

GSL Annual Report

for

AGM 17th September 2012

HQ Break-in

Some of you may be aware that our HQ was broken into just before the summer school break.

We believe this was carried out by some young people looking to see if we had left alcohol on the premises following the Quiz Night the weekend before.

The damage caused was minor considering what they could have done.

The entry point has been re-secured and we are looking at security systems should this become a problem for us.

Group Development

Over the last few years we have seen a steady growth in numbers, this is mainly due to the Cubs who have been moving to Scouts. Back in 2009 we had around 7 Scouts, now we have just under 30. This is set to continue growing as the Cubs become Scouts. I am in discussion with our District Commissioner regarding the development of the group.

Beavers

Over the last year our Beavers have continued with their badge training which resulted in one member being awarded with the Chief Scout Bronze Award.

They have seen an active year with a number of visits to places like: Staythorpe Power Station, B&Q, Pets at Home and The Showroom in Lincoln on the Climbing Wall.

The planned overnight camp at the school was cancelled as the ground was water logged. Our thanks to Mrs Caputa (Coddington School Head Teacher) for agreeing to the idea of the camp. The Beavers had an overnight stay at Walesby during the Summer with lots of activities.

We are still maintaining our numbers at 24 with the waiting list being full for 2 years.

My thanks to Alan and his team for the hard work they have put in.

Alan would like to move to a different role in the future so we are currently looking for someone who can step in and take over the section.

Cubs

The last year has seen the Cubs continue with their busy schedule and have maintained the Chief Scout Silver Awards with a number being presented just before the summer break.

The Cubs started the year by learning some sign language followed by a visit from a hearing dog. Just before the Summer break the Cubs had a visit from Merlin, a hearing dog who was able to give a demonstration. It was very good to be able to see how Merlin communicated with his handler.

In February they did the First Aid 1 & 2 followed after Easter by a visit from a local PSCO.

The Cubs completed the Local Knowledge Badge and had a visit from Jane Hedge who always puts on an interesting evening for them.

In May the Cubs had a weekend at PGL, lots of tired children on the Monday morning again. Everybody had a good time.

In June the Scouts organised an sports evening where both sections completed the Athletics Badge.

My thanks to Mark and his team for the hard work they have put in.

Mark has taken on some new duties at work and is finding it difficult to devote the time to planning for Cub meetings. He has asked me to find someone who can at least take over the planning of the meetings.

Scouts

The Scouts have been working towards the Community Challenge Badge and the Small Holder Badge. We now have a small allotment in our grounds. The Scouts have already harvested one Crop of vegetables which have been distributed at Wellgreen house. They have planted some late vegetables which we will be looking forward to harvesting.

They have completed the Fire Safety Badge which included a visit to the Fire Station. The Scouts have developed a Fire Safety Plan for the Hall and will be presenting it to the other sections.

They have completed the Athletics Badge looking into aspects of diet, training, safety and the planning of events. The Scouts planned and conducted the Sports evening for the Cubs gaining the Instructors Badge as well.

The Scouts have been taking part in a varied program of outside activities to develop fitness, team and social skills.

The summer term was finished off with a weekend at PGL where everybody had a great time.

The planned camp at Hill Holt Wood has been reorganised to Ancaster. The camp warden runs the activities needed for Reagan and Sam to complete the badge work for the Chief Scout Gold Award.

A future project has been identified in conjunction with the Parish Council. The Scouts will be tidying up Pages Wood. This will also be forming part of the Community Challenge week in June of next year.

My thanks to Nicola and her team for the hard work they have put in.

Explorers

The Explorers have been taking part in a wide range of activities away from the HQ along with taking exams. The girls team has successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition, a great achievement.

My thanks to Pam and her team for the work they have put in.

Leadership

We are trying to get our training going, this is not an easy task as all my leaders lead very busy lives with work and family commitments. We are looking at modules that can be completed easily based on current work experiences.

We are seeing some interest from parents to help with Scouts which is a good start. Our Cubs is seeing a few assistants move on as the members go up, we need to get some more interest there. Beavers is the same, we have a few parents who have indicated they will help on a rota.

Lifestyles have changed since I was in the Cubs and Scouts, people do not necessarily work regular hours or close to home. We have to change to work with this. We have to be set up so that people are not expected to be here every week which is possibly putting people off. I look to having a section leader who coordinates the planning and a rota of assistants who help each week.

Our focus has changed a little over the summer to concentrate more on the Risk Assessment side of the activities to reduce the number of incidents that occur. The definition of Leader in Charge has been updated to focus on the safety side of activities. This leads me to believe that we need more than the minimum requirement of 2 adults to effectively run an evening.

Buildings

Recently we have had to undergo a major repair to the wall near the left entrance to the original building. It was seen to be bowing out at the top.

The repair was carried out successfully with the wall rebuilt using original techniques.

Our focus for the next year is to rework and repair the paths either side of the building and to have gates fitted to secure the rear of the property and allow for overnight stays in the grounds.

We will also be looking to gain approval to remove the wall to the front of the entrance and extend the railings to the end of the property. We are looking to move the wall to the side back to allow groups using the Village Hall access to the grounds without having to use the public path.

We still have a considerable amount of work to do around the building to make all the improvements which have been identified.

Fund Raising

We have run 3 quiz nights during the last year with the last 2 raising over £500 each. My thanks go to Jane and David Hedge for the quiz and to Amanda, my wife, for the rest of the organisation. Our next Quiz night will be in January, look out for the posters and adverts.

Our Rag Bag collection is going well, last year we raised £200, so far this year we have collected a good amount of textiles and are looking at ways of increasing this amount. When you get those bags come through your door at home, fill them and give us a call. We will collect them so the Scouts can get the benefit.

The Tuck Shop is ticking over and raising about £100. Both the Cubs and Scouts have access to the Tuck each week.

This year we submitted a Gift Aid claim and received £1800. This was for an 18 month period. We will continue with this and are hoping for about £1000 per year.

The 200 club is still continuing. We purchased some new tables and benches from these funds along with the flags used on the Jubilee Parade. We still need more members as only 20% of the current membership are parents of Group Members.

The Future

The Scout Association is focusing on Safety and Risk Assessments this year. We will be looking at our equipment and how we do things to keep in line. We have already replaced some of the camp tables and benches along with the camp cooking kit boxes. They used to be big and heavy when empty, we have replaced them with smaller plastic boxes which can be easily lifted.

We will be maintaining our level in Beavers at 24, we are looking to reduce our Cub pack to around 26 to make the evening activities easier. Our Scout Troop is growing, by the end of the year we should have around 30 in the troop. This is the most we can handle on an evening. To accommodate the Cubs still to come up we need to split the troop and have around 24 in each section. We hope to be having some help from the district development team with this.

The next 2 years will see us reach our maximum capacity.

With our list of young people wanting to join the group in the Beavers now 2 years long I can only stress that people put their children's names down early to avoid disappointment.

Next year sees us celebrating 75 years of Scouting in Coddington. I am hoping that we can have a group camp at Walesby to celebrate.