

15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group

Annual Report 2018 – 19



Meet the Team

Group Scout Leader

VACANT

Beaver Scout Leader

Jan Padgett

Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders

Nicola Blain

Cub Scout Leader – Seeonee Cub Pack

Jonathan Booth

Cub Scout Leader – Waingunga Cub Pack

Jo Toogood

Richard Bell

Assistant Cub Scout Leaders

Mark Whittock (S)

Scout Leader

Sam Norris

Assistant Scout Leaders

Gary Norris

Richard Snook

Group Chairman

Sean Forrest

Group Secretary/Membership Secretary

Sarah Yates

Group Treasurer

Tess Robson

The Group Chairman Report

It has been a great year at Otford Scout Group. All sections of the Group are thriving, with attendance numbers in all sections at, or nearing, capacity levels. There are also many new potential scouters on the waiting list so the future looks very healthy. I would again this year like to take this opportunity to thank the marvelous efforts and commitment of the leadership teams and parent helpers who give up their spare time each week, voluntarily, to make this Scout Group a fantastic place for the young people of Otford to learn and develop new skills, make great friends and feel part of the Otford community.

Unfortunately, and it is with great sadness that, after summer camp this year we will be saying goodbye to Garry and Sam Norris who have run the Scout section of the group so fantastically for many years and will be sorely missed by everyone. Their selfless dedication and commitment to Scouting has benefitted so many over the years and the loss of their knowledge, skills and friendship will be a tough hurdle for the Group to overcome. Richard Snook will continue looking after the Scouts with initial help from Johnathan Booth and others on a temporary basis but we desperately need new Scout Leaders to volunteer to join our happy band where full training and support can be offered and the rewards of not only helping your own children but others in the community are numerous and fulfilling. If you are able to volunteer your help, please speak with one of the leaders or committee members. I wish to thank Garry and Sam on behalf of everyone for everything they have done for the Group. I am sure this is not goodbye and that we will see them popping back from time to time to see how we are all getting on!

All sections of the Group have again taken on many enjoyable challenges and activities over the course of the last year so please read the attached Section Reports for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts which give you a real insight into how much work, fun, excitement, knowledge, new experiences and friendship building is achieved by being part of the Scout Movement.

One prime example of these challenging activities was the Sponsored Hike. On Sunday 19th May 2019, Scouts, parents and Leaders from the Group set off from outside Yvonne's Newsagents, Telston Lane (raising money for Hospice in the Weald and Sevenoaks Community First Responders). The hikers were heading for Addington Village, the site of the first camp of the Otford Troop of Boy Scouts held in 1914. The route took them along the Darent Valley Path (through Sevenoaks), The Greensand Way (past Ightham Mote) and along The Weald Way to their journey's end. The participants' age and length of leg dictated the distance travelled, with Beavers and Cubs walking between 3 and 8 miles, leaving the older Scouts and Leaders to complete the 19½ miles to Addington. The weather and fine Kent Scenery spurred the walkers on who, towards day's end, found themselves in the vicinity of that 1914 camp (it's now a golf course) 105 years later, almost to the day. The Group raised £1650, split evenly between the two charities supported. Well done!

Fundraising this year has been successful for the group with good returns from both the Bonfire Night and Annual Village Fete. I would especially like to say a very big thank you to The Otford Players who have donated a very substantial amount of money to the Group over the last year. We are making the best use of this including the acquisition of new equipment such as the Archery equipment, Hawk Throwing equipment (axes), Geo-Cache equipment, Pioneering Poles and much more. We would not be able to do this without their generous donation.

Thanks again to all the parents and helpers who give up their spare time to support the group helping at camps, fundraising events and hut tidy-up days. Without this support the many things done by the group would simply not take place and I would like to encourage all parents to try their best to get involved as it

is a rewarding and fun experience for both you and your children. We really need you in order to keep our Scout Troop running!

