

6TH WHITLEY BAY (ST MARY'S) SCOUT GROUP

Reg charity 508183

7th July 2015

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 7th July 2015

1. Welcome by Group Chair Lindsay Reid
2. Approval of membership of the Group Scout Council.
It is proposed that all those who signed the admissions sheets tonight represent the Group Scout Council for the purposes of this Meeting. Proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Group Secretary Ian Lamont.
3. Apologies for absence
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th July 2014 (Page 3)
Proposed by Ian Lamont and seconded by Lindsay Reid.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 15th July 2014.
6. Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts (Pages 4 to 8) Proposed by Group Treasurer Julie Stafford and seconded by Lindsay Reid.
7. Approval of the nomination of Lindsay Reid as Group Chair by Acting Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett.
8. Approval of the proposal defining a quorum for the Group Scout Council and for the Group Executive Committee.
The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting shall be 30.
The quorum for a Group Executive Committee meeting shall be 8 including-
 at least 2 from the Group Chairman, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer and
 at least 2 from the Group and Section Leaders and
 at least 2 Elected Members.

Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont
9. Election of Group Secretary.
Ian Lamont has been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Julie Stafford.
10. Election of Group Treasurer.
Julie Stafford has been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.
11. Election of members of the Group Executive Committee
 - a. There are to be up to 6 Elected Members. Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont.
 - b. Member nominations proposed and seconded. Election of up to 6 members so nominated.
12. Approval of the nominations to the Group Executive Committee by the Acting Group Scout Leader.
Josh Lumsden
13. Report by St Mary's Church, the Sponsoring Authority.
14. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts. David Stafford proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont.

15. Presentation of the Group Reports by Acting Group Scout Leader (pages 09 – 14)
16. Address by the District Commissioner
17. Chair's closing remarks.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 6th Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group on 15th July 2014

1. Group Chair Lindsay Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting and conveyed the apologies for absence of Acting Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett due to family illness. Lindsay then read out her report as contained in the AGM booklet.
2. It was proposed that all those (49) who signed the admissions sheets tonight represent the Group Scout Council for the purposes of this Meeting. Proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Group Secretary Ian Lamont. Approved.
3. Apologies for absence
Scott Blackett, Marianne Good.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 2013 was proposed by Ian Lamont, seconded by Lindsay Reid and approved.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 21nd May 2013.
There were none.
6. Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts (Pages 4 to 8) was proposed by Group Treasurer Julie Stafford, seconded by Lindsay Reid and approved.
7. The nomination of Lindsay Reid as Group Chair by Acting Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett was approved.
8. It was proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont that:
 - The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting shall be 30.
 - The quorum for a Group Executive Committee meeting shall be 8 including-
 - at least 2 from the Group Chairman, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer and
 - at least 2 from the Group and Section Leaders and
 - at least 2 Elected Members.
 These proposals were approved.
9. Ian Lamont was re-elected unopposed as Group Secretary having been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Julie Stafford.
10. Julie Stafford was re-elected unopposed as Group Treasurer having been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.
11. Election of members of the Group Executive Committee
 - a. There are to be up to 6 Elected Members. Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont. Agreed.
 - b. The following people have been nominated as Elected Members;
 - Joanne Chater
 - Andrew Cooper
 - Marianne Good
 - Mungo Nicolson
 Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont. Elected.
12. The nomination of Josh Lumsden as a member of the Group Executive Committee by the Acting Group Scout Leader was approved.
13. Report by St Mary's Church, the Sponsoring Authority.
The Revd Ben Carter, Curate of St Mary's Church Monkseaton, welcomed us and expressed his pride in the strong relationship between the Church and the 6th Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group. The engagement of the Group with the Church has been expressed in many ways including participation in worship, especially the Remembrance service, the continuing redecoration and improvement of the Hall by Group members and the collection of Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers by the Church on the Group's behalf. The Church will be putting up a notice-board on the outside of the Hall promoting its

availability for hire. The Revd Dr Peter Knibbs, currently in Truro, has been appointed Vicar of St Mary's and will take up his appointment in October. Ben will be moving on shortly to another position but will always be pleased to remember his involvement with the 6th.

