

# 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group

Annual Report 2020/2021



Meet the Team

Group Scout Leader VACANT

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\_ Beaver Scout Leader Jan Padgett

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= Assistant Beaver Scout Leader Nicola Blain

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= Cub Scout Leader – Seonee Cub Pack Jonathan Booth

Cub Scout Leader – Waingunga Cub Pack Jo Toogood

Richard Bell

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= Assistant Cub Scout Leader Mark Whittock

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= Scout Leader Richard Snook

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= Assistant Scout Leader Jeremy McCahill

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= Group Chairman Sean Forrest

Group Secretary Becky Hill

Membership Secretary Sarah Yates

Group Treasurer Tess Robson

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## 15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group – November 2021

### Chairman's Report

**Sean Forrest (Chairman)**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group**

The period the report covers has been unprecedented in respect of the challenges presented to all with the Covid-19 Pandemic impacting all aspects of life for everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Leadership Team, Executive Committee and parent helpers for all their hard work, dedication and innovation during this difficult period.

The Group has been able to offer on-line meetings, at-home activities including special badges (badges at home) and where allowed, face-to-face scouting has resumed with great success. I am pleased to see that so many young people in all sections of the group were able to get involved with the activities offered which I am sure was of great benefit when at times we were all locked away at home with only takeaway pizza and box sets to look forward to.

Unfortunately the pandemic put paid to a few annual favourite fundraising activities being the Village Fete and the Scout Firework Display in the Chalk Pit. Hopefully these can resume next year, fingers crossed.

I hope you enjoy reading the Section Leader Reports, in spite of everything that's gone on, a lot has been accomplished.

Here's looking forward to a better year ahead. Keep safe and stay well.

Sean Forrest (Chairman) 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group

### Beaver Scout Report

The period covered by this report is quite like no other before and fingers-crossed it will be like no other report that I have to write again in the future!

The spring term in 2020 was the start of the UK lockdown and brought scouting to an abrupt halt. Towards the end of May when boredom really was setting in we started running Beavers session online via Zoom. We ran 8 sessions that were pretty well attended (even if a few members were shy and switched their cameras off). We completed the Health and Fitness activity badge and covered some parts of the Outdoor Challenge with first aid and garden bug hunting included. The finale of the term was a cook-a-long session where everyone cooked a delicious mug cake in the microwave.

After the 'summer-break' we resumed face-to-face meetings outdoors at the scout hut as per the covid guidance. As regulations dictated that we couldn't have a group larger than 15 meeting and our membership had fallen to 15, due to those reaching 8 moving on to Cubs,

we decided not to take on any new starters as this would have meant limiting members to attending on alternate weeks.

In the autumn we concentrated on the Outdoors Challenge badge - it seemed fitting as we were forced to meet outdoors! Jonathan came in to run an axe-throwing session, we did fire-lighting, bonfire night, problem solving and finished the term with a walk around Otford to look at the Christmas decorations around the village.

The dawn of 2021 brought 'lockdown 2.0' and scout meetings were again forced back on to zoom. We started the new zoom term by inviting the Otford Cubs and Scouts sections to join us with five weekly sessions where attendees completed the Kilimanjaro Challenge badge, followed by three weeks for the Climate Quest badge. These zoom sessions were attended by 20-30 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts each week and it was lovely to see the interaction between members from each section - many who hadn't been in contact with friends and were receiving no interaction via online schooling.

Even though the scouting year was interrupted by lockdowns in this period we were still able to award

- 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards
- 5 Challenge badges
- 34 Activity badges
- 29 Occasional badges
- 9 virtual Nights Away

I would like to thank Nicki (Robin) for her support over the last year as my Section Assistant, I couldn't do it without you!

**Jan Padgett (Skylark)**

**Beaver Scout Leader**

## Waingunga Cub Scout Report

April 2020 to September 2020 we did not run our Pack due to the Corona Virus Lockdown. Many of our pack participated in the Zoom hosted activities organised by the District including the illustrator session, the coding and message to the space station evening and some of the cooking sessions.

We also had a few hard core badges at homers who completed quite a few badges this way, regularly uploading evidence of craft work, home camping, marshmallows in the back

garden, sports enthusiasm, digital making, meals made, home helping etc.

