

16th Morecambe & Heysham

(Church of the Ascension)

Scout Group

AGM 2020

Registered Charity No. 509581

Group Registration No. 33071

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'We challenge our members to
experience fun, friendship and
everyday adventure to help them
reach their potential and have a
positive impact on society

Group Scout Leader

Annual Report

I am once again pleased to report the group is in a healthy position. At the Census in January we had 123 young people and 26 leaders. The year has been cut short by the Coronavirus pandemic in March but lots of great activities had been undertaken by then as can be seen in the section reports. Scouting does not lend itself easily to zoom meetings as all the fun is in the direct interaction with the young people. This has been a difficult transition for all and I would like to pay tribute to the excellent leaders and assistant leaders of all Sections for coping and changing their programmes accordingly.

Also the management of the group has had to adapt and we have taken steps to ensure the longevity of the group so when we come out of this current situation we will be ready and able to get back to Face to Face meetings again. We have taken the minibus off the road and looked at other outgoings that we have scaled back. We own the HQ so have benefitted from government help. My thanks must extend to Robert Gill and Paul Anderton who have facilitated these actions. There have been no meetings inside since March.

A couple of leaders have left recently. Gill Briggs has been a Cub leader for 20 years and will be sorely missed she leaves us to start a new venture, the group wishes her all the best. Dave Huddleston has helped with Scouts but work commitments mean he can't continue, many thanks Dave. Ang Mayor has been a leader for 2 years but has also had to leave due to work commitments. We wish them all well and will celebrate their time with us when we are able. I must thank people who work in the background this would be Rodger Crewdson who has helped at the group for 45 years he looks after the HQ for us, he was helping when I was a Scout! Many thanks Roger. A new group helper has come to us from another group welcome to Dave Neal he brings a wealth of Scouting experience as a young person and leader. He is most welcome. Debs who runs Willow Beavers has been awarded a Chief Scouts Commendation for her hard work over the last 5 years when she started the new Beaver Section she is a great leader and asset to the group, well done Debs and many thanks for all your hard work. My thanks also extend to our committee members who work tirelessly supporting the group in fund raising and helping at events. We were planning some fab events but these are on hold at the moment.

We are always looking for new leaders, committee members and helpers at our large group. You can help in any way and flexibly in or out of a uniform. Volunteering has been proven to help in self worth and health and it is very rewarding working with the young people but also with other like minded adults, we have a great time and as much fun as the kids. Release the inner child!

My highlight of the year would be the 2 camps I helped on which would be Cub camp at Waddecarr, great fun seeing the Cubs running about and the impromptu singing session as we waited for parents to come. Scout camp was excellent and superbly run and prepared in Wales by the Scout leadership team with lots of traditional Scouting activities intertwined with jet boating, adventures in a trampoline park in a mine and a cresta run at the great Orme.

There is much to celebrate in our great group many thanks to the young people who have continued with the zoom meetings, I know it's not for everyone stick with us and soon we will be back to face to face Scouting. I'm looking forward to Family camp and getting out and about with the sections when we can, I can smell the Sausage cooking on an open fire as I write this.

Yours in Scouting
Andrew Blenkinsip
Group Scout Leader 16th Morecambe Scouts.

Alder & Willow Beavers

Annual Report

In normal times Alder Beavers meet on a Monday and Willow Beavers meet on a Thursday at 5.45pm-7pm with up to the maximum 24 Beavers, presently we are running a mixed programme with activities at home and fortnightly Zoom meetings with a reduced number of 12 in each colony.

Both colonies strive to provide a full and exciting programme with the support of the parent rota. Their help and support is invaluable.

In the Autumn term we completed the World Challenge badge starting with learning about our local landmarks followed up by an exciting visit to Lancaster Fire Station. Then we looked at International activities with Aboriginal Painting and a visit by an Irish Dancing teacher to show them a few moves which went brilliantly! In December we made our annual visit to entertain the residents at Eric Morecambe House where we also presented some badges, certificates and Bronze awards. We finished the term off with our Christmas party run by Wendy with party games, prizes and dancing.

In January we moved on to our skills badge and looked at ways we could keep healthy, we had a very active visit from Enjoy-A-Ball and a much more sedate Yoga session delivered by Natasha Butler. We also had a visit from Lancashire Mind to talk about mental health and how you can look after yourself and others. The Beavers all learned their address and phone number and how to tie their shoelaces, as well as making camp fire biscuits and of course eating them. The skills badge was finished at home by building a rocket and launching it then going online to 'visit' somewhere new in place of our planned visit to the town hall.

The summer term worked well for at home/online activities as the Beavers completed their Outdoor Challenge Badge. The Beavers either pitched their tents and slept in the garden or made a den away from their bed to sleep in for the night. They learned and demonstrated on our active Facebook group some fantastic scouting skills such as knot tying, making and cooking on a fire, identifying animals around them and creating something for those animals such as a bird house/feeder or a bug house. It has been brilliant to see their photos and the engagement on our Zoom meetings where we held a scavenger hunt and completed the Hobby badge. Many of the Beavers have been enthusiastically completing additional badges at home and we delivered all of these to them during the summer.

