



1st ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP



Annual Report

And

Accounts

2019

Charity Number: 302126

Chair's Report

The Group has again been busy this year, with contingents being sent to America for the World Scout Jamboree and also to Haarlem Scout Jamboree in Holland along with numerous, section, group and district level camps and events.

The lodge has seen some more work undertaken, the entrance to the grounds has been completely redone with a reinforced concrete driveway in and the gateway moved slightly to widen the arc in and out. Hopefully this will remove the issues previously where you needed bridging kit to get your vehicle across the potholes that always formed at the gate.

More fencing has been completed, we'll need to look at the external fencing around the woodland area in the coming year to strengthen or replace it to stop the boar and sheep gaining access.

The porch will hopefully be underway by the time you read this, various things have delayed starting it, mainly availability to do the work. The old container alongside the kitchen has now been moved alongside the other one at the front of the lodge. This enabled us to fit it out for stores and also to properly access the garage to start work there.

The archery range we were putting in alongside the road we have now decided will not go there, the cost of the infrastructure for a permanent range ensuring all round safety with the footpath alongside was mounting. We can better use that money elsewhere, so the range will be more flexible so we can put it up for the duration of the activity rather than permanent.

We have had a volunteers' day on the 26th October, many thanks to the two that joined us in appalling weather cleaning, decorating and working on the installation of the structure for a climbing/bouldering wall. A special thank you to Cath who spent a volunteer day from work at the lodge on her own the Thursday before prepping the entrance hall for painting and deep cleaning the kitchen.... I never realized the glass door on the oven was see through!

We are looking at replacing the flooring in the entrance hall with something much easier to maintain again improving the look and appeal of the lodge which is important when looking to raise funds from hiring it out.

Obviously, all of this requires voluntary help and above all money. Please do look out for requests for help, even if you can only manage an hour or two during a day where we need assistance, it is an hour or two that someone else doesn't have to do or that we don't have to pay someone for.

If you think you could help specifically with any of these please let me know:

- Stores person – manage the groups equipment
- Cleaning – are you able to pop into the lodge weekly/monthly and spend a couple of hours in the day to try and keep the lodge clean?
- Recycling – if we introduced recycling bins for paper/card, plastic, tins and glass would you be willing to do a recycling run on a regular basis? This would reduce what we put in the main bin reducing waste costs.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to all the leaders and volunteers that help make the group function, without them there would be no group. If you feel you have something to offer either as a leader, volunteer or on the executive, please speak to myself or any other member of the executive or leadership.

Group Scout Leaders Report

The last year has been a very busy year for me as GSL, as I was chosen to represent the County at the 24th World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in the USA, this is a tremendous opportunity for any Adult but is very hard work, and as such my involvement with our youth sections did reduce.

I was more than pleased with the news that we had 3 young people from our own Group selected to go on the jamboree, Lydia Smith and Hettie Smith who have now left us to go to their explorer units and Ellie Ovens a young leader with Tuesday Cubs. Along with this event we have also had Scouts attending Haarlem Jamborette which again is a terrific experience for anyone who goes and takes a tremendous amount of organising.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of the adult volunteers too numerous to mention individually, who give up their time every week to run their section meetings, without you and your families support over 120 young people would not have the experience of Scouting, this organisation we belong to makes a real difference to everybody who takes part or comes into contact with us from local community to individuals. You have all done so much for and with our young people, but I hope you all had fun doing it and have the strength to continue.

I would also like to thank our Group Executive, these are the people behind the scenes who help and support the uniformed Adults, with making sure insurance is in place, we have a building fit for purpose, we operate our building in a safe way and so many more things too numerous to mention, the Executive is made up of uniformed leaders, executive officers and also parents of young people and sometimes local community will also be welcomed, we are sad to see that a number of our parents have decided to move on during the year and I would like to thank them for all the time and effort they have given to us.