I am looking forward to another exciting year ahead for the group and I wish you and yours all the very best.

Sean Forrest

Chairman 15th (Oxford) Sevenoaks Scouts

Beaver Scout Report

Another brilliant 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:

- 17 new Beavers invested into Scouting
- 153 Activity badges earned (40 more than last year)
- 42 Challenge badges awarded
- 32 Nights away
- 9 Chief Scout Bronze Awards gained
- 1 new adult volunteering to be a regular adult helper

The Colony currently has 22 members with a waiting list that includes 12 children old enough to join us but with no space to accommodate them at Beavers. In the last year all beavers reaching 8 years old have moved on to both the Seeonee and Waingunga Cub packs. Places have also been found at Cubs for many children who were not fortunate to be given a place at Beavers before reaching 8-years-old.

It has been extremely gratifying to be able to award 9 Chief Scout Bronze awards to Beavers in the Colony; they have worked hard and made a commitment to Scouting in earning these awards and overcome many personal challenges along the way.

The autumn term saw the Beavers focus mainly on finishing outstanding parts of the Challenge Badges and taking part in activities for Remembrance Sunday, Parliament Week, Thanksgiving and Halloween. In the spring we tried to get outdoors as much as possible and completed team activities and a climbing evening at Clip n Climb in Tonbridge as well as Pancake making and completing the Faith Activity badge. Summer has seen us turn our attention to traditional scouting activities such as fire-lighting, den building, wide games and campfire cooking.

We have held two sleepovers at the Otford Scout Hut in the last year, one indoors and one outdoors in tents. These were very well attended and were a first night away for many of those attending. It has been great to see so much courage, teamwork and friendship in action.

Wingham Wildlife Centre was the venue for the Kent Beavers in October with 15 Beavers joining in with the fun activities supported by 4 parents.

11 Beavers attended the revamped St George's Day parade and everyone enjoyed the afternoon of activities that followed the service.

In May, 6 hardy Beavers joined the group Charity Hike and all completed the 6km to Sevenoaks Leisure Centre from Otford raising plenty of money for the Sevenoaks First Responders and Hospice in the Weald.

We will again be joining the Cubs and Scouts at their Summer Camp at Downe with Beavers staying 2 nights in tents and taking part in adventurous activities.

I would like to thank Nicola for her support over the last year as my Section Assistant, even though her son has moved on to Cubs. I am also pleased that Melissa has offered to help us out along with Amy; we can't do it without you! Thank you.

Jan Padgett (Skylark)

Beaver Scout Leader

Waingunga Cub Pack Report

We've had a packed year of Scouting this year with many changes to the pack. We've seen 12 Cubs move on to Scouts and welcomed new faces from both Beavers and the waiting list. We now have 19 Cubs split between our 4 sixes; Python, Wolf, Panther and Buffalo, in which we have seen many changes with promotions to sixer and seconder status. We've awarded 63 badges including Navigator 1 & 2, Cyclist, Scientist, Adventure, Team Leader, Home Help, many, many Hikes, and 2 Chief Scout Silver.

Our Autumn Term was mostly spent at the Hut with:

- Map reading skills and grid references
- Communication skills using new and old tech (mobile phones and Morse code with torches)
- A Halloween party which featured ghouls swinging from the ceiling (cubs on Bowline loops)
- Safety in the home and Fire Safety for Bonfire night
- The old favourite Rangoli night with added Diyas for Diwali
- Climbing at Lower Grange Farm
- Cooking Trench stew; a historical cooking night for the Armistice celebrations
- Two muddy hikes one with added Chips
- Christmas Party to top it off at 'Jump In' Trampoline park

Winter Spring saw us lose the bulk of our older cubs and included the following activities:

- Learning to Prusik up a rope
- Looking at fire safety within the home
- Large scale junk modelling in teams
- Making traditional Chinese dumplings for CNY
- Making heart shape shortbreads for Valentines
- Practising basic skills of sewing, ironing and tea making for the skills badge
- Wrestling with pancake making on baked bean tins
- Looking at basic bike maintenance and cycle safety
- Sausage sizzle with chocolate melt baked bananas
- Making paper Mother's Day bouquets
- Celebrating Easter with some slightly strange Saxon themed wide games

Summer term:

- We kicked off the outdoor term with a monkey bridge evening in the Chalk Pit
- Hike through Pilots Wood to see the bluebells
- Had a go at some zen wellness with a spot of Tai Chi
- Practised our skills with lashings and a chariot race
- Went for a noisy bike ride around Tudor Crescent
- Decorated mugs and made up an 'Elevenses gift' for Father's Day
- Highlight: Bagheera's trip to Thriftwood for Rafting and Kayaking on the 16th June

Still to come: an investment and hike, badge finishing activities, a mini Olympics and end of term party.

Jo (Hathi)

Waingunga Cub Leader

Seeonee Cub Pack Report

Firstly, we finish this year with four Cubs attaining the highest award possible, the Chief Scout's Silver award. No mean feat, considering the strict criteria needed to be met (by us!!)

And in the preceding year?

We started the year with a Pack forum where three ideas were put forward by the Cubs; archery, train trip and a visit to the seaside.

The archery bit was quick and easy to organise; an afternoon with The Fox Archers Club hosted at St Michael's School with both Cubs and parents benefiting from some expert instruction.

We then started on our planned programme of activity badges, kicking off with the water activities badge. This culminated in a trip to Thriftwood Scout Centre, where 12 Cubs attained this popular award plus a staged 'time on the water' badge. We also dipped our toes in the local knowledge activity badge and made a start on the 'our world' challenge badge. It was starting to become busy!

We punctuated badge work with fun practical stuff which included filling our survival tins, and trying out the contents, fire lighting, pioneering etc

We then had our first ever disappointment as a leadership team. Because of a lack of parent help, we had to cancel our yearly summer camp. However, we rallied and organised an activity day at Downe, where those Scouts who had been disappointed by the cancellation, could at least get a taste, taking part in archery, abseiling and aerial trek, with hot dogs thrown in.

After the summer break we started work on the cyclist badge, a recurring favourite, where skills ranging from bike checks to postman mounts/dismounts were practised. This finished with a road skill session and the awarding of 18 badges.

In the October I managed to combine the other two activities asked for by the Cubs back in July (train and seaside) with a day trip to Dungeness and an excursion on the RH&DR. We broke our 'going up and down' with lunch on the beach and sand Olympics, then finished the day with chips, paddling and stone throwing by the nuclear power station. No one glowed green, but the chill and sea fret gave everyone a healthy red complexion!

Through November to December, we gave the Cubs a rest from badge work and concentrated on some basic Scouting skills, including different methods of carrying casualties, knotting skills, sausage sizzle, a night hike, and Christmas 'party'/craft evening, to finish off the year. This burst of activity resulted in ten Cubs attaining their team work challenge badge, without them even knowing they were doing stuff towards it!

The new year saw the Cubs starting on our version of the personal safety badge. Not for us lectures on the dangers of railways and building sites! No something a lot more practical. Over the next few weeks we covered how to deal with inquisitive cattle and school bullies, how to fight off dogs, bears and sharks and a real test of courage.....a practical on how to escape a burning building (all risk assessed of course!). 17 Cubs attained the badge, hopefully picking up some skills that one day may save their lives.

During this period, we also went on our traditional winter camp at Wilberforce Scout Centre (18th -20th Jan). After tea we started with Baloo's Friday night film show then filled the weekend with camp fires, wide games, axe/saw work and sleeping bag races. Although discontinued, the Cubs attempted the adventure activity badge, completing all the requirements, which include fire lighting (and making a hot

drink on it), tracking, hike preparation, route planning, and then the hike. 13 Cubs attained the badge, plus nights away badges ranging from 2 to 15 nights.