In October 2020 we resumed meetings after a painful process of risk assessing for COVID measures, watching the alert levels and hoping for the best. We met with half the pack bi weekly until Christmas where we got back to basics with knots, campfire sing song with marshmallows, stick raft making session followed by a Christmassy hike.

Sadly we then got locked down again and couldn't continue Scouting until after the Easter Holiday where this report ends.

Over this period we lost a few of our older Cubs to the Scouts and have gained lots of new faces as our pack matures it's nice to see the others come into their own and take on the responsibility of inducting the younger ones into the pack.

We also gained and lost some new adult volunteers but we have retained one lovely committed lady Mirisa (Sahi) who is keen to get invested and is proving to be a valuable member of the team. Particularly valuable as I had my 3<sup>rd</sup> baby during Lockdown and had to leave Bagheera to hold the fort while I got through the early days with a newborn.

Many thanks to Bagheera and Sahi.

We've had a fabulous return to Scouting from September this year 2021 but the details of that will have to wait until the next report is due.

**Joanne Toogood (Hathi)**

**Richard Bell (Bagheera)**

**Mirisa Du Toit - Sahi**

**15<sup>th</sup> Otford Scout Group – Waingunga Cub pack Leaders (Thursdays)**

## [Seeonee Cub Scout Report](#)

With Five months of lockdown Seeonee Cubs have shown great commitment to the Scouting Movement (and hopefully passed the time whilst learning something), with just over 65% of the Pack completing numerous 'badges at home'; animal carer, artist, book reader, chef, DIY, entertainer, gardener, home help, home safety, scientist and sports enthusiast. Cubs have also taken part in County and National badges such as 'hike to the Moon', 'camp at home' challenge, 'Kent Mayhem' and a climate challenge badge.

The Leaders were impressed with the effort put in, and arranged to 'door step' any deserving Cub, using a long stick, a padded Marigold glove and a litter picker to award any badges earned

Seeonee resumed face to face Scouting after a rather bureaucratic process on 21st September, in the knowledge that lockdown 3.0 was about to begin. As only half the pack were going to meet on alternate weeks, we quickly squeezed in two consecutive meetings, Monday/Tuesday.....

..... before returning to Scouting in the November, again with half the Pack meeting on alternate Mondays. We concentrated on the 'basics' as all were a little rusty, how to stand, salute, correct format of our ceremonies, fire lighting, knots, National Flags, how to move a casualty (improvised stretcher racing, blanket drag etc), Hawk (axe) throwing, that type of thing. Cubs still engaged with the District on-line offering and our own 'badges at home'.

Thanks as always to Baloo for his friendship both inside and out of Scouting, and Lucy, for putting up with my 'hobby'.... its only two hours a week!

**Akela (Jonathan)**

**Seeonee Cub Leader**

[Scout Leader Report](#)

GENERAL

SOCIAL

**Rik Snook**

**Jerry McCahill**

**(15<sup>th</sup> Otford Scout Leaders)**

**Annual General Meeting 15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group  
10th November 2021**

**Location: Zoom meeting**

**Time: 8pm**

## **Agenda**

**1. Welcome and introductions** (*Group Chairman*)

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

**3. Minutes of the previous AGM**

**4. Approval of annual report/Accounts** (*presented by the Group Chairman*) **(A)**

**Annual Report Proposer:**

Secunder:

Seek approval of the meeting:

**(B) Accounts Proposer:**

Secunder:

Seek approval of the meeting:

**5. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairman**

GSL's nomination: Sean Forrest Seek approval of the meeting:

**6. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's nomination of members of the Group Executive Committee** (*Section Leaders etc*)

GSL's nominations: Seek approval of the meeting:

**7. Election of the Group Secretary** (*no proposer or seconder required*)

Name: Becky Hill Seek approval of the meeting:

**8. Election of the Group Treasurer**

Name: Tess Robson Seek approval of the meeting:

**9. Election of the Group Scout Council to the Group Executive Committee**

*(Parent Representatives/Active Scout Group Supporters)*

Name/s: Seek approval of the meeting:

