the group has a new website. This came at a cost of £396.00 to set up and we pay a monthly fee of £10.80.

Storage

Unfortunately, the group has to store all its equipment in a secure container in Killingworth at a cost of £106.00 per month.

Online Scout Manager

We currently pay £129.00 per year.

Badges

We love our young people to gain badges and over the last year we have spent almost £450.00 and had some great achievements.

Visits etc

The group has also paid towards visits from outside sources like :

- English Civil War History guy.
- Backwoods cooking for all sections.
- Visit to the Hindu Temple in Newcastle (using public transport).
- We also bought poles and paracord to enable young people to do pioneering.
- Circus Skills.

We are still waiting for a refund of a deposit of £563.75 we made to Great Tower Activity Centre in Windermere which we were going to take cubs and scouts to in June of this year, but because of Covid this had to be cancelled.

I have now got our County Commissioner involved with this as I have had no luck with the Scout Association in getting this money back.

Can I just close by saying thankyou to everyone who has donated subs and supported the Group during this difficult period.

And finally, as I am stepping down this year, I would like to thank all parents for their continued support in my role over the last 8 years.

Its been a pleasure and I have had lots of fun and made lots of friends along the way and I wish the group continued success in the future and please say goodbye to your young people from me its been a pleasure working with them and all of the leaders.

Thanks,

Carol Jobson
Group Treasurer

Our year at 1st Shiremoor Beavers

The last year in Beavers has clearly been a year of two halves.

We ran weekly sessions at the school achieving badges such as Navigation, Cook and Experiment, the latter two having been voted for by the Beavers. The badges taught the Beavers skills for life from finding where they are on a map, to cooking up a basic Bolognese sauce and enquiring and explaining things that happen in the world around them. Some highlights of our weekly sessions were fire skills, a night walk with torches, a game of human hungry hippos and tin can pancakes. The Beavers produced their own code of conduct by writing on post notes the behaviours they felt they should be displaying, the leadership team then pulled it all together and created the Beaver Deal which the Beavers all signed and is displayed each week as a reminder of what they agreed to.

The world changed and Scouting face to face was suspended but that did not stop scouting. We learnt a new way to scout; Beavers, young leaders and leaders all learnt together the technical skills required to navigate the new world of virtual scouting via Zoom that the pandemic had brought to the world. We learnt how to mute ourselves, draw on the white board, share our screens, none of which could have happened without the help of parents/older siblings who got involved helping to connect to the weekly meetings. I am sure everyone would agree that the confidence levels increased as the weeks went on. During the summer term when we were in lockdown we ran weekly Beaver sessions on Zoom that included scavenger hunts, crafts, magic tricks, hobby talks and baking. Virtual Scouting was not for everyone though and we got others involved by offering the virtual programmes to do at home as well as badges at home.

Three Beavers have achieved the Chief Scout Bronze award, an amazing achievement of which the Beaver team are very proud. Lots of other badges have been earned with 33 Challenge badges and 73 activity badges over the year.

Our Beavers have also taken part in four weekend events. The day trip to Hawkhurst Scout Activity Centre for den building, fire lighting, crate stacking and climbing – it is always great to see the beavers challenging themselves in adventurous activities and developing their scouting skills at this ever popular event. The annual County climbing competition had representatives from 1st Shiremoor Beaver Colony scaling the walls of the Newcastle Climbing Centre. We were out and about in the community for the Remembrance parade in West Allotment where we remembered all those lost at war at the West Allotment cenotaph led by Fr Tony Curtis and we joined Beavers from the district in December to celebrate at St Mark's with a selection of Christmas carols and songs and the story A Night Before Christmas.

On the leadership side we have said goodbye to Elaine and Louise (September), Natalie and Joanna (February) and Samuel and Denise (April) as they all moved on with their lives, careers and education. I am grateful for their fantastic support and wish them all the best

for the future. I am also thankful of course for our current adult leaders Kirsty and Rebecca M (currently on a health break) plus young leaders Ethan and Rebecca A. I am also really thankful to any parents who have helped at any time with either weekend events or Monday nights. We are always keen for more help and I am delighted that Kirsty has agreed to be the Assistant Beaver Leader.

Of course I don't know how the current pandemic will affect Beaver Scouting over the coming year but I am glad to say my own enthusiasm is as high as ever and I look forward to the day when the 1st Shiremoor Beavers can meet face to face again.

Tim Blake
Beaver Scout Leader

Our year at 1st Shiremoor Cubs

At the time of writing this we have 24 Cubs in the section, in the past year 7 Cubs have achieved the Chief Scout Silver Award, and a total of 237 badges have been awarded.

It has been a turbulent year with the Cubs at 1st Shiremoor. So let's start at the beginning.

The start of the year saw the Cubs learn a new sport with some Croquets players teaching us the rule of the game. The cubs spent a lot of time adding to their knowledge of tying knots, learn emergency first aid focussing on knowing what to do in an emergency (put to good use at Hawkthirst when a certain deep sleeper wouldn't wake up. The leaders were informed he is non responsive but breathing and has a pulse). Absolutely brilliant.

