

GSL's Annual Report For AGM on 5th July 2017

Group Development

We continue to receive a lot of interest in the group and have no spaces in Beavers for the next year. Both Cubs and Scouts are well subscribed.

Leadership changes over the next year

I would like to welcome Rachel Wright to our Beavers leadership team. We will be seeing a change of leadership over the next year. Nicola has moved out of the area, both her children have left the Group, intends to leave at Christmas. Kerry, whose son will have left Beavers for Cubs, will be stepping back in 2018 for a well-earned break for some family time. Rachel will eventually take over our Beaver Colony. We will be relying on the parent rota to assist Rachel until we find a regular helper.

At the end of last summer Adrian had a personal commitment on a Thursday evening and was unable to continue with Cubs. We are very grateful to Robin who stepped up at the last minute to take over. At the time Robin did tell me that he wanted to leave at the end of the summer term to allow him to focus on other activities.

In January, we had a young person join Cubs whose dad had said he would be willing to help, with a little encouragement he has agreed to look after Cubs for us for the time being. The great news is that he was a member of the group in his younger days.

Lastly during the year Mark Burrell stepped down as Chairman for personal reasons. I approached Matt Lawrence about taking on the role of Chairman. I am pleased to say that he agreed.

I would like to thank all my leaders for their continued support for the group and the hard work they put in to produce the exciting programs for the young people.

I would like to thank **Jill Skelly** our treasurer who pays the bills and balances the books.

I would also like to thank **Jane Hedge** who puts together the questions for our Quiz Night and tends the front garden.

Section Updates

Beavers

Our Beaver Colony has been running at maximum for the last year with a busy program which includes visits to Sherwood Pines pond dipping, Activities away canoeing, Newark Rugby club and Tigers football. They have also had a night away at Walesby where they did Zip wiring, archery, wall climbing. The Beavers have learnt about how people manage with disabilities. They have also spent a night with Balderton Beavers.

Cubs

Our Cub Pack is seeing its numbers grow gradually. Robin has provided a full program including badge work towards the Chief Scout Silver award which will be presented at the end of term. They have spent a weekend at PGL where they took part in fencing lessons, space hopper football, Jacobs ladder, abseiling, archery, shelter making amongst other things. The Cubs have visited the Fire Station and have a planned visit to Activities away. They have done a hike from the Sawmill to the Scout Hall.

Scouts

The Scouts are still growing with interest coming from the Girl Guides. They have been working on their map reading skills and route planning which finished up with them completing a hike to the route they planned. The Scouts have been working on outdoor cooking skills making Chicken Kebabs and chocolate bananas, hopefully not together. They have been out on wide games in the local area. There was a winter camp at the beginning of the year and there is one planned for September.

Explorers

We are looking at putting together a Duke of Edinburgh team for the first time in a number of years. Within the district Explorers have changed recently with more activities taking place involving other units which has proved to be quite interesting. The Explorers are off to Gilwell this weekend for the 24 hour activity marathon.

Buildings and Grounds

At last, I can say we have had the hall rewired. We have been contacted by N.C.S. in Lincolnshire to see if they could use our hall for a project. Naturally I agreed, they are coming in at the end of July for 2 weeks. The first week they plan the project and the second week they do the project. We have provided some materials and will provide some funds for additional materials that they may need. With all of the HSE requirements there is only so much they can do but if it tidies up the hall then who am I to stand in the way.

Now for the next project, the main windows. Planning permission is in and we are currently waiting for the result from the public enquiry. If all is approved we intend to replace the windows with UPVC windows manufactured in the same style as the existing windows as this is a conservation area. This will reduce our maintenance costs and our heating bills.

After the windows, we plan to sort out the kitchen and the toilets as there are many jobs needing to be done in those areas.

We are looking for someone or a rota of people to get the grounds tidy, without this in place we are going to have to engage someone on a regular basis which will cost us money. I would like to avoid this but we need to maintain the grounds for the safety of our young people and our hall hirers.

I would like to say thank you to _____ for removing the weeds from our front garden and keeping things looking as they should.

Fund Raising

Gift Aid – we now have just about everybody signed up for Gift Aid which will enable us to claim back around £2000 this year.

At Christmas, we did a bag pack at Morrisons and raised £1100. Thanks to Amanda and Kieran for ensuring the day went according to plan.

The Group and the Future

As always, the group is looking healthy, we have a leadership team in place but as looking for help – who isn't. We have a good 'want to join' list with interest coming in on a regular basis.

To Conclude

Following a busy and exciting year we can only look forward to what next year will bring.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that our records are kept up to date with respect to current address, contact phone numbers and medical conditions. While your family members are on our activities we need to be able communicate with you all and plan with regards to personal conditions of the young people. Without up to date information this make things more difficult for the section leaders.

I can only thank my leaders for the hard work they are putting into the program both at the hall and away from it.

Not to forget the partners left at home while Scouting activities are going on, Thank you for your patients.

My final thanks go to my wife Amanda. Without her support and assistance we would not be in such a great position and as well organized. Since Amanda took over as Fund Raising coordinator she has raised around £10000. In addition to this she has some very good ideas. While preparing for the NCS project she suggested that I approach Newark Paint & Hardware to see if we could get some discounted items. The proprietor having spent 30 years with Balderton Scouts was very accommodating and donated to us 3 x 5ltr tins of trade quality emulsion for the walls. This is a saving of around £150.

The hard work Amanda puts into the group know no limits and this includes making the cakes and contacting the parents to pass information about camps, activities and the times that sections are meeting.