14. The appointment of David Stafford as Independent Examiner of the Accounts was proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont and approved.
15. Presentation of Awards
There was then a presentation of badges by the Section Leaders (with Hugh Gallico and Matthew O'Brien filling in for Scott) and the District Commissioner (including the presentation of the Winner's Trophy from the Annual District Chess Tournament to Scout Ben Chater). This was followed by a DVD showing some of the Group's many activities in the past year.
16. Address by the District Commissioner Michael Munro.
Michael opened by apologising that it had taken him so long to visit the 6th following his appointment. He congratulated the Group on the balanced programme of activities over the year. In particular he complimented the Group in connection with two of the objectives of the Vision 2018 plan. For the Growth objective our increasing numbers are ahead of the plan and our Community Impact is reflected, among other things, in our relationship with St Mary's.
17. Lindsay closed the meeting by inviting those present to refreshments and a barbecue at the rear of the Hall.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

This has been a successful year for the group with Income of £6,301.66 and Expenditure of £5,941.71. Income for the year exceeded Expenditure by £359.95.

Income in 2014/2015 for the London trip amounted to £7,900.17 bringing the total for the trip to £11,865.17. Expenditure was £10,281.87 with £1,200 of the underspend being refunded to parents and the remaining balance returned to the Group Account.

Items of note:-

Income: - The income raised for the year was up on last year as a result of a Gift Aid claim (£1,109.43) and the Xmas bag pack at Christmas (£1137.01).

The collection of subscriptions by standing order continues to be well maintained and is well monitored by the section leaders.

Expenditure: - capitation of £2,464.00 was paid on time and is up to date.

The group has continued to support various activities during the year across the sections. The events of note include the camps at Westhall and Whittonstall together with other sleepovers and badge challenges. The amount of expenditure remains in line with previous years at £5,941.71.

However it should be noted that to maintain this level of expenditure on various activities it is important that the group continues to undertake some level of fundraising each year. Without the income from the bag pack expenditure would have been greater than income and whilst we have a healthy credit balance at present we should be aware that this needs to be maintained.

Cash funds held by the group as at 31st March 2015 presently stand at £12,977.85. The group presently has a surplus of £132.46 held by the District Badge Secretary.

The accounts have been examined by the District Treasurer, David Stafford. My thanks to him and all those who have assisted the group during the last year.

Chair's Report

Even though I'm now in my 4th year, I continue to be amazed by and eternally grateful for the dedication shown by the Leadership Team for the 6th Whitley Bay Scout Group. The number of hours that are invested in making sure that our young people enjoy their weekly sessions is phenomenal. We get regular updates at the Group Exec meetings – here we get to find out about how many young people are in each section and about the activities that have taken place and that are planned to take place for the young people. In addition to the Officers on the Exec Committee, there are a number of volunteers who attend and offer their support to the Officers, when and where they can. I am keen to establish a Fundraising Committee which will take some pressure off the Leadership Team and allow them to concentrate on organising the various events and sessions that take place over the year. If you can spare some time to help support this new sub-committee please contact me directly.

Yet another jam packed year has passed and I would challenge anyone to say that their son or daughter hasn't been involved in something fun and exciting since the last AGM!! The Section reports which follow will detail the activities specifically but for many reasons, the one event that will stay with me forever is the 'Unknown Camp' – wow, what an experience!! The highlight for me was when my rubber duck won the river race, however seeing all of the young people getting involved in so many innovative activities, was truly amazing. The fact that it rained continually for 36hrs just added to the challenge and I think we may have set a record for the 'number of litres of milk used to make hot drinks in over the 3 days/nights that we were on camp. My personal thanks to Tony and his team must be recorded here.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the Executive Committee for all of their 'behind the scenes' work and to the other occasional helper, parents, grandparents and carers who make the group as successful as it is. We can always do with more help so if you're interested in lending your support, whether it's for an hour once a week, once a month or once a quarter, please contact me or any other member of the Exec Committee.