It is with regret that we lost one of our longest serving leaders during the year Phil Morton who has been with Scouting in Hampshire and here in the Forest for a very long time passed away this year, Phil was more than just a Cub Leader as he had undertaken many many roles across Scouting and had a wealth of experience that he would willingly pass on to new Adults and myself always making sure that I had questioned myself in any decision I was making and was it the right one for the lodge or the young people.

The coming year will be another year of change for the lodge with the porch going up, more activities being built to offer not only to our young people but to all who use our facilities, this allows us to keep our weekly costs down to our young people for their section evenings. If you have a skill whatever that may be, please talk to either a section leader or one of the executive and offer us some time, the thrill of seeing a young person tie their 1st knot, sew their first badge on, camp overnight, light a fire, make bread, iron their shirt or necker, any of which will put a smile on your face for a long time.

As I start into my 18th year at Beaver Lodge I would like to thank everyone for all of the support they give and would like to leave you with this poem I saw in Canada as part of the WSJ trip, and hope the words mean as much to you as they did to me.

*We travel through life, Sometimes much too fast,
Looking for things that will surely last,
A beautiful sky, A majestic tree
But nothing permanent for you and me
Perhaps someone to love, Such as family or friend
But they, too, pass onto their eventual end
But hopefully not all these loving memories are gone
Surely loving memories linger on and on
So as we travel through life, much to fast
These lovely memories are the things that will last and last.*
Dr Kenneth S Lewis, Midland, Ontario, Canada, 2011

Tuesday Cubs

Over the past 12 months I feel I have settled into the Group well and would like to thank everyone for being so friendly and helpful.

I would also like to thank Stephanie and Gareth for looking after the Cubs so well while they didn't have a permanent leader. The Cubs have now all adapted and majority of the original inherited pack have now moved up to Scouts.

During the year one Cub was presented with their Chief Scout Silver Award.

The year has been busy taking part in lots of District events as well as having some interesting and exciting activities/visits as part of the weekly programme.

In November we joined many others in a Remembrance parade.

We had a trip to Skillzone in Gloucester in February and in March Farrier on Tour at Cranham which was a WSJ19 fundraiser, a talk from Hobo's Hedgehog Rescue April saw us with a Muay Thai taster session, St George's Day parade and a visit to see the Gloucester Gangshow.

May started with Backwoods Sixer & Secunder camp joint camp with Clearwell and Sling Cubs and our Thursday Cubs followed by a District Cub Cycle ride.

In June the District Water Activities Day was held at Mallards Pike and we also paid a visit to Forest Climbing Centre.

We started July with Rafting followed by a Kids v's Adult night and then Theatre Stars visit.

The District Cub camp was held in September followed in October with 2x sessions at the Innovation/Techno Lab in Coleford with a trip to a Bristol Zoo on Cub takeover day.

Many Cubs enjoyed the weekend of Joti/Jota and a Circus Skills night and in November we had a talk from The Wildlife Trust.

We are proud to have followed Ellie Ovens on her journey to WSJ19. When we started back in September she engaged the Cubs with her story and slide show of her trip. It was a great information evening. The Cubs asked lots of questions and started talking about what they would do when they are Scouts/Explorers.

I am looking forward to working with the Cub leadership team and thinking of new ideas to make 2020 even better than 2019!

Thursday Cubs

Thursday Cubs has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months, we have attended a district camp in 2018 (sadly we had to pull out of the 2019 one, but we will be back in 2020!) and held our own Jamboree camp at Beaver Lodge in July, which was a roaring success. This camp has also allowed Raksha to be awarded her night's away permit (well done Claire!!) so that we can undertake more camps ourselves. We are already booking one in for after Christmas. Our older cubs also took part in a backwoods camp with Clearwell and Sling and 1st RF Tuesdays - quite a challenging event for cubs, but great fun.

As well as camping we have supported charities by raising money, been raft building, bike riding, built assault courses and in fact undertaken so many activities it is impossible to list them all!

