

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group

Annual Report 2022/23



23rd June 2023

Meet the Team

Group Scout Leader - Jan Padgett/Sarah Yates

Beaver Scout Leader - Jan Padgett

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader - Nicola Blain

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Seeonee Cub Pack

Cub Scout Leader – Jonathan Booth

Assistant Cub Scout Leader - Mark Whittock

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Waingunga Cub Pack

Assistant Cub Scout Leaders – Jo Toogood & Richard Bell

Section Assistant - Mirisa Du Toit

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Scout Leader - Richard Snook

Section Assistants - Richard Ellis, Patrick Brown and Nathan Holmes

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Group Chairman Sean Forrest

Group Secretary- Becky Hill

Membership Secretary - Sarah Yates

Group Treasurer - Graham Westwood

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15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group – June 2023

Chairman's Report

It has been another fantastic and productive year for the group's scouting activities with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all fully operational at Otford with approximately 70 members between them and around 1,000 young people involved in Scouting district wide.

I hope you enjoy reading the Section Leader's Reports which details many of the activities our young people have taken part in this year including, a winter camp in January at Wilberforce, 2 day expedition Hike in February, MAG 7 Camp in May. Still to come this year is our Summer Annual Camps to take place in Cudham at the end of July beginning of August and a planned Sponsored Walk scheduled for September.

Notable events include:

Otford Scouts were jointly awarded the Dudley Barrow Trophy - for 'Active participation of an exceptional standard that enhanced scouting during 2022/23.

Anthony Holmes (Young Leader with Beavers) is the first person to be awarded a new award The John London Award - presented to a young leader in recognition of their outstanding achievement to further aims of scouting.

I would like to thank all the members of the Leadership Team, Executive/Trustee Committee and parent helpers for all their hard work, dedication and support during the last 12 months.

After the departure of Group Treasurer, Tess Robson, last year. We are happy to welcome Graham Westwood who has kindly agreed to take on this vital role within the group. Thank you Graham.

Unfortunately, due to safety issues within the Chalk Pit it is likely we will not be able to hold our much loved Annual Scout Firework Display any time in the near future. However, we are still able to run some of our other fund-raising events such as the village summer and winter fetes and appreciate all of your support as usual.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on Friday 23rd June at the Scout Hut where there will be some very well earned awards bestowed to some of our incredible long standing Leadership Team. It would be great to see as many people there as possible to show their appreciation.

Here's looking forward to another great year to come. Stay safe and well.

Sean Forrest (Chairman)

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group

Beaver Scout Report

The last year has been another busy one for Beavers with plenty of adventures for everyone to enjoy. The Colony has been running slightly under capacity but this has meant we have been able to offer places to young people who have been recommended to join by their friends rather than sitting on a waiting list. In the last year 6 Beavers have moved on and are now invested in Otford Cubs and we have invested 12 new members.

I am pleased and proud that in the last year we have awarded a total of 137 badges. These include 22 Challenge Badges, 111 Activity Badges and Staged Activity Badges including Nights Away and I have been proud to award 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards. Our weekly activities have concentrated on trying to complete the six Challenge Badges during the time that Beavers are with us, we have also focussed on the Navigator level 1, Disability Awareness, Space and Safety Activity badges.

Beavers were also invited to join in with some extra activities by attending the Sevenoaks Panto and a climbing session at Lower Grange Farm. This year Beavers have three opportunities to experience a scouting night away with the fantastic Sevenoaks District Mag7 camp, a sleepover at the hut and a Summer Camp upcoming in the school holidays.

I would like to thank Nicki for her support over the last year, it wouldn't be possible without you and to our Young Leaders including Anthony who was recognised for his commitment with a District Award.

Jan Padgett (Skylark)

Beaver Scout Leader

Waingunga Cub Scout Report

Waingunga meets on Thursday during term time. We currently have 12 Cubs mostly all regular attendees. This has generally been a stable number as we have invested approximately 4 new Cubs and lost the same number to the Scout troop as they aged through.

We have awarded 40 badges this year. We currently have 3 uniformed leaders with varying skills and permits across the group including fencing / tomahawk / archery / paddle board.

