

15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group

Annual Report 2019 – 20



Meet the Team

Group Scout Leader

VACANT

Beaver Scout Leader

Jan Padgett

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Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Nicola Blain

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Cub Scout Leader – Seeonee Cub Pack

Jonathan Booth

Cub Scout Leader – Waingunga Cub Pack

Jo Toogood

Richard Bell

=====

Assistant Cub Scout Leader

Mark Whittock

=====

Scout Leader

Richard Snook

=====

Assistant Scout Leader

Jeremy McCahill

=====

Group Chairman

Sean Forrest

Group Secretary/Membership Secretary

Sarah Yates

Group Treasurer

Tess Robson

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15th (Oxford) Sevenoaks Scout Group – September 2020

Chairman's Report

It has been an extraordinary year at Oxford Scout Group as it has been for all. The challenges presented by the Covid-19 Pandemic have been numerous and have restricted the way the Group has been able to operate since March 2020. I would like to thank all 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 some on-line meetings and at home activities including special badges (badges at home) and I know everyone is keen to return to face-to-face scouting as soon as possible. It is not all bad news though as you can read from the Section Leaders reports, contained herein, that a lot of scouting had taken place in the time prior to the Lock-down in March 2020. I have enjoyed reading about and remembering all the activities that we have managed to cram in in the last 12 months or so and hope you will too; well done everyone.

The Committee, Leaders and helpers are all working closely together with the Scout Association in order to return to face-to-face scouting as soon as possible. Full Covid-19 Risk Assessments have been put together to enable resumption of scouting in a limited format and have already, or are in the process of, being signed-off by the District Leadership Team so this can happen. It should be noted, however, that the Risk Assessment plans for face-to-face scouting to resume require additional support from helpers/parents in order for them to operate safely for all and additional volunteers will be required to assist Leaders to help run planned activities. Your support with this would be very much appreciated.

The Leadership Team will of course keep all parents/guardians up-dated on planned Beaver/Cub/Scout meetings and activities taking place on a regular basis.

With the imposition of the Lock-down, and subsequent restrictions applied by the Government, certain popular and enjoyable annual events have not, or will not, be able to take place, such as The Village Fete and the Scout Firework Display in the Chalk Pit. This will obviously have a big impact on the Groups fund raising ability for this year which will be down by many thousands of pounds with these two events normally providing the majority of our annual fund-raising income. This is something, like all organisations, we are having to manage as best we can whilst still covering all the Groups normal running costs, district capita fees, etc. That being said we have looked to keep any subscriptions payable during this time to the minimum as it is recognised this is a difficult time for all.

I would like to finish by wishing everyone the very best; please stay safe and well and hopefully we can all return to some semblance of normality very soon.

Thank you

Sean Forrest (Chairman)

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group

Beaver Scout Report

Although the summer term was restricted to online meetings it has been another fantastic year for the Otford Beaver Colony with plenty of scouting activities for our young people to enjoy. Some of the highlights of this year by numbers include:

- **10** new Beavers invested into Scouting
- **107** Activity badges earned
- **48** Challenge badges awarded
- **9** Chief Scout Bronze Awards gained

There were also 31 special badges earned by the Beavers at home during lockdown.

The Colony currently has 17 members with a waiting list that includes 32 children old enough to join. We have not invited any new joiners to the colony and fill spaces vacated by Beavers moving on to Cubs since the March lockdown started. As and when the restrictions on numbers meeting at face-to-face sessions ease, we hope to take on more Beavers from the waiting list.

Nine Beavers earned their Chief Scout Bronze Awards in the last year and although four of them were unable to collect their award from the Sevenoaks Mayor, they were all pleased to receive them in a unique socially-distanced manner.

The autumn term 2019 started with back-to-basics scouting skills and the completion of the Navigator Level 1. It was then followed up with a visit from a paramedic and a trip to Sevenoaks fire station, the obvious highlight being given the chance to have a go with the fire-fighting hose. Half the Beavers chose to attend a Nature Activity Day at the Sevenoaks Nature Reserve which was packed with outdoor activities such as den building, yoga, beeswax candle making, pond-dipping and pencil making. During the term we also went for a night hike, found out about Diwali, Remembrance Sunday and everyone achieved the Disability Awareness badge. The term concluded with an amazing Nerf party session paid for with the money from Richard's charitable donation.