We also had the notable occurrence at the end of last year of saying goodbye to the last of the cubs that started with the current leadership team 2 years ago.

2019 / 2020 looks to be even more fun filled!

Wednesday Beavers

Wednesday beavers said they had a lot of highlights. Some were meeting the trash converters van and learning about recycling.

We walked around Parkend and picked up litter using litter pickers. One resident said they were doing a great job of keeping Parkend tidy!

Another highlight was going to Skillzone in Gloucester. We learnt about fire, water and road safety. Also how to keep safe by train tracks and stations. The different interactive activities were really informative. Being locked in a cell in the police station was something most of them didn't like!

Pond dipping at Nagshead nature reserve was also great fun. We found lots of newts, water boatmen, water spiders and many more.

The Wednesday Beavers have completed the Beaver Lodge fire evacuation drills which are held twice a year which is an important part of training.

Treasurer's Report – 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019

The Accounts included in this report have been prepared by Diane Ruck, Group Treasurer.

The Group operates 3 bank accounts:

- HSBC Current account – all standing orders are paid into this account. This is the Group's main account for the payment of all running costs; Lodge hires fees and membership subscriptions.
- HSBC – Deposit account – a contingency account that does earn a very small amount of interest.
- Lloyds Bank Plc – this account, opened in May 2019, gives the Group the ability to manage online payments

Direct debit payments

The majority of parents are now paying by Direct Debit – thank you – this is very much appreciated... There is a small saving by paying by direct debit – if you would like to start paying in this way please ask your Leader for the necessary form.

Gift Aid – following a concerted effort of leaders to get parents to sign up for the Gift Aid Scheme, we have for the first time received a payment from the HMRC in respect of Gift Aid on the subscriptions that you all pay for your children. £3,260.08 has been reclaimed this year and further claims will be made on a 3 monthly basis. Annually we receive £15,000 in subscriptions so in theory if everyone signs up for the Gift Aid Scheme we could receive an annual income of £3,750 through the Gift Aid Scheme! If you haven't signed up already, get a form from your Leader.

To utilise this income, the Executive Committee have set up an International/ Activities/Camps fund for young people to apply for funding to subsidise the cost of taking place in such events. For example, attendance at the World Jamboree costs each participant about £4,000. This year a total of £1,700.00 was awarded to 8 of your young people to support their attendance at the World Jamboree in the USA and the Haarlem Jamboree in Holland. This fund is also available to fund Camps in the UK so if you think you may be eligible or would like to apply please speak to your Leader.

In summary, the Group's finances are in a strong position. In view of this, subscriptions fees which were reviewed in 2016, will remain at their current level but will be reviewed again by the Executive in September 2020.

First Royal Forest Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st August 2019

Receipts		£
Balance at bank as at 31st August 2018 - Current Account - HSBC		£11,612.88
Balance at bank as at 31st August 2018 Deposit Account - HSBC		£5,414.30
Balance at Loyds Bank as at 31st August 2018		0
Interest Deposit Account		8.10
Subscriptions cheque		1040.30
Subscriptions cash		3671.21
Subscriptions - Standing Orders		11611.40
Lodge Hire		1443.50
Grants (FODDC & Rotary)		600.00
Events/Camps/Sleepovers		1859.00
Fund Raising (Current A/c)		784.96
Gift Aid - HMRC		3260.08
Log Books		62.50
Training		0.00
Insurance rebate		0.00
Donations		693.86
Bank charges		14.30
Cash held by Treasurer		
Loyds Bank Account		5000.00
		47076.19