They also took part in the Day of the Dead festival to go towards a badge, I got clueless faces until I mentioned the film Coco.

There was some peppermint crème and armpit fudge making and learning the art of Bee keeping with some free samples of honey handed out. Activities based on international Scouting looking at where and when previous jamborees had taken place and Cubs had the opportunity to quiz Steve Jobson about his international experiences. Continuing on the international theme Cubs learnt about international landmarks followed by some great junk models being made.

The Cubs also delved into Photography with several activities designed to get them to learn how to use a camera. The Photography badge was then completed at Beamish Museum where the Cubs invaded the past with every type of Camera you can imagine. Taking photos of everything for the first few hours. Talking about Beamish, it was a great weekend where the Cubs got to explore the past with friends followed by a night hike around the large grounds. I was really proud of the Cubs attitude over the weekend and everyone's behaviour. They were a credit to the group.

A week after Beamish we took a group to Hawkthirst for a weekend of adventurous activities, while there the Cubs got a chance to go Canoeing, jumping into the freezing cold lake (1 Cub braved it 3 times), building outdoor shelters and had a go on the assault course and low ropes. That was just day 1. The highlight for me over the weekend was the Cubs who braved the heights and climbed to the top of the wooden tower. For the Cubs with a fear of heights it was a brilliant achievement getting to the top. I have to give a special mention to Josh Brown. The previous year at Hawkthirst he found his fear limit doing the crate stacking activity. This time nothing stopped him, there was no evidence of any fear on the same activity and he even went on the Zip line more than once. The development in him was amazing and is part of the reason I volunteer as a leader. He is now continuing his Scouting journey in Scouts and I wish him all the best.

Post, Christmas the Cubs continued to develop their Scouting skills with activities based around Scouting values, Pioneering and the environment. Cubs worked towards the

environmental conservation activity badge over a couple of weeks starting by looking at water saving equipment and learning how wind can produce power by building wind turbines; and concluding with a litter pick and recycle walk making a small improvement in the local area. The term was finished off with youth shaped activity of Cardboard Forts which looked great fun.

This is unfortunately the time where the World seemed to go on hold and all Face to Face scouting was put on hold. The Leaders and Cubs both had to learn about virtual Scouting using Zoom in a trial by fire environment. With the nature of virtual meetings, it can get very noisy very quickly which I know didn't lead to an enjoyable experience. However, after everyone got to grips with the new way of Scouting and its limitations then things started to pick up. What started as a "hello what you been up to" and scavenger hunt turned into simple science experiments, murder mystery virtual Cluedo, baking cookies and a tutorial/demonstration of Twine to create your own games to name but a few of the activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parents and leaders who have helped make Cubs a success this past year. Without any of your help the section would have been unable to run.

I would like to say goodbye to Louise who has decided to step down from her role as Assistant Cub Leader. I wish her all the best in the future.

As I have stated previously it's been a turbulent year but the Cubs have coped brilliantly. When we return Face to Face it will again be different to what were all used to but I have full confidence in the Cubs ability to adapt to the situation and make Scouting work.

Mark Walters
Cub Scout Leader

Our year at 1st Shiremoor Scouts

Way back last September the Scouts were invited by the Priest of the Temple to visit and observe prayers at the Hindhu Temple in Newcastle upon Tyne on Westgate Road. The Scouts were very considerate and respectful and an enjoyable, educational evening was had learning about another World religion.

In October Brexit was headline news with the deadline for leaving fast approaching so Scouts had an evening debating the subject.

Basic scouting skills were covered with a night of fire lighting followed by three weeks of pioneering started with a reminder of some basic knots and lashings then moved on to building indoor ballistas.

A smaller group enjoyed a weekend of adventure and challenges at Hawkhurst with rifle shooting, zip lining, archery, climbing, crate stacking, tomahawks and the ever popular camp fire on the Saturday night.

A small group of the oldest Scouts spent a wet weekend based at Ford Campsite in early November to complete their Expedition Challenge Award. This involved them planning their own routes with timed legs, meal and rest stops. They then navigated, using their compass and map reading skills, their way around a the 17km route in North Northumberland

The Scout troop entered a team into the County climbing competition and great climbs were completed by all who took part, congratulations and well done to them all.

One visit to Cragside National Trust property to work with the rangers. The group worked with the wardens helping them grit the roads after a night when temperature dropped below freezing before starting with a large tree and bush cutting duties. Many were taking part in this weekend for the first time. With a rope and a team of 7 Scouts and 3 leaders we managed to move a 45 foot long tree truck/branch uphill for about 45 foot what a effort you should all be proud of their achievements these are mainly very young scouts but their will to succeed prevailed.

Into spring and Circus Steve paid two visits to the group in the spring the first time with all his Circus kit and the second was with a new Groovy Geology venture which was all about the evolution of the earth. Scouts also enjoyed a visit from Northumbria Police.