The new year began skills, Australia Day, biscuit decorating, and team games. Seven Beavers enjoyed a Sunday Winter Walk around Lullingstone Country Park with other Beavers from around Kent concluding with hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted on a fire. Luckily, we were able to have pancakes and hold a campfire at the hut before corona virus curtailed our plans.

Our online meetings on zoom in the summer term were definitely a different kind of challenge and we had plenty of fun even managing to complete the Health and Fitness Activity Badge remotely among other things.

I would like to thank Nicki for her support over the last year as my Section Assistant and Melissa who has helped us as a regular parent helper, we can't do it without you! Thank you.

Jan Padgett (Skylark)

Beaver Scout Leader

Waingunga Cub Scout Report

We were able to run a varied and successful programme this year until face-to-face Scouting was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the period from the last AGM until face-to-face meetings were suspended, we completed many activities including the following:

- Archery and Hawking with Akela
- Tai Chi basic introduction
- Cycling activities around Tudor Crescent
- Understanding anatomy and nutrition
- Various outdoor investitures with wide games attached
- Day at Thriftwood centre making rafts and paddling in Kayaks.
- Celebrating the Moon Landings
- Cubs consultation/pack forum for preferred activities
- Climbing at Lower Grange Farm
- Fire-building - investigating building and lighting techniques
- Chef Badge night – resulting in awarding 12 Chef Badges
- Night Hike over the Kemsing area of the North Downs
- Guy making for the fireworks fundraiser (whilst sporting Halloween costumes)
- Learning about Dia de Muertos; creating colourful candy skull masks and trying typical Mexican foods
- Chalk pit wide games in the dark
- Celebrating the great and the good of Scotland for St Andrews day.
- Multi-activity day at Scout Downe Activity Centre
- Christmas Panto visit
- Over 130 badges awarded including: 20 Emergency Aid Level 2 badges and 24 Challenge badges

During the lock down period, Richard and I were both home schooling our children and performing our normal jobs, so were unable to provide any remote Scouting sessions via Zoom or other media platforms.

We did however make the ‘badges at home’ available to the pack after OSM offered it free of charge and we’ve been able to award 31 badges as a result with a couple of Lockdown initiative badges thrown in, such as the Kent MAYHEM initiative and the Hike to the Moon to raise money for NHS charities.

We had three offsite activities planned in the period which were cancelled due to lockdown – a BXM evening run by a professional instructor, an introductory ski lesson and a summer

activity day working towards the Skills, Cyclist, Snow Sports, Adventurous challenge, Paddle sports and Time on the water badges. We will look to reschedule these as soon as circumstances allow.

We are hoping to resume face-to-face Scouting at the end of this month pending approval of our COVID-19 risk assessment from the District Commissioner. The proposed format for meetings is alternate weeks with half the pack at a time for outdoor activities only. **In order to implement, we will need many more parents to attend the sessions to help oversee the COVID-19 safety procedures.** We have drafted a skeleton programme to take us to Christmas and as soon as we have approval from the District Commissioner, we will ask parents to commit to the various evenings and take it from there, support dependent.

We have paid to keep 'Badges at Home' open to the pack as I think it's a great feature generally and will be good to allow Cubs to earn a variety of badges while we can only offer a very limited range of COVID-19 safe activities.

We currently have 19 Cubs with 2 more due to transfer up from Beavers.

During lockdown we have lost 3 senior Cubs, none of whom have gone on to Scouts.

Joanne Toogood (Hathi)

Richard Bell (Bagheera)

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

Seeonee Cub Scout Report

Seeonee Pack have had quite a successful Scouting year despite it really only lasting 8 months. We've packed a lot in and despite the suspension of face-to-face Scouting in March, the Cubs have worked hard (so have Baloo and I!). They have managed to surpass the total badges earned last year showing a high degree of motivation especially these last five months

Last July we started to wind the programme down in readiness for the summer holidays, holding a practise session with our patrol tents, having a sausage sizzle and then a fun experiment to replicate Moon gravity; this was a little introduction to our planned astronomer activity badge.