Most Beavers complete 2 years with us, in which time they achieve 6 challenge badges plus several activity badges and finally their Bronze award, which we have been pleased to continue awarding with our adapted programme. We continue into the Autumn term with online and at home activities after creating and delivering a bag full of games and craft for the term ahead. We hope to see the enthusiasm and engagement of the Beavers continue until we can return safely to Face to Face Scouting. We are grateful for the Leaders who volunteer each week – Jen, Andrew, Sue & Jolanta and young leader Will who has been an asset to Willow Beavers.

We are always looking for extra help, if you are interested in getting involved - either with our online programme or would like to join us when we get back to the Scout Hut - we'd love to hear from you.

Debs White – Beaver Leader

Apache & Sioux Cubs

Annual Report

A rather unusual year has been had by both cub packs. The adult team continues to consist of Donna Pearson, Kris Devereux, Paul Spavin, Ruth Holmes, Miles Pearson and myself. Earlier this year, Gill Briggs left the group to concentrate on other endeavours- we wish her every success. Gill was an invaluable leader in the Cub Section and will be greatly missed. She committed to nearly 20 years in this section. Wow!!

Notable events have been: A talk from Lancaster Homeless Action (which led to a number of leaders helping at the homeless shelter), Navigator Badge, Personal and Home Safety Badges and Disability Awareness Evening.

We went on our Winter Camp to Bowley and just made it back before the effects of Storm Ciara closed our routes home!

Unfortunately, global events overtook us and there were no Cub Meetings from the end of March this year. However, we managed to continue the badge work and the Gardening Badge- with Donna and Ruth hand-delivering all the seed packets- was a success. Other badges and activities which were undertaken via social media were- artist badge, home help badge, St. George's Day posters and VE Day activity.

We have kept in touch as leaders and are regularly discussing what Cubs will look like in the (hopefully) not-to-distanced future.

Finally, I would like to say thank-you to all who have helped us in any way during the year with a special mention to any additional visitors and helpers.

Take care and stay safe
Marcus Harding

Scout

Annual Report

Summer 19

During Summer term 2019 we focused on outdoor skills, fire lighting and pioneering to name a couple of activities. We also took the scout litter picking down near Hest Bank rail crossing as part of the World Challenge Award.

We rounded off the term taking 30 Scouts on Summer Camp to North Wales, which included a trip up Snowdon on the train, a visit to Llechwedd Slate Caverns and Bounce Below and a visit to Llandudno's Great Orme for a toboggan run, snow donuts, a walk and ice cream! We also ventured onto Anglesey to visit Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantisiliogogogoch and Beaumaris for a fast rib boat ride to Puffin Island with fish and chips for supper after!

Winter 19

At the start of Winter term 2019 we took part in District Camp at Great Tower, teaming up with our friends at 16th Lancaster. We had torrential rain for most of the weekend but still had a great time with activities such as paddle boarding, bell boating, archery, axe throwing, rifle shooting, climbing etc and the obligatory cheesy disco!

In late September Harry arranged for us to visit Westgate Fire Station, where he is a retained Fireman, for a tour and demonstrations of the equipment as part of our Fire Safety badge.

In November a select few scouts took part in the Waddecarr Crew Challenge on Beacon Fell, this was the first time we have entered since Sian and I have been part of the troop. The teams did well despite the adverse weather. We also entered the Lonsdale District Knight Activity and one of our teams placed 2nd.

In December we had a Christmas Camp at Silverhelme with 16th Lancaster Scouts. We had a festive time finished off with a full Christmas Dinner complete with gifts and Christmas jumpers!

Spring 20

As I am sure you all know this year has been a testing one, which as Scouts we rose to the occasion as best we could.

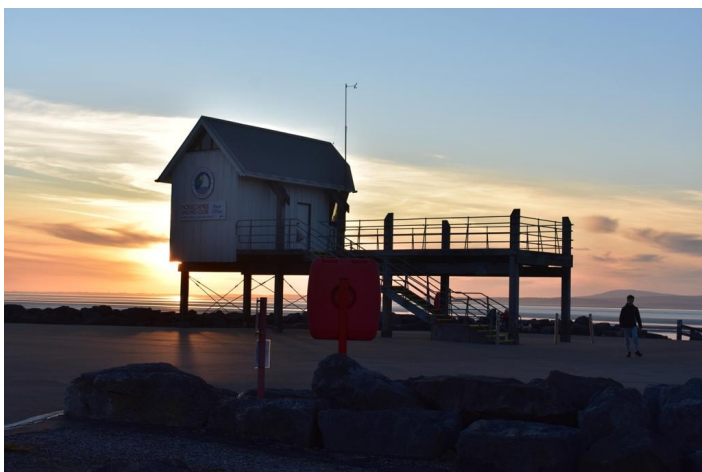
We started 2020 off with a weekend Winter Camp at Guy's Farm, Forton to walk off the mince pies and had fun in the great outdoors. During our weekly meetings we had wide games at Silverhelme, a model making night using packs supplied by Warhammer, Foreign Cooking and Pancake nights and a climbing session at Kendal Wall. Unfortunately, our programme was abruptly stopped when lockdown arrived. We quickly adapted and moved our meetings to virtual sessions using Zoom. We held a hobbies night, scavenger hunt and set the scouts a photography competition (which also earned them the Photography badge)