The Rising Sun County Park has always been a popular choice for wide games and this year has been no different with a few visits.

Scouts joined forces with Cubs for a local litter pick and recycle walk at the start of what was hoped to be a few weeks covering environmental conservation in the local area and getting out into the community more. But as you all know Scouting was brought to an unexpected halt

Over lockdown the Scouts were delivered zoom sessions covering a range of different topics, activities and skills. This started with a session on internet safety with quizzes and discussions. Scavenger hunts had proved popular for Beavers and Cubs and they were just as popular with Scouts, so much so we did more than one but the second time we turned the skill level up a notch and they had to decipher Morse code before heading off on their hunt. The white board facility of zoom was incorporated into a session with various games. Teamwork and problem-solving skills were tested when the troop were split in two to complete a virtual escape room 'Hogwarts Escape'. Baking and cooking skills were tested with cake in a mug, noodles and tortilla pizza. The latter two were led by the two of the Scouts themselves and they both did a brilliant job and earned themselves a point towards their Team Leader Challenge Award. Mental Health was covered virtually as well with a food-duko talking about maintaining a health balanced diet and a quiz on sleep patterns, we heard from the Duchess of Cambridge about being kind. The term finished with they a scout led quiz that was both challenging and fun, all the hosts did a great job with their rounds.

Scout Leadership Team

1st Shiremoor GSL Report

Hello to you all, and here we are again after yet another exciting and one of the strangest years that we have all seen.

Apologies for not introducing myself before now, my name is Kathryn and I have been in scouting for over 20 years in one way or another. I have been a section leader in all 3 sections, I have been a group scout leader in another group within the district, I have been a part of the district team for 2 years and District Commissioner for 9 months. I am now acting Group Scout Leader for 1st Shiremoor.

Andrew Robinson has unfortunately decided to stepped down due to personal circumstance but I would like to take this time to thank him so much for his time and patience throughout his time as Group Scout Leader and with supporting the scout section. We all know how precious time is and more so now than ever, everyone at 1st Shiremoor are incredibly grateful to him and for him.

I would like to thank Jack Clarke for his time with group, Jack came to the group as a scout, worked his way through the sections, returned to 1st Shiremoor as a young leader and then as a scout leader.

Thanks must also go to Louise Robinson for her time, 1st with the beavers and then moving up to cubs. Louise brought with her, her experience as a teacher and hopefully gained new skills in her time with group.

Many thanks to all of the above for their dedication, not only to the group but also to the young people. The time and effort, and blood, sweat and tears put in by them are most appreciated by all involved.

So as you can see we have had a few changes within the group, but not despair..... We have also had some new adults stepping up to become leaders or having a simple change around in their roles.

Each section has changed ever so slightly, so not all change is bad.

Our young people in the beaver section will continue to be supported by Tim, however, Tim and the young people will also be supported Kirsty as she takes on more responsibility within the section.

The young people in cubs will be supported by Mark and Karen with regular support from Debbie and Phil as parent helpers.

The Scouts have also had some minor changes, the young people will be supported by Lisa and myself, with Robert and Ryan supporting.

I will be supporting throughout the group but will be focusing on scouts for the next few months.

As you can see and know, the group are always on the look out for more support and thanks to everyone who has provided support in the past. If this is something you would consider then please come and have a chat, we have something for everyone and greatly appreciate any help you can provide.

As I have already said change is not all bad, in saying that, I know that the group as well as everyone in the world has seen unprecedented times and yes we are continuing on, but in such a strange manner, we have seen weekly sessions go from being at the school every week, to being on the laptop or the tablet or the phone. We have seen camps become tents in the gardens or dens built in your living rooms with online sessions for all to access, we have seen 30+ nights away badges earned as well as many other of the badges being delivered in extraordinary ways, we have seen leaders designing programmes week in and week out for all to get involved in. Adults and young people alike have had to up their game when it comes to technology and I for one, have had to get to know how to use new systems like teams or zoom very quickly (and my level at those are as basic as they come)

These are unprecedented times, but what I have witnessed is the resilience and perseverance and determination of all those involved in scouting from the youngest to the oldest getting involved, taking the time to log in and achieve some of the top awards available to their sections. It has been outstanding and absolutely awesome the amount that has happened in such a short space of time.

Our scouting adventure, certainly does not end there, we are on the edge of returning to face to face scouting, in light of the announcement that was made on Wednesday, this does not affect the youth sector, so we are returning in one way or another. Each of the adults and young leaders involved in the group have been working tirelessly to get this right and I am super proud and again amazed at the outcome of all those discussions and messages and emails. Your Section leader will be discussing this with you all in greater depth over the coming week.

I appreciate you don't really know me, and to be fair I don't really know you either, however I am hopeful and certainly optimistic enough to say that we will get to know each other extremely quickly and my hope is that we will continue to work as one team to provide the very best experience we can for everyone at 1st Shiremoor.

Now enough from me, thanks all for reading, and I look forward to the coming year.

Kathryn Fuller
Acting Group Scout Leader
1st Shiremoor