Following feedback from leaders and parents summer camp was moved to the start of the holidays, 7th to 8th August. It was attended by 23 Cubs (20 of those from Seeonee), 8 Beavers and 10 Scouts. As always, we were short of adult help, but still managed to run a full programme, thanks to those who did commit and the fantastic activity staff at Downe; aerial trek, abseiling, air rifle, plus some proper Scouting skills. We also covered backwards cooking, athletics, nights away and the outdoor challenge badges, awarding 50 in total just to Seeonee Cubs. The Scouts, plus me, also had an opportunity to try out our new camping hammocks. They were a big hit and I had some of the best nights' sleep at camp that I've ever had.... despite Baloo routinely waking me up by poking my backside with a stick!

We kicked off the new term with a Pack forum and the ideas submitted were incorporated into the programme. We cracked on with the astronomer badge, hiking the Otford Solar System and carrying out Moon crater experiments using flour and cocoa powder in a bowl into which stones were dropped. We held an archery session at the hut and finished off the October term with another sausage sizzle.

When we resumed, the astronomer badge was completed and following a suggestion from a Cub we started on the International activity badge, concentrating on the Indian Sub-Continent. The Cubs made chapatis and tried them with various Indian style sauces/dips; lime pickle, curry, mango chutney. Only the bravest claimed to have enjoyed the lime pickle! The Cubs tried their hand at whittling, making their own Ghillis which were then used to play Ghilli Dandi (feel free to 'google') and had a go at playing both Kho Kho and Kabadi (google those as well if you like.... the Cubs especially liked Kho Kho). The term was finished off with two Christmas craft sessions, the Cubs making 'white sock' snowmen.

In January 2020 we held our traditional winter camp at Wilberforce, covering more Scouting skills, Geocaching, Baloo's Friday night film show and making a start on the communicators badge. As always, the camp fires proved popular and the Cubs showed they aren't afraid to belt out a good song..... Charlie's pigeon anyone?

January through to the start of March we continued with the communicators badge (tin cans and string for those of a certain age), went climbing at Lower Grange Farm, and tried our hand at indoor bowls care of the Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club. The Cubs also cooked pancakes and raced with them, and made popcorn on the camp fire..... and then.... March Lock down and the suspension of face-to-face Scouting.

Five months in, the Cubs have shown great commitment to the Scouting Movement (and hopefully passing 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. So total for the year, despite lock down, or even because of it..... that's 231 badges for the year (50 more than last year). And three Cubs attained the Chief Scouts Silver award - the highest award a Cub can aspire to - no mean feat considering how 'strict' Baloo and I are when it comes to badge work.

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the resumption of face-to-face Scouting, here's hoping its sooner rather than later.... but all in all, not a bad year with Cubs showing great commitment and resilience.

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

This report covers the period from 1st July 2019 until 1st July 2020.

Our section is thriving, active and well attended. At its height, the 15th comprised 2 leaders, two junior volunteers and 22 scouts, which are divided into 4 patrols. It has been an unprecedented year due to COVID-19 and the accompanying enforced hiatus and ensuing challenges.

The events worthy of mention were as follows:

Summer Camp at Downe 7th August 2019 – 10 attendees. This was a highly successful camp where scouts cooked for themselves, used the newly acquired hammocks for the first time and engaged in activities such as abseiling. Scouts attained camping, nights away, camp cook and challenge badges. For Sam and Gary Norris, this was their last scouting event. Rik Snook and Jerry McCahill took over shortly afterwards.

Bowl Water Water-sports Weekend 13th September 2019 - 16 scouts + 2 leaders. The scouts went kayaking and canoeing. The weather was fantastic and a great experience for all. Several obtained their paddling badges.

Plender Hike 28th September 2019 – 4+2. This was a map reading and team building exercise and a competition against other troops. We achieved 3rd place.

Indoor Climbing Lower Grange Farm 24th January 2020 – 12+2. We used a minibus for this trip which was a full evening of indoor climbing with instruction.

Monopoly Run 7th March 2020 – 10+3. This was a race across London encompassing several iconic sites and learning their historical significance on the way. A highly enjoyable day.

GENERAL

Other meetings throughout the year covered various subjects including scout law, map reading, fitness sessions, knife and axe safety, whittling and chopping with a view to issuing the relevant licences for future camps.

SOCIAL

Sevenoaks Pantomime 6th December 2019 – 18+1

BADGES AWARDED

142 in total awarded.

The last face to face meeting was on 13th March 2020 and it is proposed that we resume on 6th November 2020 in accordance with current Scout policy and guidelines. All new safety measures to be in place by this date.