Jamie is now 14yrs old and will be leaving Scouts to join the Explorer Scouts. Jared is a Cub until Christmas and will then be a Scout. Nat is on the list for Beavers too so the Reid Scouting Dynasty continues.....

Here's to another successful year!!"

Thanks

Linz

Lindsay Reid

Group Scout Leader's Report

It's hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly....

The past year has been non-stop for the leaders of the 6th Whitley Bay Scout Group and as I sit and type this report at 10.30pm, I can't help but think how lucky I am as Acting GSL to have such a committed, hardworking, enthusiastic and dedicated team of leaders, helpers and young leaders!

Over the year, my leadership teams have planned and delivered over 700 hours of Scouting activities and adventures for the young people of the group. That's a fantastic commitment bearing in mind that we really only meet for 40 weeks of the year and for camps etc. So a big thank you to all of the team – I genuinely mean this - **you're amazing!!!!**

We continue to have a progressive group executive under the leadership of our group chairperson (Lindsay Reid), group treasurer (Julie Stafford) and our group secretary (Ian Lamont) – I'd like to take this opportunity to formally record my thanks for their support over the past year and also (I hope) for the foreseeable future.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Ann Dodgson (of St Mary's church) for her support of the group over the past year.

This year again we have also taken part in the active kids scheme sponsored by Sainsbury's and collected over 3500 vouchers (again thank you to parents and also to St Mary's for helping us to do this).

The year has presented some challenges, both planned and unexpected. New badges and awards are being introduced later this year and I know it will take some time to get used to the new scheme. For those of us (only me probably) who have seen changes on this scale before (I'm on my third set of badges now!) it's something to keep us on our toes!!!

I'm really proud of the achievements that the group has made and the positive impact we have on the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts each week. This year to mark the achievements and work over the year, we've announced the Cub and Scout Excellence Awards which I hope will become a regular feature at our AGM's. Well done to everyone who receives one, it's something that the leadership teams have thought long and hard about and something that you really should be proud of.

I know over the Summer, all of the leadership teams will be working on developing creative and new programme ideas to deliver in the next year of Scouting, enabling us to challenge our young people to grow, develop and reach their maximum potential in the future. The behind the scenes work which often takes longer than running the activity is important to note and is vital to delivering Scouting as its best!

Scouting at the 6th continues to offer exciting, varied and unique opportunities. I'm really grateful to all of the leadership team – warranted, unwarranted and young leaders, for the amount of time and energy they inject into Scouting at the 6th every week. It wouldn't work without you – so on behalf of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and the executive – **a very big thank you.**

Yours in Scouting
Scott Blackett
Acting Group Scout Leader

Beaver Scout Section Report

Our Beavers have had a busy and fun year.

We continue to grow in numbers, and have 28 Beavers at present. It's fantastic that so many children want to join the Scouting movement, and our Beaver colony in particular, but we need more leaders to ensure all interested young people have the opportunity to take part!

Anyway, our year looked like this:

- We started in September working towards the Friendship Challenge. We also achieved the Disability Awareness badge, and the Safety Activity badge.
We completed a wide range of activities, and had visitors along to our meetings too. We had a visit from the Police, who allowed the Beavers to try on items of equipment such as helmets and vests. That was a lot of fun! We also had a visit from a member of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, accompanied by his amazing and clever guide dog. We also ran a Goal Shoot evening, when the Beavers raised funds for the Guide Dogs.
We took part in church services for Harvest and Remembrance Day, and also the Beaver and Cubs carol service. Along with celebrating Thanksgiving and of course Christmas, and playing games and generally having fun, we had a jam packed term!

- Spring found us working towards our Creative Challenge badge. We did lots of creative things, from making towers out of marshmallows and spaghetti (uncooked I hasten to add) to decorating cupcakes. We held a science evening, when we did lots of different experiments, and the Beavers achieved their Science Activity badge.
We celebrated Chinese New Year , Mothers' Day, and St Patrick's day. However one of the Beavers' favourite evenings was when we celebrated Shrove Tuesday. St Mary's Mothers' Union cooked pancakes in church, and invited us across to have some. It's hard to believe how small children can find room for so many pancakes!
We also took part in a Beaver District Goal Shoot at the Soccer Dome at the Royal Quays. Our two teams did very well and had lots of fun.