Payments		£
Repairs/Maintenance		2652.75
Electricity/Gas		1660.17
Badges		1258.69
Water		44.99
Rent/Hire		0.00
Phone/Internet		403.25
Capitation		6098.00
Insurance		1811.81
Transfer to Deposit A/c		
Camps & Activities		4902.99
Waste Removal		652.37
Section Resources		2314.52
Misc		744.10
Uniforms		327.00
Subs refunded / Unpaid cheque/ Bank Fee		56.30
Adult Camp Exps		0.00
Traversing Wall		0.00
Adult Training		228.00
Equipment		1538.43
Transfer to Loyds Bank Account		5000.00
Fundraising Costs (Current A/c)		893.25
Fundraising Exps (Deposit A/c)		0.00
Balance at Bank as at 31.08.19 - Current account - HSBC		7068.95
Balance as at Bank 31.08.19 - HSBC - Deposit a/c		5422.40
Balance as at Loyds Bank 31.08.19		4003.22
		47076.19

Monday Scouts

Well - what a fun filled year it has been for the Monday Scouts! We started the year as we meant to go on with a kayaking evening on the River Wye. Making use of the last glimmers of evening light we used our next session for a spot of campfire cooking. But we didn't let the dark nights stop us going outside during the autumn term with outdoor games including glowstick football! Our bonfire night camp was a great success with lots of campfire cooking, glowstick games, fireworks in a bottle and glow stick costume making.

During the spring we focussed on Fire Safety and First Aid and included a great trip to Skill Zone in Gloucester.

The summer term is always really busy and this year was no exception. We packed in Kayaking, Sailing and Windsurfing, Rafting (water pistol warfare). One evening was spent at Wenchford making shelters and pioneering mini-rafts to sail down the stream.

We loved teaming up with Tuesday Scouts for our annual Strategy camp. Monday Scouts chose their strategy to be to have the most fun they could in the bases that they chose. A great strategy to adopt in life, I think!



Tuesday Scouts

It's been a good year for Tuesday Scouts, with a great bunch of scouts, a much valued leadership team and a varied and fun programme of activities.

Our leadership team is slightly smaller but is immensely grateful to Lloyd and Bernie who have stepped up increasingly to take on some of the organising and delivery of activities.

It's been a period of change: with many of our older scouts moving on in the Autumn of 2018, the group now has a much younger profile. Some of our older scouts have stepped up into new leadership roles and are on target to complete their Chief Scouts Gold Award by the time they move on to Explorers. We currently have 17 scouts on the books.

We've try to ensure that all our scouts have an opportunity to complete their Chief Scouts Gold Award during their time with us though a wide ranging and varied programme of activities.

Our scouts have participated in various County events, such as Strategy, Canal Boating and Scuba Diving. They have also enjoyed engaging with scouts from other groups through District events including Haarlem, JOTA/JOTI, Water Day, Cooking Competition, Incident Hike and Rifle Shooting as well as partnering with Monday Scouts for various events. These shared experiences and activities are very valuable to scouts and leaders alike.

Some of the highlights of the year have been learning to sail at Llandegfedd Reservoir with the Newport SWAT; picking up some amazing bush craft skills with the ReWild Project at our May Camp; cooking up a Mother's Day Lunch for our scout mums and families; caving with the team from Viney Hill, going to the Pantomime at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, raising funds for the Forest Lions, learning about bee keeping from the Dean Forest Bee Keepers and how to perform some circus tricks with Shooting Stars Circus.

We're proud of each and every one of our scouts. It's great to see them making the most of the opportunities and growing in confidence as they learn to handle life challenges with a little bit more resilience as a result of their time in scouting.

Wednesday Scouts

Last October saw a big change in the group with 8 young people moving up to Explorers and lots of new young people joining. We finished the October half term with a very successful Crazy Golf evening followed by a Climbing and caving camp at Gloucester Warehouse on the weekend which was enjoyed by all those that attended, playing on the digiwall until bed time.

Throughout the year we have completed a Christmas camp with an International theme, thanks to my young leaders and younger leaders, an expedition challenge hike and camp in the Wye Valley in February, with all participants carrying their kit. Some found the rain in the evening hard to cope with but all survived to complete the weekend.