Rik Snook

Jerry McCahill

(15th Otford Scout Leaders)

Annual General Meeting 15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group

11th November 2020

Location: Zoom meeting (due to Covid 19 restrictions)

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: Sarah Yates (?)

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)*

13. Close of meeting

Minutes of the AGM of the 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group held at 7pm on Friday 28th June 2019 at the Scout Hut, Otford, Kent.

Present:

Sean Forrest; Chairman (SF), Sarah Yates; Secretary (SY), Tess Robson; Treasurer (TR), Sam Norris; Scout Leader (SN), Garry Norris; Assistant Scout Leader (GN), Richard Snook; Assistant Scout Leader (RS), Jonathan Booth; Seonee Cub Scout Leader (JB), Mark Whittock; Assistant Cub Scout Leader (MW), Jo Toogood and Richard Bell; Waingunga Cub Scout Leaders (JT; RB), Jan Padgett; Beaver Scout Leader (JP), Nicola Blain; Assistant Beaver Scout Leader (NB), Mark Jackson, Karen Lynch and Guy Barker; Parent Representatives/Exec Committee Development Team (MJ; KL; GB), Michael Dreksler; DC Team (MD) and approx. fifty parents.

The meeting commenced at 7pm followed by the Group 'Thank you' party. SF welcomed everybody including Michael Dreksler from the DC Team, thanking all for attending.

1.	Apologies for Absence: None	
2.	Approve minutes of the AGM held on 29 th June 2018. Acceptance proposed by SF, seconded by JP and unanimously approved.	
3.	Receive the Annual Report to 31 st March 2019. Following earlier provision of the report to all present either by email or hard copy.	
4.	Receive the Annual Accounts for the 12 months to 31 st March 2019. Following a brief summary of the accounts from the Treasurer, acceptance of the accounts was proposed by SY, seconded by JB and unanimously approved.	
5.	Receive JB's nomination (in the absence of a Group Scout Leader) for Group Chairman. JB nominated Sean Forest (SF) to continue as Chairman. Unanimously agreed.	
6.	Elect the Group Treasurer and Group Secretary. Prior to the AGM, TR had indicated to the JB that she was prepared to continue as Treasurer; unanimously accepted. SY was prepared to continue as Secretary; unanimously accepted.	
7.	Receive JB's nominations (in the absence of a GSL) for membership of the Group's Executive Committee. All Section Leaders have agreed to continue to be on the Committee; unanimously approved. Mark Jackson/Karen Lynch (MJ/KL) were happy to continue. Guy Barker proposed by JB as a new member of the committee (to replace Nicola Jacobs who stepped down during the year)- all three unanimously accepted.	
8.	Section Leaders' annual reports made available to all via email and hard copy at the AGM. Attached to the Annual Report.	
9.	District Representative welcome. Michael Dreksler, a member of the District Commissioner Team, introduced himself to the meeting, offering thanks to all existing volunteers and encouragement to prospective volunteers.	
10.	AOB at the discretion of the Chairman. SF handed over to the Section Leaders for the presentation of annual group awards. Awards were presented as follows: Beaver of the Year – D Garcia-Sierra Cub of the Year (Seonee) – Samuel Batchelor Cub of the Year (Waingunga) – Max Robinson Scout of the Year – Samuel Yates	

<p>Beavers who had received their Bronze Scout Award at the Bradbourne Council Offices earlier in the year were also presented with certificates by JP. Cubs who had earned their Silver Scout Award during the year were presented with Certificates by JB, JT and RB.</p> <p>SF advised the meeting that Scout Leader, Sam Norris and Assistant Scout Leader, Garry Norris would both be stepping down from their roles in the group following the Summer camp due to family/work commitments. He thanked them both for their years of input and effort and advised the group a formal thank you would be made at the conclusion of the Summer camp in August.</p> <p>SF and JB appealed to the meeting for volunteers to step up and help with the leadership of the Scouts. JB advised that RS would continue as Assistant Scout Leader and that he would be assisting him with the Scouts until Christmas, but advised that the Scouts may cease to operate after that time if other help is not forthcoming.</p> <p>SF thanked all for coming and those who help with the group once again and closed the meeting at 7.30pm</p>	
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The next Executive Committee meeting was subsequently scheduled for Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 8pm, The Bull.