

**THIS IS  
WHAT  
TEAM WORK  
LOOKS LIKE.**

89th Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea  
Scout Group AGM 2017 & Accounts for 2016



[www.89thstokeseascouts.org.uk](http://www.89thstokeseascouts.org.uk)

# Agenda

**The Annual General Meeting  
The Group Council  
89<sup>th</sup> Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group  
~7.30pm Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017  
Headquarters, Diarmid Road, Hanford**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM.
4. Group Scout Leader's Report.
5. Trustees' Report and Accounts.
6. Chairman's Report.
7. Hanford and Rudyard Report.
8. Section Reports:
  - Scouts;
  - Cubs;
  - Beavers.
9. Explorer Unit Report.
10. Election of Officers:
  - Chairman (appointed by GSL);
  - Vice Chairman (currently vacant – nominations welcomed);
  - Treasurer;
  - Secretary;
  - Membership Secretary (currently vacant – nominations welcomed);
  - Self-asserting Section Leaders.
11. Any Other Business notified to the Chairman.
12. Presentations.

# Minutes of the 2016 AGM

**The Annual General Meeting  
The Group Council  
7:45pm Saturday 4th June 2016  
Headquarters, Diarmid Road, Hanford**

Present: Chairman: Malcolm Smith  
Group Scout Leader: Frank Lewis  
District Commissioner: Elizabeth Birch  
Members of the Group Executive Committee  
Section Leaders  
Members of the Group, Parents and Friends

1. The AGM was opened by the Chairman Malcolm Smith, followed by a prayer.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Kylie Salmon and Simon Ault.
3. Minutes of the previous AGM were presented, accepted and signed as a true reflection of the 2015 AGM.
4. Frank Lewis presented the GSL's report.
5. Malcolm Smith presented the Trustees' Report and Financial Review. Attention was drawn to the following:
  - Purchase of Hanford HQ and associated expenses;
  - Small operating surplus if the above is not considered;
  - Scout Troop account was opened during the year – covering larger camp expenses for Troop (e.g. Summer Camp etc.);
  - Gift Aid was discussed.
6. Malcolm Smith presented the Chairman's Report.
7. Frank Lewis presented the Hanford and Rudyard Report.
8. The following Section Reports were presented by the Section Leaders:
  - Scouts: Adam Marshall, Scout Leader;
  - Cubs: Mark Woodward, Cub Leader;
  - Beavers: Nikki Kenny, Beaver Leader.

The Section Leaders thanked the other Leaders for their time and energy. (If any parents or others would like to volunteer to support any Section, their time and energy would be gratefully received.)

9. Malcolm Smith presented the Lawrence Fleet Explorer Unit Report on behalf of Simon Ault, Explorer Unit Leader.
10. Frank Lewis (GSL) nominated Malcolm Smith as Chairman.

The following officers were elected:

Vice-Chairman:	Quinton Watton-Smith;
Treasurer:	Helen Brown;
Secretary:	Julie Hemming;
Membership Secretary:	Kylie Salmon.

11. Any Other Business: nothing raised.

12. The District Commissioner made the following presentations:

Chief Scout Award for Service	10 years	Nick Dicken;
Chief Scout Award for Service	10 years	Nikki Kenney;
Chief Scout Award for Service	30 Years	Anne Lewis.

The Bar to the Silver Acorn was awarded to Frank Lewis. The District Commissioner read the Citation. Frank thanked the DC and congratulated all on their awards and would like the Group and the leaders/officers of the last 40 years to consider the award as an award for them all, without whose time and dedication the Group would not be the success it is today.

The Queen's Scout Award was presented to Sara O'Leary.

Malcolm Smith presented gifts to those listed below, on behalf of the Group Executive Committee, following their retirements during the last 12 months:

Chris Lowndes	Former Group Treasurer;
Anne Lewis	Former Group Secretary.

Chris and Anne thanked Malcolm. Chris thanked the time and effort of all the leaders for the time, enjoyment and rewards his children have received; he encouraged all parents to consider contributing in any way they can as our young people get so much out of the Group.