In the February, again following a request from Cubs, we went to Lower grange Farm for an evening of climbing. We had a full turn out and yet again, during the trip down, I proved that I have no sense of direction! We still got there in time and the Cubs, thanks to the instructors, had a great time.

It was decided to tackle the 'our world' challenge badge with renewed vigour and we asked Cubs and parents to commit to attending all necessary meetings so we could make progress on what I consider to be one of the more 'difficult' badges. In quick succession, we made Indian sweets, marked Mabon day with a bush tucker trial and edible plant scavenger, were visited by Sevenoaks Community First Responders/Hospice in the Weald, and took part in a CPR project. The effort put in by leaders and Cubs has resulted in 16 challenge badges being 'knocked off'.

We then had another little break from badge work, organising a chip hike, hawk throwing and archery.

Cast your mind back '12 months'. This June we finally completed the third requirement for the local knowledge activity badge, care of a couple of enthusiastic Otford historians: 16 badges awarded - not including the two we gave to our guides as a thank you -with more to be awarded as Cubs catch up.

Several Cubs have also made an individual effort this year attaining badges outside of those organised by us; home help, physical recreation and artist badges, contributing to a total of 58 challenge badges, 72 activity badges and 39 staged badges attained by the Cubs in total. A great effort and full commitment shown by the Cubs.

Thanks goes to Baloo for his friendship both in and outside of Scouting, plus our long-suffering wives, for supporting (putting up with) our little hobby!

What's next???..... Summer Camp August 2019!

Jonathan (Akela)

Seeonee Cub Leader

Scout Leader Report

Several Scouts left in September with several moving on to Explorers. There has been a good intake from Cubs moving up at Christmas and Easter, so that we now have a Troop of 24 and a regular attendance of 20 each Friday.

With the new pioneering poles, we have built A-frames and had pillow fights; the poles are drying out now and getting easier to use. New ropes cut to lengths also help with pioneering projects.

There have been a good number of cooking evenings using open fires as well as the double gas burners. Popcorn making has had mixed success as has the boiling water in paper bags: ok where the water touches the bag but burns where dry.

Quiz nights run and organized by the Young Leaders have been popular.

There was a good turnout for the Remembrance Day Service and it was great that the Scouts helped to paint and assemble the 300 poppies that were put around the village the night before.

St Georges Day Parade was different this year but the Scouts thought an improvement.

Well done to Jonathan for organizing the Sponsored Walk that several Scouts managed to complete, rather longer than first thought.

The axe throwing and archery that we now offer have been very good evenings thanks to Richard and Jonathan.

The GPS units are now being used to complete the Local Knowledge Badge and we are planning to go geocaching now there is a better understanding of how the units work.

Summer camp will be at Downe Activity Centre in August and several Scouts will be attending. Richard is also organizing a Water Activity weekend in September at Bewl Water that has a very good uptake.

Sam and I will be stepping down after the summer camp and emails have been sent out asking for parent help in September so that Richard can keep the Troup going. He is very enthusiastic and deserves your support as the Scouts are in for a great program in the coming years. If parents would like to come to a meeting this term just see one of us to arrange a date.

Please step forward and help in any way you can, it is very rewarding even if you can only help occasionally.

Thanks to Tom Woolard, Ben Marshall and Tim Wilson who have been helping as Young Leaders over the year completing their D of E. Thanks to Sam and Richard for their support and above all the Scouts for turning up each week.