After Easter I found the age of my scouts as suddenly changed now we have lots of year 10-12 year olds and very few older ones, the most dramatic change is the number of girls, for many years there was a maximum of 4, we are nearly at half and half which is great.

In the summer term we had lots of nights out and about including Stand up Paddle boarding and raft building. We have also worked with Rosemary and Sarah at Buchanon Park where in July scouts enjoyed an evening of woodland activities and in September we spent a day with Sarah, Rosemary and their Country side ranger, learning about Forestry work, the equipment they use, having a go at felling trees, planting trees and tree recognition.

September saw another now annual sailing camp, at Avon Sailing Club near Tewkesbury where scouts earned their sailing and nautical badges. Another annual event to our calendar due to popular demand and very good attendance are environment days and backwoods camp weekends in local private woodland, where even the younger scouts, experienced building shelters and sleeping under tarps or in hammocks, making fires and cooking their own food on them and making camp gadgets.

At the beginning of October we visited Gloucester Dry Slope Ski Centre where all scouts managed to use the 'snow plough' to control their speed coming down the slope. This evening was enjoyed by all, with the general comments at the end being when can we come again! Thank you to my Leaders and Young Leader for supporting and assisting with planning events and on the evenings and to all parents for their continued support.



Awards

Kerryanne Billingham	Chief Scouts 5 Years' Service Award
Steve Crick	Chief Scouts 10 Years' Service Award
Gareth Ovens	Commissioners Commendation (Gloucestershire)
Gareth Ovens	Bar to the Award of Merit

Phil Morton 1942 - 2019

At last year's AGM both Phil and his Daughter Alison received the Award of Merit for outstanding services to Scouting, just a few months later Phil passed away. Phil had been involved as a Leader in Farnborough District before joining us here; he was always willing to help especially when others were unable to make meetings so that the young people could still attend their evening.

Through the kind donation made by Phil's family, the executive are to purchase an outdoor traversing wall for use by the young people onto which a memorial plaque will be placed.

Safety

From time to time the Scout Association review safety procedures and as a result in April and October of each year each section carries out an emergency evacuation drill during one of their meetings, the alarm system is tested together with the emergency lighting, this is important as Beaver Lodge is a wooden structure and it ensures that the young people are prepared.

Group Executive

During the last year it has met 4 times, and unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to 2 members, the executive do a very important job in managing the finances and oversee the maintenance of the lodge and its grounds.

The executive have members representing each of the 3 sections but they urgently need parent representation, help is available to understand the position and the responsibility as a charity trustee.

Could you spare about 8 hours a year to be a member of the executive?

If you can, then this would enable the Leaders more time to concentrate on the young people rather than having to spend time worrying about the finances and maintenance.

Brian Wingfield Group Secretary

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2017/2018

Held at Beaver Lodge, Friday 9th November 2018 at 7.30

1. Present:

Steve McAuliffe (Chair), Gareth Ovens Group Scout Leader), Brian Wingfield (Group Secretary), Leaders and Parents.

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the 1st Royal Forest Scout Group AGM on what was a very wet and windy evening, he pointed out the fire exits and procedure. A copy of the reports together with a copy of the accounts was available.

3. Apologies:

These had been received from: Fiona Price, Charlotte Bishop, Diane Ruck (Treasurer), Ang. Healey, Kevin Payne and the DC Gary Law.

4. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 21st September 2017 were distributed to the meeting and the Chair asked for the meetings approval that they be accepted as a true record and the Chair signed them as a true record.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Chair presented the accounts due to the illness of the treasurer, a copy of which was included in the annual report. The Group has two accounts one for all the general finances and the other is held in reserve. Gift Aid is important as this year we have received over £1000 pounds and if everybody completed the forms we could benefit by over £4000 pounds per year and every encouragement is given to parents to pay subscriptions by direct debit and signed up for Gift

Aid. The Group has received a grant from the West Dean Parish Council of £1700 towards the archery range and equipment. We have applied for a grant to enable us to update some of the kitchen equipment. The Group has a healthy balance and at the last Executive meeting it was agreed that the subscriptions would remain at their present level.