- In Summer term we've been working towards our Outdoor Challenge badge, the Gardening badge and Emergency Aid stage one.
We began by attending the St George's Day service at St Edwards Church. Thanks to the support of the Friends of Churchill and Souter Parks we planted wild flower seeds on Churchill Playing Fields and Souter Park. We are also grateful to St Mary's for allowing us to plant flowers in a patch of the church garden. We've learnt lots about First Aid, and what to do in an emergency, and visited the RNLI in Cullercoats. We have also been learning about packing a rucksack and putting up a tent.
We have an exciting Night Away planned in July, when we are going to Gibside near Roland's Gill. One of our activities will be a night hike! We will be joined by Tony, our Cub Leader for this, with a few Cubs.

Helping us do all these activities are our young leaders; Becky, Eve, Jonny and Katie. They do a brilliant job, and we couldn't run our Beaver colony without them. Well done!

Our Beaver Colony goes from strength to strength. We have a fabulous bunch of keen and interested Beavers which makes all our efforts worthwhile. Most importantly, we always get great support from parents for which we say a huge Thank You!

Kathryn and Susanna.

Cub Scout Section Report

The last 12 Months in the Cub Section have been packed with fun, challenge and adventures ranging from baking cakes to eating grubs, chopping wood to cooking on fires and that is just to name a few!

Our summer camp held in August 2014 jointly with our Scout Section was held at Paccar Scout Campsite Buckinghamshire. We took a mixture of 40 Cubs, Scouts Young Leaders, Group Supporters and Leaders to the Capital once again. The camp ran for 1 week and included visits to 10 Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Legoland, The Royal Mews, London Eye and McDonalds along with so much more. Everyone who attended had a brilliant time and gained so many new badges and awards. I would like to thank every participant and leader who helped make this event the success it was.

In December 2014 we ran another round of our popular chef's badge, this time transforming the District HQ into a Christmas wonderland. Our budding chefs cooked a 3 course meal for 16 invited guests, by doing this they gained valuable life skills and knowledge that would stay with them for many years to come. They all gained their Chefs and Instructors Activity Badges, thank you to everyone who attended and supported our event.

Last Christmas we introduced our 'Cub Scout Advent Challenge'. This saw our Cubs working throughout December to complete 25 separate challenges or tasks to gain badges and awards whilst at home! The event was so successful it assisted 10 Cubs with the completion of their Chief Scout Silver Award. Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who helped to make this challenge happen at home!

February saw the return of the District 5-A-Side football competition, we entered two teams again and fought off some tough competition, but sadly we didn't win ☹

In May 2015 we held our first ever UNKNOWN Camp. This was a complete surprise camp held at Pigdon Chess Campsite in Northumberland whereby Cubs/Scouts and their parent/guardian were split into teams tackling difficult bush tucker challenge's, sleeping under the stars in hammocks, getting very wet, cold and muddy but at the same time earning points and stars towards their teams. We had 30 Cubs, Scouts and parents/guardians taking part lead by our successful leadership team. Well done to everyone who took part and until next time..... shhhh it's a secret!

This year we introduced our Mother's Day Celebration Challenge which was brilliantly supported and great fun was had by everyone who attended, we also saw the return of our Father's Day Celebration Challenge which this year was changed to keep everyone on their toes, again very well supported.

Last weekend we joined 140 other Cub Scouts from across our District at our District Cub Camp. This year it was held at Moor House Scout Activity Centre. As it has only just been ran a full update will have to follow as at the time of writing this report it hadn't actually happened!

Next weekend we will join our Beavers at their indoor residential sleepover at Gibside National Trust Centre, we are all really looking forward to joining them.

Every year we work tirelessly hard with our Cubs to help them achieve the highest award in the Cub Section, the Chief Scout Silver Award. During a 'Cub's time in our section this is our ultimate aim, however many never achieve this as they choose what to take part in and what to complete/support.