Garry Norris ASL

Annual General Meeting of 15th (Otford) Sevenoaks Scout Group
28th June 2019

AGENDA

- Welcome from the Group Chairman
- Apologies for absence

- To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th June 2018

Proposed:

Seconded:

- To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31st March 2019

Proposed:

Seconded:

- To receive the Group's nomination for Group Chairman

Approval of meeting:

- To elect the Group Treasurer and Group Secretary

Approval of meeting:

- To receive the Group's nominations for Membership of the Group Executive Committee

Approval of meeting:

- To propose and elect Members to the Group's Executive Committee

- District Representative

- Presentations, awards and any Other Business at the discretion of the Group Chairman

Minutes of the AGM of the 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group held at 8pm on Friday 29th June 2018 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, Karen Gorbutt and Richard Bell; Waingunga Cub Scout Leaders (JT; KG; RB), Jan Padgett; Beaver Scout Leader (JP), Nicola Blain; Assistant Beaver Scout Leader (NB), Liz Simmons, Mark Jackson and Karen Lynch; Parent Representatives/Exec Committee Development Team (LS; MJ; KL), Jo Brookbank; DC Team (JBDC), Approx. Fifty parents.

The meeting commenced at 8pm following the Group 'Thank you' party with SF welcoming everybody, especially Jo Brookbank from the DC Team, thanking all for attending.

1.	Apologies for Absence: None	
2.	Approve minutes of the AGM held on 23rd June 2017. Acceptance proposed by JB, seconded by SN and unanimously approved.	
3.	Receive the Annual Report to 31 st March 2018. Following earlier provision of the report to all present by email or hard copy, acceptance proposed by SY, seconded by JB and unanimously approved.	
4.	Receive the Annual Accounts for the 12 months to 31 st March 2018. Following a brief summary of the accounts from the new Treasurer, acceptance of the accounts was proposed by GN, seconded by SN and unanimously approved.	
5.	Receive JB's nomination (as acting GSL) 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; proposed by JB, seconded by KG and unanimously accepted. SY was prepared to continue as Secretary; proposed by MJ, seconded by JB and unanimously accepted.	
7.	Receive the JB's nominations (as acting Group Scout Leader) for membership of the Group's Executive Committee. All Section Leaders have agreed to be on the Committee, JB nominated, SY seconded. Liz Simmons (LS) advised she is stepping down from the Executive Committee. Mark Jackson/Karen Lynch (MJ/KL) were happy to continue. Nicola Jacobs proposed as a new member of the committee - all three nominated to become members of the Executive Committee, proposed by NB, seconded by JB and 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. Jo Brookbank, a member of the District Commissioner Team, introduced herself to the meeting, offering thanks to all and spoke briefly about the Scouts 'Skills for life' emphasis, detailing that Sevenoaks District has the biggest waiting list in Kent and that the Scouts of the Otford Group are very lucky and privileged. She made a request for more help for the leaders, urging parents to give their time to the movement. She congratulated the group on their achievements throughout the year.	

<p>10.</p>	<p>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: JP presented 3 Certificates for Enthusiasm, Hardwork and Friendship to: D Gruneberg, A Brown and L Hudson-Gool. Beaver Scout of the Year award - chosen by leader JP, presented to O Barker. 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, KG and JT. KG and JT presented the Waingunga awards as follows: Cub of the Year award, as chosen by their peers: T Padgett Most improved cub of the year: presented to H King JB awarded the Seonee Cub of the Year award, as chosen by their peers, to F Cutler Scout of the Year award, chosen by peers: awarded to A Pritchard (SN noted that T Wilson had also received lots of votes but was now in Explorers.</p> <p>JB presented the Scouts 100 Year Badge to: Mr Doug Cracknell, Mrs Lesley Rutter, Mr Graham Rutter and Mr Wesley Kerslake with thanks for their work, efforts and input to Otford Scouts over the years.</p> <p>SF thanked all and closed the meeting at 8.30pm</p>	
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE 15TH SEVENOAKS (OTFORD) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the Accounts of the Group for the year to **31 March 2019** which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2019 and the Notes thereon (Pages 1 to 5).

This report is made solely to the Trustees in accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the Charities Act 1993. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Scrutineer

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the Accounts (under Section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Name: MR. SATISH MATHUR



Qualification: F.C.A.

Address: Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent.

Date: 1st May 2019