The Executive at their meeting in October agreed that the Gift Aid funding we received would be used to help young people attending International Events. This would be either as a grant or a loan which could be used to organise a fundraising event. All leaders have been given details of this together with the application procedure.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Phil Morton and seconded by Kerry Powell and accepted by the meeting

6. Annual Report and Chair's remarks

The Chair thanked everybody in the Group for their hard work and support throughout the year. During the next few months a start will be made to construct the porch on the front of the Lodge, this will be done in two stages as it will be necessary to leave the garage end clear so that when the container is moved and the garage is removed we will have sufficient room. The fencing along the road is almost complete and the materials have been purchased to erect a fence along the top of the bank by the stream. Leaders, Managers and parents have all worked to contribute to a brighter future for Scouting and said that it takes a special type of person to volunteer.

A plea for help to give a hand for the jobs around the Lodge was made.

The Chair asked the members present to accept the report.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Claire Chapman and seconded by Alison Buttery and accepted by the meeting

7. Election of Group Treasurer and Group Secretary

The Chair said that so far the only nominations he had were Diane Ruck as Group Treasurer and Brian Wingfield as Group Secretary, the meeting was asked if there were any other nominations, there were none.

Gareth Ovens proposed that they be elected and this was seconded by Alison Buttery and approved by the meeting

8. To approve the Group Scout Leaders nomination of the Group Chair

The Chair handed over to the Group Scout Leader Gareth Ovens; Gareth thanked Steve for his work during the last year. Gareth asked the meeting to approve his nomination of Steve McAuliffe as Chair of the Group. The meeting agreed with his nomination.

9. Ex – Officio members of the Group Executive Committee

Members are Steve McAuliffe, Gareth Ovens GSL, Diane Ruck Treasurer, Brian Wingfield Secretary and the District Commissioner who has a right to attend but not to vote.

10. Election of members of the Council to the Group Executive Committee

Members for election: Steve Crick, Alison Buttery, Fiona Price and Charlotte Bishop

Nomination for approval was by Gareth Ovens and Seconded by Kerry Powell and was approved by the meeting

11. Report by GSL

Gareth referred to the annual report which contained a copy of his report he gave thanks to the support of leaders and the people who have taken on some of the workload. During the year we have said goodbye to Marnie and she was thanked for her leadership in both the Group and District and for her support on camping.

We are fortunate in having 3 young people selected to attend the world jamboree in 2019 and 13 have signed up to attend the Jamboree in Harlem.

Gareth thanked the Leaders for bringing Gift Aid to the attention of parents and the potential extra income that it will bring to enable us to better support the young people. A copy of the report will be placed on the Group Notice Board. My thanks go to Diane, Steve and Brian for their support during the last year.

12. Awards and Presentations

Gareth said the next part of the evening gave him immense pleasure as it recognises the work and service to scouting. The presentation of a Medal of Merit was made to Alison Buttery also a presentation of the Medal of Merit was made to Phil Morton who has given over 35 years of service starting in Farnborough and the with the 1st Royal Forest.

13. Close of meeting

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and said that there would be a short presentation by Ellie one of the 3 young people selected to represent Gloucestershire at the 2019 world jamboree and afterwards refreshments will be available.

1st ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
22nd November 2019
AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of AGM 9th November 2018**
- 4. To receive the Accounts**
- 5. To receive the Annual report of the Group**
- 6. To elect the Group Secretary and Group Treasurer**
- 7. To approve the Group Scout Leaders nomination of the Group Chairman**
- 8. To Confirm Ex-officio members of the Executive**
- 9. Election of members of the Council to the Group Executive Committee**
- 10. Group Scout Leaders nomination to the Group Executive Committee**
- 11. The Group Scout Leader**
- 12. The District Commissioner**
- 13. Awards and Presentations**
- 14. Close of meeting**