This year we are pleased to say that next Saturday, July 11th 2015, Dominic, Jasmine, Maddy, Joe, Thomas, Harrison and Jake will all have their certificates presented to them at a special ceremony at the Castlegate, Newcastle. This follows on from Ethan, Dan and Oliver who all achieved theirs earlier this year. Well done to each and every one of them for achieving this award.

Every week the Cub Section is supported by John Arkley & Laura Main, when not in University or working away we are joined by, Paul Grange, Andrew Coulson, Imogen Wright and Jack Swann all of whom have a wealth of experience and knowledge in the movement and the running of our Cub section.

We are lucky to be supported by Aaron Horvath, Peter Wilson, Nathan Burn and Matthew Anderson who work as Young Leaders and over the next 12 months they will develop as young people as they bring with them new ideas and challenges that keep our activities fresh, modern and youthful!

I would personally like to thank all of the groups other leaders, executive committee members, group supporters (Anne Lewis & Dave Stafford), our parents/guardians and my fiancée for continuing to support everything we do within our section and the wider group. I hope that 2015/16 will be just as exciting as 2014/15 has been and I look forward to the year ahead with you all.

I will be taking a few weeks out of Scouting from September this year to celebrate my marriage but our team will continue to provide the Scouting experience in my absence.

Reviewing all of the positive feedback received this year through social media and private messaging shows that we can and will continue to provide quality scouting at the 6th Whitley Bay.

I look forward to leading the section into another year of fun and adventure!

Tony Bennett
Cub Scout Leader
6th Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group
www.6wbsg.co.uk – cubs@6wbsg.co.uk



Scout Section Report

Another year of excellent experiences for the scouts!

The leadership team has changed slightly. Hugh Gallico (Assistant Scout Leader) has left the group and Sean Boyack has joined us as an Occasional Helper along with Josh Lumsden and Scott Burn. Tony Bennett (Cub leader) has also provided invaluable support to the section which really is appreciated.

We've also been joined by two new Young Leaders, Josh Hulme and Will Walton-Davies (both previously Scouts). I'd like to place on record my thanks to all of my team over the past year for their support, hard work and enthusiasm.

Since the last AGM, Scouts have taken part in a joint Summer camp in London with the Cubs. They got to visit some fantastic places (Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Legoland, Windsor Castle, etc.) and even got their photograph taken in Downing Street. On-site they took part in some excellent activities including archery, climbing wall, abseiling, rabbit run tunnels and rifle shooting. (Mind you, I wouldn't trust their driving based on the go-cart experience!!!) A big thank you to Tony for pulling the camp together and giving everyone a once in a lifetime experience.

Scouts also had the opportunity to take part in the "unknown" camp along with a "responsible adult" – again despite the weather; it was a weekend of challenges, "adventures" and hammocks!!!!

Over the past year, we've focused on working towards the Scout challenge badges to push people through the current awards scheme before it changes later this year. We've worked towards the fitness, global, creative, promise and adventure challenges and as a result, I'm really proud to say we have five Scouts who have achieved their Chief Scout Gold Awards and another three or four who will complete it by September/October. Well done to Marcus Devlin, Connell Pike, Chris On, Edward Gardener and Ben Stobart!!!!

Looking forward we've launched the 2016 Summer camp – in Holland. Most Scouts never get the opportunity to go abroad and having been to this site four times before with Scouts (last one was in 2010) it will be a brilliant experience over the 12 days.

Earlier this year we also took part in a sponsored stay-a-wake for charity and raised £238. After a vote (that would make the BBC election coverage seem insignificant) the Scouts decided that the money would be split between the RNLI and Teenage Cancer Trust. Well done to everyone who gave up their beds for the night and got to experience a night hike in Whitley Bay at 4am!!!

Finally, I'd would also like to say a big thank you to you, as parents and supporters, for your help and support over the past year, and I hope for the foreseeable future, and finally to the Scouts for turning up week after week and giving us the motivation (as Leaders) whether they realise it or not, to keep volunteering!

Yours in Scouting

Scott Blackett
Scout Leader