Hopefully this year I will gain a Night's Away Permit. We have enjoyed our usual varied program which has included all the Scouting basics of maps, knots, hikes, fires, cooking, international festivals/holy days as well as some national ones too such as Burns Night where the Cubs heard some 18 th century Scottish dialect in the poetry and got to taste haggis on oat cakes and St David's Day where the Cubs learned a potted history of the life of St David via an obstacle course leek baton relay.

We had a fabulous hike up to the Kemsing Cross for a full 180 panorama of the valley after dark to do a spot of constellation identification. We ran all of our special permit activity nights at least once. Apart from paddle board but Bagheera got to do that at the MAG7 district camp where he was an important member of the SUP team. MAG7 on the 1 st May bank holiday being a highlight we had about half the pack attend. Another highlight was the group trip to the Sevenoaks Town Panto at Christmas. We are looking forward to the last half term before the Summer holidays and given the great weather hope to be out doors for much of it including a reprise of the very successful river mini raft race night we had a couple of years ago.

Once I have my NAP I will be able to institute regular Camps into the program

Joanne Toogood (Hathi)

Richard Bell (Bagheera)

Mirisa Du Toit - Sahi

15th Otford Scout Group – Waingunga Cub pack Leaders (Thursdays)

[Seeonee Cub Scout Report](#)

This year we have endeavored to increase our Scouting offer.... I don't think people have fully realised the effect that covid has had on both young people and leaders... and I hope that we are finally 'back up to speed'.

We are currently running with 20 Cubs and I'm pleased to say that they have all consistently attended over the last year with most weeks seeing full or nearly full attendance. We have lost a few over this period but they have all gone up to Scouts which is very gratifying.

Our first major event this period was a 'London at Height' challenge, where the Cubs tackled some of the Capitols highest landmarks, Tower Bridge, 22 Bishops Gate, St Paul's (and the nearby 1 New Change), The Monument, and The Tate Modern. WE raised 295 for a CPR charity based in Sevenoaks.

Having held a couple of Pack forums we have tackled badges put forward by Cubs, interspersed with meetings that concentrated on core Scouting skills. Badges asked for and covered, included astronomers (stars and Moon), artist (soap carving and book cover design), road safety and the teamwork challenge badge. All the cubs have added to their nights away, hikes away staged badges, through attending our winter residential in January 2023, with some putting in an individual effort to obtain their time on the water staged badge. This individual effort (and by that I mean badges completed outside meetings/organised activities) also include badges attained for book reader, home help, entertainer and physical recreation.

We have also done a bit of 'mopping up' of the challenge badges that some of our older Cubs have needed, to complete their Chief Scout Silver award (World, Adventure, Personal, Skills etc). All the Cubs have benefited as subjects covered went towards their own challenge badge requirements, but this final push meant that we were able to award three Cubs their Chief Scouts Silver this period with one more waiting in the wings.

Scouting skills covered have included rope work and knots, leading to Stave Chariots/Sedan chair racing and more recently a larger pioneering project that allowed them to take part in a Gladiator style challenge - pillow fight on a supported spar. We have also had a couple of sausage sizzles, taken part in hawk throwing, night hikes, climbing at Lower Grange Farm, and have looked in-depth at the Union Flag, which included a practical on its proper disposal.

Our main camp this year so far has been our winter residential held in January at Wilberforce Scout Centre. We concentrated on some 'proper' Scouting skills, knife and axe work, fire lighting, navigation etc not forgetting fun and games with a camp fire thrown in for good measure. I'm glad to say all Cubs have fine singing voices! A good number attended MAG7 (District camp) this year and had a great time... neither me or Baloo could attend for one reason or another so it was pleasing to see so many turn out for this.

Upcoming - we have our summer camp at Cudham Shaws in July/August with half the Pack signed up for four nights away under canvas. This will be our first camp since before covid so the leaders are looking forward to introducing our newer Cubs to what is the highlight of the Scouting year.

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!

Jonathan Booth

Seeonee Cub Leader

Scout Leader Report

This year we have had a busy year in the Scout section. Our numbers are at the highest they have been for a long time and the leadership team consists of myself, Richard Ellis, Patrick Brown, Nathan Holmes and Lillie Ellis as a young leader.

Apart from the usual scouting activities we have also attended the Plender Hike, had a cardboard campout for charity, went to the Christmas panto at the Stag, went swimming to Larkfield, ran an expedition challenge visiting all scout huts in the district apart from Edenbridge, attended MAG7 and have microlighting on the calendar as well as a summer camp in August. The Scouts also made bird boxes for the Otford Society.