Note: All reports are printed in the associated Booklet.

The Meeting was closed at 8:45pm.

# Group Scout Leader's Report

The Group is now well established in the local community at Hanford. All sections were represented at the District Awards Evening in January to receive Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards respectively. The Gold Award is the highest award that can be earned by members of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

All sections took part in District activities, with the Cubs attending the Chester Zoo camp to celebrate one hundred years of Cub Scouting, which was organized by the County.

Our leaders yet again provided an exciting and challenging programme for our young people leading to many badges and Awards being earned. Our partnered Explorer Unit (The Lawrence Fleet Explorer Unit) also had an increase in membership.

It was with great sadness that I had to accept the resignation of our Chairperson Malcolm Smith. Malcolm was instrumental in the purchase of our Hanford H.Q., instigating Gift Aid and setting up our subscription system.

We welcomed several new members to the Executive Committee: Chairperson Quinton Watton-Smith, Secretary Julie Hemmings and Treasurer Helen Brown.

Hanford H.Q. had several improvements to its infrastructure and the income from one off bookings increased. Work still needs to be done to improve the grounds surrounding the H.Q. Rudyard had an increase in bookings however there were a few problems with the site services, which will have to be dealt with. We held our Open Day and Bonfire both of which were well attended.

The leadership team and the Executive put a great deal of effort into providing our young people with the excellent programme of activities and the means for these to be carried out. If we are to continue this in the future more help is needed both to work with the young people and behind the scenes. All sections are in urgent need of more adults - this will ease the pressure on existing leaders. The Executive requires a Membership Secretary and general help is needed with the maintenance of the Group's two sites. It is not really work as a great deal of fun can be had if the load is spread a little!

If this help is not forth coming then I fear for the future of the Group in the long term.

I look forward to an exciting and fun filled 2017.

**Frank Lewis**  
**Group Scout Leader**

# Trustees' Report & Accounts

## Report & Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 89<sup>th</sup> Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group

President:	Malcolm Smith	
Trustees <i>ex officio</i> :	Frank Lewis Malcolm Smith Quinton Watton-Smith Adam Marshall Julie Hemmings Helen Brown	Group Scout Leader Chairman (retired November 2016) Chairman (from November 2016) Scout Leader (Self-asserted Trustee) Secretary (from 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2016) Treasurer
Trustees elected:	Quinton Watton-Smith <i>Currently Vacant</i>	Vice-Chairman (4 <sup>th</sup> June to Nov 2016) Vice-Chairman
Advisor:	Dawn Preece	Accounts Scrutineer
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc	
Custodian Trustee:	Scout Association Trust Corporation (for both Rudyard & Hanford)	
Charity Registration No:	524543	
Principal Address:	89 <sup>th</sup> City Sea Scout Group Diarmid Road Hanford Stoke-on-Trent Staffs ST4 4QL	
Contact:	Julie Hemmings 5 Marcel Close Primrose Hill Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8QS	

### Trustees' Annual Report

#### Structure, Governance and Management

The Group's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The Group is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, members of which include the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders and parents' representation and meets every 2 or 3 months.

The Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

### Risk and Internal Control

The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements may exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group, through the capitation fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an on-going basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario the complete closure of the Group may be necessary.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario the complete closure of the Group may be necessary.

### Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership. The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

## Financial Review

In 2016 we have recorded a surplus of £4,495.23. This is mainly because of successful rental income from both Rudyard and Hanford Headquarters. Rudyard income rose from around £3,400 to around £4,900 and Hanford rose from around £2,400 to around £3,150. This income is a testimony to the great salesmanship of our GSL as well as the outstanding facilities that we are able to offer at both sites, which ensures our renters return time after time to both venues.

An exceptional item in the receipts for 2016 is a generous donation from Goodwin International (a Precision Engineering company on the Newstead Industrial Estate) to assist in our Scouting for which we are extremely grateful.

