

GSL Annual Report for AGM 8th July 2013

Group Development

Over the last few years we have seen a steady growth in numbers, this year we showed a slight drop in numbers at census time. This was caused by a gap in young people going up from Beavers to Cubs. Each section still has more than 20 members. Next year we should be back up at last years numbers at census time. Our Scout troop has levelled off at just under 30 for the time being, however over the coming years this should gradually increase to just over 30 next year.

Beavers

Badge training is going well with a number of Beavers achieving the Chief Scout Bronze award

They attended the Group Camp this year at Walesby and had a good time.

We had originally planned to reduce our numbers in Beavers to control the numbers in Scouts. However with the current level of interest in joining the group we are reviewing the maximum levels in Beavers.

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

Cubs

Cubs have been very busy this year which has resulted in a lot more Chief Scout Silver Awards being presented.

The Cubs attended the Group camp at Walesby and also had a good time. I heard that there were a large number of tired children and adults after the camp.

Mark is planning another visit to PGL in October.

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

Scouts

The Allotment has yielded some good crops which have gone down well at Well Green house

The Scouts have been taking part in a varied program of outside activities to develop fitness, team and social skills. Some have just completed some survival camps which have completed their Chief Scout Gold awards.

The Scouts have done a good job tidying up around Pages Wood, the Parish Council are very pleased with the results.

It has been identified that the Scout Section need more funds to provide the weekly activities. With this in mind the monthly subscription will be going up from £8 to £10 per calendar month from 1st September.

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

Explorers

Our Explorer Unit folded up in March as most of the members became 18 and went to university. Pam, the leader, advised me that as her daughter, a member, had become 18 she no longer wished to continue as leader.

I plan to reopen the unit when we have a few more young people of age.

Duke of Edinburgh is still ongoing with the 7th Newark keeping our volunteers busy.

Leadership

When Nicola took over the Scouts section she advised me that 30 would be the most she would be able to handle. As the planner indicates that during the next year we may go over this number, with this in mind Alan is going to move from Beavers to Scouts. Nicola is planning to finish some work with some of the older Scouts.

We were lucky to have a young person join Beavers whose mum was a trained Guide Leader. Kerry has agreed to take over from Alan, particularly as she has put her younger son on the list to join Beavers as well. We have another mum who has indicated that she would like to help out at meetings.

Mark has been in place as Cub Leader for 4 years now and has advised me that he intends to move on next summer. So I am looking for someone to take over.

We have seen a number of Marks helpers move on as their children have gone to Scouts and are looking to replace them.

We have started sending our leaders on training courses, Alan has just attended the Hill Walking Permit Terrain 1 course. This will enable him to take the Scouts hill walking. We have many more planned.

Buildings

As you can see we are working on the path to the right of the building having obtained permission to take down the wall that was at the front. Our thanks to Maureen Dobson who identified a funding opportunity which paid for everything except the new railings.

Next we will rework the path to the left of the building in preparation for opening it up as a disabled entrance.

Last year we had a colony of Bees take up residence in the chimney on the right of the building. The hive was exposed and removed to a new home successfully. Thanks to Owen Wilby for exposing the hive and replacing the stone. We have heard that the hive currently has 50,000 bees and is doing well.

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

Fund Raising

Our quiz nights are going well with each 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 at the end of the week.

Our Rag Bag collection is going well, again 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.

We are working on this years Gift Aid Submission, if we can get everybody to complete the Gift Aid Declaration we should be able to claim back around £1500.

The 200 club is still continuing. We still need more members as only 20% of the current membership are parents of Group Members.

We have a number of organisations using the hall now with the Monday Dance classes looking to operate throughout the year from September.

We are collecting used postage stamps for the Hearing Dogs, who gave a demonstration to the Cubs.

We are also collecting aluminium tins cans for the Kingsmill Neonatal Unit.

The Future

We have a healthy list of people waiting to join the group, Beavers, so I can only see growth for the group. The numbers will increase gradually for the next few years.

We need more assistance from the parents in the sections to help the leaders provide a full and balanced program.

Malcolm Baker – Group Scout Leader