We are very pleased to have had two scouts achieve their Chief Scout Challenge gold award this year and will continue to work hard with others to help achieve theirs.

Rik Snook

(15th Otford Scout Leaders)

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Group Scout Council - Annual General Meeting
23rd June 2023
Location: Otford Scout Hut

Time: 6.30pm

Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Approve the Minutes of the previous AGM

4. Governance Topics

4a. *To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules*

4b. *Note the Group's Financial Year*

4c. *Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board*

4d. *Agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (including this AGM)*

5. Review of the previous year

5a. *Group Scout Leader's Review of Scouting in the Group*

5b. *To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the:*

6. Making appointments

6a. *n/a*

6b. *n/a*

6c. *To approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chair*

6d. *To elect the Group Secretary*

6e. *To elect the Group Treasurer*

6f. *To elect persons to the Group Trustee Board*

6g. *To approve the Group Scout Leader's nominations to the Group Trustee Board*

6f. *To appoint the Independent Examiner/Auditor*

7. Closing Remarks

Annual General Meeting 15th (Oxford) Sevenoaks Scout Group

16th September 2022

Location: Oxford Scout Hut, 7.30pm

1. (GC) Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence:

The GC welcomed all to the meeting, with members of the Exec, Jo Brookbank from Sevenoaks District and approximately 20-25 parents. Apologies were received from Tess Robson (Outgoing Treasurer), Jonathan Booth (Seeone Cub Leader).

2. (GC) Minutes of the previous AGM

Approved

3. (GC) Matters arising (from minutes):

None

4. (GC) Chairman's Report/Review – Sean Forrest

5. (GT) Treasurer's Report and (GC) Adoption of the accounts

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

GC noted the annual report and accounts were available to be viewed on the website. GC thanked Tess Robson in her absence for her contribution and dedication to the Treasurer role. The Treasurer position remains vacant and whilst the group are pursuing a possible interested party, GC encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to let the Exec know.

(GC) Adoption of accounts

Proposer: Sean Forrest

Secunder: Jan Padgett

The accounts were approved.

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

GC noted that whilst Tess is stepping down after many years successfully fulfilling the role she had confirmed she would continue with the core role of tasks such as banking until a successor is identified, which the Group are in the process of identifying.

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

(GC) Appointment of Satish Mathue as Independent Examiner **Proposer:** Sean Forrest

Seconded: Jan Padgett

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

Short address to all present by Jo Brookbank (DC) . Jo thanked all in the group on behalf of the District for providing children new skills and experiences. She added that it was very rewarding to volunteer and called upon any parents interested in volunteering to let the Exec know as lots of volunteers really makes a difference. She outlined some of the opportunities of being a leader including paddleboarding, archery, mountaineering tomahawk, axe throwing etc. Jo added that there were also some parents interested in starting a Squirrel colony in Otford for 4-6 year olds.

Upcoming events are MAG7 in May 2023.

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

None for this meeting.

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

JP was presented with a card and flowers for her recent achievement of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for charity (raising funds for Demelza Hospice) with a number of other Scout leaders in the summer.

JP informed the meeting that a planned trip to the Stag Pantomime is planned for 9 December which will be heavily subsidised thanks to the generous donation from the Otford Players and that they hoped to emulate 2019 when 75 beavers, cubs and scouts were taken to the theatre.

12. (GSL) Presentations and awards (optional)

Jo presented Nicola BLain (Robin, Deputy Beaver leader) with her five year service certificate and Jan Padgett (Skylark, Beaver leader) with her woodbeads for her additional training she has recently completed as a District Beaver Leader. JP said that she had recently attended the Kent International Jamboree in the summer and it had blown her mind the amount of opportunities available to do things such as paintballing, shooting, climbing, crate stacking and lots more. In the words of one of the Scouts that attended, the school journey had been great but the KIJ had been ten times better!

Jo added that she was pleased to announce that Jan Padgett and Sarah Yates who have been acting as Group Leaders have both agreed to take on their roles permanently.

Jo then presented Joanne Toogood (Haithi, Waiguga Leader) with her woodbeads following recent completion of further training and JT reconfirmed her Scout promise.

13. (GC) Close of meeting

Exec Committee members agreed to schedule an Exec meeting for Wednesday 7th December at 8pm, The Bull, Otford.