An exceptional item of expenditure in 2016 is the £4,968.41, which together with the £592.57 for Hanford Maintenance, includes the installation of the garage together with associated electrical works which have enabled a significant rationalisation of the storage facilities at our HQ.

The accounts exhibit the normal volatility in income and expenditure items as to the annual cost of items and when they are received and paid. To facilitate the handling of the income and expenditure of the Scout Troop's camps, etc. the Troop bank account has been very useful.

Taking all into account, the Group currently has an annual running cost of around £13,500. However, we are committed to spending up to £2k per annum on safety improvements over the next few years; this will result in annual running costs of around £15/16K. We will endeavour to fund this extra cost with fund-raising activities, grants, etc.

## Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group for at least a year should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The 2016 running costs were ~£13,500 per annum (discounting exceptional expenditure for the Garage at Hanford, etc.) Taking into account the extra safety expenditure described above, ~£15,500 per annum will be needed to run the Group, which will be more than covered for 2017 by the opening 2017 monetary assets of £22,033.99, even if subscriptions and income were significantly lower for 2017.

Signed: *Frank Lewis* Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017

*Quinton Watton-Smith* Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

*Adam Marshall* Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017



## 89<sup>th</sup> Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group Accounts 2016

### Income & Expenditure Statement

	2016	2015
<b>Income</b>		
Rudyard Income	4,898.04	3,399.13
Hanford Income	3,148.70	2,436.00
Subscriptions	6,313.00	6,530.00
Gift Aid	2,797.18	992.18
Donations	2,215.00	572.00
Group Social Activity Income	92.56	0.00
Uniform & Investiture Income	305.00	304.00
Scout Camp & Activity Income	3,232.00	2,901.00
Activity Receipts	56.00	350.00
District Receipt re Hanford	0.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Income	162.13	0.00
Boats Income	47.00	0.00
Interest Received	0.00	7.36
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>23,266.61</b>	<b>17,991.67</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Group Social Activity Expenses	59.24	0.00
Beaver Expenses	0.00	589.68
Cub Expenses	250.78	139.99
Scout Expenses	262.64	57.39
Group Equipment Maintenance	93.64	0.00
Badge Purchases	43.99	111.3
Uniform & Investiture Expenses	60.30	853.14
Capitation	2,356.00	2,401.80
Website Fees	18.60	8.38
Internet Fees	212.60	0.00
Training	0.00	48.00
Scout Manager & SMS Fees	28.00	42.25
Scout Camp & Activity Expenses	2,487.37	2,095.85
Miscellaneous Expenses	385.95	1,134.36
Hanford Water Rates	409.20	123.92
Hanford Electricity	498.53	198.06
Hanford Gas	491.59	451.26
Hanford Buildings Insurance	629.97	571.74
Hanford Safety Expenses	492.03	0.00
Hanford Property Purchase	4,968.41	7,500.00
Hanford Maintenance	592.57	3,630.00
Hanford Miscellaneous Expenses	722.90	1,674.36
Rudyard General Rates	253.47	233.66
Rudyard Water Rates	176.03	140.83
Rudyard Electricity	324.46	505.05
Rudyard LPG Gas	45.00	44.88
Rudyard Buildings Insurance	1,068.00	107.94
Rudyard Safety Expenses	60.00	0.00
Rudyard Maintenance	596.61	1,335.81
Rudyard Miscellaneous Expenses	224.97	427.07
Rudyard Boat Fees	63.00	0
Boat Maintenance	91.30	387.68
Boat Insurance	667.48	647.32
Personal Injury Insurance	0.00	170.67
Equipment - Boats	26.75	0.00
Equipment - Other	110.00	76.06
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,771.38</b>	<b>25,708.45</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>4,495.23</b>	<b>(7,716.78)</b>