**[10. Appointment of independent auditor, examiner or scrutineer]**

*(confirm current)*

**11. Guest speaker (District Representative) *(Optional)***

**12. Presentations and awards (Section Leaders) *(Optional)***

**Close of meeting**

## Annual General Meeting 15th (Oxford) Sevenoaks Scout Group

### 3rd February 2021

**Location: Zoom meeting (due to Covid 19 restrictions) 8pm**

1. (GC) **Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence:**  
Rik Snook (Scout ASL) and Jerry McCahill (Scout ASL)
2. (GC) **Minutes of the previous AGM**  
Approved
3. (GC) **Matters arising (from minutes):**  
None
4. (GC) **Chairman's Report/Review** – Sean Forrest  
*(handover to Treasurer)*
5. (GT) **Treasurer's Report and (GC) Adoption of the accounts**

(report presented by Treasurer and invite questions, Chair resumes and requests proposer and seconder to accept accounts)

**(GC) Adoption of accounts**

**Proposer:** Sarah Yates

**Seconder:** Jonathan Booth

**6. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's Nominations for membership of the Executive Committee: (handover to GSL)**

**(GSL) (a) Nomination for Chairman**

GSL's nomination:

Seek approval of the meeting:

**Sean Forrest**

Approved

**(GSL) (b) Nomination/s for Executive Committee (e.g. ASLs)**

GSL's nominations:

Seek approval of the meeting:

**Rik Snook – ASL Scouts**

Approved

**(GSL) (c) Ask SLs for oral confirmation of whether they wish to exercise their right to be members of the Executive Committee**

**Jonathan Booth – Seenee Leader – confirmed exercising right to be a Trustee**

*(List of all Trustees: Ex Officio - Sean Forrest (GC), Tess Robson (GT), Jan Padgett (Acting GSL + Beaver Leader), Sarah Yates (Acting Assistant GSL), Rebecca Hill (GS) , Jonathan Booth (Cub Leader – exercising right), Rik Snook (Scout ASL – nominated) and Karen Lynch (Active Support – Scout group admin - elected)*

**7. (GC) Election of members of the Group Executive Committee from the floor (Group Scout Council)**

**(a) Parent Representatives/Active Scout Group Supporters/ASLs**

Name/s of those standing for election:

Election by show of hands:

**Karen Lynch – Scout Admin**

Elected by GSC

**(b) Election of the Group Secretary (no proposer or seconder required)**

Name: Election by show of hands:

**Rebecca Hill** Elected by GSC

**(c) Election of the Group Treasurer**

Name: Election by show of hands:

**Tess Robson** Elected by GSC

**8. (GC) Appointment of independent auditor, examiner or scrutineer**

**(GC) Appointment of Satish Mathue as Independent Examiner** Proposer: Tess Robson

Seconder: Jan Padgett

**9. (GC) Invite District Representative address (Jo Brookbank):**

Short address to all present by Jo Brookbank (DC) explaining the current Scouting provision available locally, the situation at district and national level along with plans for the continued provision of Scouting during and after lockdown.

Jo B advised JP and SY that the group should obtain the Scouting Association Zoom license that is currently still available – JP agreed to action.

**10. (GC) Invite VIP/Guest Speaker (optional)**

None for this meeting.

**11. (GC) AOB (at discretion of Chairman)**

Questions raised by parent Fiona Gruneberg regarding the group not collecting subs and the finances of the group in connection with the Capitation fees being charged by Scouting HQ.

Jo B responded explaining that as a result of good historical financial management the 15<sup>th</sup> Sevenoaks group are in a sound financial position at this point despite the current situation and explained the Scouting situation in general and the rationale/need for Scouting HQ to charge the capitation fees to

maintain Scouting – Scouting finances at a national level are in extreme difficulty largely due to dramatic rises in safeguarding and insurance costs faced by the movement in recent years. If Scouting is to survive, HQ need to charge capitation fees despite the lack of face-to-face scouting during the pandemic. Jo B also advised that District are absorbing a portion of the increases in those capitation fees in order to help groups in this district and that anyone wishing to support the Scout movement financially can make a donation direct to HQ via the Scout website.

Sean F also responded advising that we have been successful in claiming available local government grants to date which cover the shortfall in subs, rental income and fundraising income the group would usually have received over the past year, meaning we are currently in a position not to charge members for subs while face-to-face scouting cannot take place – at least for the foreseeable future – but advised that this is something we will have to reconsider should the situation continue on past the Summer term.

**12. (GSL) Presentations and awards (optional)**

No awards made this year due to the circumstances.

**13. (GC) Close of meeting**

*Exec Committee members agreed to schedule an Exec meeting before Easter (sooner if face-to-face Scouting is allowed to resume).*