Summer 20

Now into the swing of these virtual meets we held quizzes, ran bingo, did some map reading, finished off the fire safety badge, held a book/film club, did our own version of Room 101, bush craft and finally the scouts completed a virtual Harry Potter themed escape room.

Sian James
Scout Leader

A small selection of photo's taken by the scouts during the first lockdown



Group Chairman

Annual Report.

First and foremost I trust that you and your family are all well and getting used to the new “normal”! As part of that new norm I am being tasked with hosting and chairing a virtual Annual General meeting for the first time in the Group’s history. If I am successful in this challenge I am expecting to be awarded a scout badge - possibly the “Entertainer Activity Badge”.

When I last saw you on 15th June 2019 at summer camp all was good. The sun was shining, everyone was relaxed and happy, the camp had been another huge success, I was buttering up to the new District Commissioner and was delighted by all her complimentary remarks about our Group. Two of the most salient points made by Mandy at the time and which have remained with me ever since were;

(a) The total commitment and involvement of the parents and what a positive contribution they make to the running of the Group and the welfare and development of our members. So a huge thank you to all you parents for your active support and encouragement. It is much appreciated and makes a real difference to our effective governance of the Group.

(b) The amazing length of service of most of our leaders and other volunteers. From Debs, Kris, Gill, Jen and several others including Roger Crewdson who really is a cornerstone of the Group. It is a real tribute to group that we attract and maintain such longevity and loyalty. It seems to be a particular trait to our group that we have such dedicated leaders and volunteers. Long may it continue and hats off to you all.

At this point it seems fitting to thank Gill, Dave Singleton, Chris Stephenson and Louise who have all decided to relinquish their positions in the last twelve months, and moved on to other projects. Your efforts are remembered with gratitude.

Since the last Annual General Meeting it was business as usual for the various committees, including the Building committee, which keeps the headquarters in great condition and the Social committee which keeps moral high, including with the now annual legendary Bingo night which proves increasingly popular. Christmas came and went with another successful Xmas post and engaging winter camp and we started the New Year full of plans and projects. The Diary was almost full. We had barely celebrated Robbie Burns night in January 2010 when we were met by one of his famous sayings “the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men!”

Who would have predicted our present dilemma? It really was a crisis of national and frightening proportions but I wish to formally record and acknowledge that thanks to years of robust and exemplary governance, in particular lead by Treasurer and Secretary, the group was able to respond professionally and admirably, putting systems and procedures safely in place to protect and preserve all concerned. A huge task dealt with calmly and coherently in very novel circumstances. Despite the present hibernation everyone can rest assured that the measures taken have proved effective, our financial position is secure and we have done all possible to achieve our overriding duty- the safety of our members.

So please, stay safe, enjoy your rest and “be prepared” for as soon as we get the green light we will be back, wiser and stronger from the experience and full of enthusiasm preparing a comprehensive agenda of activities and events.

Paul Anderton.
Chairman.

Secretary

Annual Report .

It is with sadness that my report is very short for this year, as you all know 2020 has not been kind to us with COVID-19 and being in lockdown since the 23rd March we have not been able to meet up as your Executive Committee to discuss problems. Since June we have held one Exec meeting with sufficient members to hold the meeting.

It was hoped that when the lockdown relaxed we would be able to hold an Exec meeting to discuss the AGM, but unfortunately this has not happened and on the 2nd October your Exec officers held a further virtual meeting and agreed that the AGM would take place as a virtual meeting on Thursday 12th November and it is hoped that many of the parents will be able to join in.

Having celebrated my 70th birthday at the beginning of May, I decided that it was time to ‘hang up my laptop’ and informed the Executive Chairman that it was my intention to retire from this post. This was recorded by the Chairman at the meeting in June and Andrew stated that he would advertise the position via Facebook to see if we could get a volunteer to replace me.

Behind the scenes work has continued despite lockdown and further restriction, scouts, cubs and beavers have been doing badge work and activities throughout these times so well done to the leaders for keeping things going despite all the problems. Your Executive committee have also been busy keeping the buildings in working order and covering health & safety, so a very big thank you to those involved.

Who knows what the future will hold, however I wish each and every members of the 16th Morecambe Group a peaceful and happy Christmas and staying safe until we can meet again.

Finally I wish to thank the Executive Committee for all their help and support and the leaders for their friendliness towards me when I attend meetings to continue the work of the group.

Many thanks to all.

Adria Weaving
Group Administrator