## 89<sup>th</sup> Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group Accounts 2016 (cont.)

Monetary Assets	2016	2015
Opening Group Account	17,169.91	17,886.23
Opening Deposit Account	11.17	7,363.81
Opening Troop Account	304.00	0.00
Opening Troop Cash	53.68	5.50
	-----	-----
<b>Opening Monetary Total</b>	<b>17,538.76</b>	<b>25,255.54</b>
Closing Group Account	20,910.76	17,169.91
Closing Deposit Account	11.17	11.17
Closing Troop Account	888.33	304.00
Closing Troop Cash	223.73	53.68
	-----	-----
<b>Closing Monetary Total</b>	<b>22,033.99</b>	<b>17,538.76</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>4,495.23</b>	<b>(7,716.78)</b>
<b>Property Assets</b> (estimated)		
Rudyard Buildings	100,000.00	95,500.00
Hanford Buildings	70,000.00	60,000.00
Boats	39,000.00	39,000.00
Furniture & Scouting Kit	6,725.00	6,725.00
	-----	-----
<b>Total Property Assets</b>	<b>215,725.00</b>	<b>201,225.00</b>

### Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the 89<sup>th</sup> Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Sea Scout Group Council

I report on the Accounts over leaf for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility, without carrying out an audit or independent examination, to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

#### Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution (given in Chapter 3 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association), I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out overleaf.

#### Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the Group's constitution.

Signed: *Dawn Preece*

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017

*Marion's Gate Cottage, School Lane  
Marion, Macclesfield  
Cheshire, SK11 9HA*

# Chairman's Report

2016 has been a considerable learning curve for me settling into my new role as Chairman. Malcolm has done an exceptional job as Chairman and his decision to step down in the year due to illness was a sad one - filling the role is a tough act to follow, but I will try my best. The Trustees and Executive thank Malcolm for his invaluable work with the Group and long standing commitment and wish him well for the future. The Group is exceptionally well established and has great members to enable me time to fit into the role without much direction or involvement, which enables me to learn the role and what's involved.

We now own the Hanford Headquarters, which is great news and in the year we have spent funds building the Garage for storage. As a way of protecting this investment for the long term, it was decided that we would transfer the Guardianship of the property from the Trustees of the Group to the Scout Association Trust Corporation, which I'm pleased to confirm has successfully been transferred. We are now in the process of reviewing the safety concerns by the Safety Committee and have already put steps in place to ensure we have a continuing plan to keep our HQ and Rudyard sites safe and pleasant for all our members, parents, etc.

The Group membership has steadily increased in all sections (including the Explorers) during 2016 and we are now providing Sea Scouting experiences and challenges to over 72 young people, which are made up of 15 beavers, 26 cubs, 19 scouts and 12 Explorers in the partnered Unit. We have made long-term projections for our membership, which has grown from strength to strength with waiting lists in Beavers and Cubs. This increase in membership has regrettably coincided with the resignation of Kylie Salmon at Christmas and we thank her for the time she was in post. Fortunately Frank volunteered to add the responsibly of collecting subs and the associated admin to his already long list of volunteering commitments, for which everyone is exceptionally grateful and appreciative. Julie Hemmings, who has taken on the job of Group Secretary, is doing a fantastic job and is a real asset to the team. A final but special thanks to Malcolm, who has kindly volunteered to look after Gift Aid including all surrounding administration.

Mark Woodward, who was fondly known as "Akela", has made the decision to move on in a different direction, So on behalf of Frank, myself and the rest of the team, I would like to thank Mark for an exceptional job and his strong commitment over the past 12 years of exceptional service, building up the Cub Pack to the fantastic position it is in now. We all wish him the absolute best for the future.

The membership team is strong but additional help and support is always very much appreciated so I ask all parents and friends of the Group to consider volunteering to help our growing Group. Finally I thank our Group Scout Leader and our Section Leaders, Assistants and Helpers without whose efforts we simply could not offer the exciting programme that we currently do; my thanks also go to the Trustees and Executive who are proud to support our Leaders in their work.

**Quinton Watton-Smith**  
**Group Executive Chairman**

# Hanford and Rudyard Report

## Hanford Headquarters

We continued to improve the infrastructure at Hanford during 2016 with the construction of a garage storage unit and gas cage at the rear of the H.Q. and new lighting in the main room. Thanks go to Steve Lewis and Adam (Skip) for their help with this project.

