

GSL Annual Report
for
AGM 5th September 2011

The Group

The last year has seen the group grow.

We have had a change in Leadership in the Beavers. Sally and Simon stepped back at Easter having done it for just over a year. Alan Gosling took up the reigns and has some great plans for the young people. Alan took the Beavers to Walesby at the end of April for an overnight experience, great fun was had by all. Alan has helped to develop his section by taking his numbers to 24 from 20.

The Cubs have continued to develop, they went to PGL in October last year for a weekend and then joined the Scouts at Walesby for the Challenge weekend at the end of April. For their first time away in a while they performed really well by winning the Cubs section of the challenge. I know Mark is planning another visit to PGL this year. The Cubs have also had 5 senior members presented with the Chief Scout Silver Award.

Scouts saw a new leader take over from Stuart who stepped back and concentrated on the preparation and arrangements for camps. James has also come in with some great ideas and the Scouts have been very active with a wide variety of outdoor activities being completed. The Scouts did well at Walesby, being a young group with an average age of 12 years, they finished 4th in their section. The Scouts were also on a camp at the Peak Gateway in October. There are plans to go back again this year. Our numbers in Scouts are growing as the Cubs move through. The young people do have a decision to make as a number of them play cricket which trains on a Friday. My prediction is for Scouts to be at or above 20 by the end of the year.

Our Explorer section has been very busy taking part in a number of activities in the county and finishing with very good results. They have also been spending the occasional night under canvas. The Explorers have also been doing their exams at school this year, we hope they got the results they were looking for.

We have a number of young leaders within the group. These are young people who are aged 14 to 18 years. We are in discussion with district about the dedicated training program which is in place for them.

And now back to the beginning. The group has a list of young people who are waiting to join. Although we have a few people who are 6 years old, most of them are scheduled to come in on time. This list shows the Beavers are full in 2012, in 2013 there are 4 spaces early in the year and a further 2 spaces later in the year. On top of this we only have 2 more spaces in 2014. As you can see the interest in the group is growing. Cubs still has a few young people of age waiting to get in. We are offering spaces as and when we are able.

Just before the summer I was asked to attend the district AGM. At this meeting I was presented with the Newark Scout District award for Growth / Development and Achievement. This is a reflection on all the hard work being carried out by my team of leaders and helpers.

The Buildings

So far this year we have completed some maintenance on the windows of the main hall. We were lucky enough to be put in touch with a local maintenance guy who gave us 2 days work for £100 + materials per day. He has done a great job.

My next focus is to raise funds to enable us to complete work on the paths to either side of the building. These are in great disarray and need fixing soon before someone has an accident. This will also allow us to open up the left access door for disabled access.

I would also like to change our main insurance company to give us more benefits. To do this we need to upgrade our windows which again will cost money.

Fund Raising

In the past we have relied on the hall rental to keep our membership fees down with our outgoings being supported with income from these activities.

During the year we saw one of our dog training groups stop using the hall as they lost a leader. Once they find someone else to lead the sessions we are hoping to see them back again.

During the summer we were advised that the dog training group that has used the buildings on a Saturday have had to stop.

What does this mean to us – The group has to support itself and use funds that come in from renting the hall out for maintenance.

We have started and restarted some fund raising activities. Last year we had a Quiz Night for the Duke of Edinburgh section to provide some new equipment. This was very successful and popular. Since then we have held one for the group funds again raising £330. We were planning for the next one to be held in December but were asked by village members for one earlier so we are having one on October.

We have signed up to 'Give as You Live' this is a web based system which accrues donations for the group as you shop on line. There are currently add-ons for this system for Internet Explorer, Fire Fox and Safari. They are working on add-ons for Chrome and Opera. This works by the organisation making a donation as you shop online (providing they have signed up to the system).

I am trying to collect print cartridges as we can make a small amount from these as well.

During the year we started collecting textiles and have raised £139. We have another load nearly ready and I am hoping to raise £200 per year from this.

How ever this does not cover the whole income from the hall rental. I am proposing an increase in Membership fee from £7 per month to £8. I am also proposing to increase the hall rental fee from £5 per hour to £6. These increases will take place from 1st January 2012.

These increases will go some way to covering our current expenditure.

We are also pushing the 200 club, I would like to see all members of the group buy a number for £10 per year. Not only will you be helping our cause but you stand a chance to win back your stake if you are lucky enough to have your number drawn. As they say, you have to be in it to win it.

These increases along with the Gift Aid claim that we are preparing to put in should help us to keep our finances in order. Another review will be carried out next summer to see where we stand.

The Future

Interest in the group is growing, we are regularly receiving enquiries some from the web site which is great news.

I am hoping for an activity each year which involves the whole group. I felt that the weekend at Walesby was a success thanks to Stuart who thought he was organising a camp for 12 Scouts and ended up with 20 Cubs as well.

We still have a lot of work to do on the buildings, once the outside paths have been done we will focus on the inside. I have been advised that the ceiling in the Reception room and Equipment room needs to be addressed.

Website

One of last years projects was to get the Website up and running again. Having found it difficult to find someone to help us with it I went out and bought a book. By September I had something up and running again. However I felt that there was more to it. I found a Basic Web Design course which I could do while working away. This course has now been completed and I submitted the group Website as my final project. My tutor was very complimentary and he like the site. I am just waiting for the Diploma to come through now. As the Scouts group pays for a lot more Internet hosting than we actually need I am proposing that if anyone wants to use some of our space I am sure we can come to some arrangement.

Thanks

My thanks to all my leaders and the people who help them out to make the group a success.

Thanks to David and Jane Hedge for the questions on Quiz nights, Martin Appleby for the Quiz Night Bar and Vicky and Yvette for the food.

Thanks to Martin Appleby and Barry Welland for all their work on the Duke of Edinburgh. Both Martin and Barry have said they would like to step down from this position. They have said they will see the current groups through until they have completed everything.

Thanks to Amanda, my wife, who has stepped up to continue with the food for the quiz nights. Amanda has also taken on the running of the 200 Club to allow people to join during the year, Gift Aid and she took over the hall bookings when Jane Hedge became ill earlier during the year.

Thanks to Dawn Burrell who has joined our team of people who we do not see. Dawn has taken on the task of keeping the grounds tidy.

Thanks also to the committee members for their hard work during the year.

To anyone who has helped us out that I do not know about – Thank You.

Malcolm Baker – Group Scout Leader.