Further improvements are planned to the grounds surrounding the Headquarters when funds and manpower become available.

Income increased in 2016 due in some part to the H.Q. becoming an official Polling Station and an increase in the one off bookings for birthday parties etc.

## Rudyard Training Site

Having had the damage caused during the break-in in late 2015 repaired, we had a busy year at our Rudyard Training Site. All sections held sleepovers, camps and training sessions, along with other Groups from the District and beyond.

Owing to the wet Spring and Summer we did encounter some problems with the Rudyard septic tank, which required several pump outs; this will require some work in the future.

The Group's Open Day and Bonfire were again well supported by parents and friends, thanks to the leadership team.

There was an increase in the income from 2015, this helps to defray the running costs which are quite considerable.

It was decided to have the electrics tested and the remedial work will be carried out in early 2017, part of this will entail moving the main trip switch from up the field to inside the Ridgway building.

With the help of our Leaders, Parents, Explorer Scouts and Scouts several maintenance tasks were carried out both on the buildings and the boats.

## General Comments

Now with both Hanford and Rudyard sites to maintain, the workload has increased on existing members and I would urge anyone who is able to assist in any way to contact myself on 07977 849353 or any of the Leaders.

I continue to represent the Group on the Management Committee of Rudyard Lake Ltd.

**Frank Lewis**  
**Group Scout Leader**

# Scouts' Report

The year 2016/2017 has seen continued growth in the Section with numbers regularly at around 20 rather than the 15/16 of last year. This seems a relatively small growth in number but in a single room 20 make much more noise than 15 - having said that the advantage in numbers means that we can do more activities with a wider range of ability and interest, meaning we rarely have to cancel due to lack of numbers.



Last year we camped at Easter, during the summer and autumn as well as having trips out, including a highly successful train trip to Birmingham to the Sea Life Centre and the canals, which gave the Scouts opportunities to experience another aspect to life. They loved the “Venice of the North!” Summer Camp was held at Rudyard again, but despite its being a site well known to the Scouts, they enjoyed themselves enormously and apparently would be happy to go again.

One of the difficulties we face in going away to any distant camp is the cost which, at around £300 plus per head, is really out of reach of most of us as this is an “extra” holiday for the individual Scout and their families to fund. If we are to consider these distant adventures, we would have to plan some considerable time ahead in order to raise sufficient funds through bag-packing and other activities to seriously make a significant dent in the cost per head. That being said we are hoping to get to Great Tower in the Lake District again during 2017 following a successful trip five years ago.

We lose some Scouts to Explorers in 2017 but gain some from Cubs so on balance we continue to grow, which has as a side effect the need to instil a little more discipline into the meetings as with all talking at once nobody can hear themselves think!

All in all, 2016 has been a very positive year and I look forward to this continuing in the immediate future given the able assistance of David Smith, the Assistant Scout Leader without whose help we as a section would be rather more “at sea” than we would necessarily like to be. We still get assistance from Nick Dicken and Mark Yates when their work schedules permit, for which I remain extremely grateful.

**Skip (Adam Marshall)**  
**Scout Leader**

# Cubs' Report

2016 has been another fantastic year for the 89<sup>th</sup> Sea Scout Cubs. Our numbers continue to grow and there is a good mix of both boys and girls in the pack. This is partly down to the leaders being able to put on such a challenging and rewarding programme.

This year we were able to send six Cubs forward to collect their well-deserved Chief Scout Silver Award (the highest award in the Cubs Section.) Well done to all those who achieved this. Many other activity and staged badges have also been completed, the Musicians, the Collectors and the Entertainers to name just a few.

We have been on several visits out and about this year. Thanks to the leaders who have helped to organise them. We have been to Middleport Pottery, Climbing, and Tesco and also done fun things like Tubing, Flip Out and a Laser Quest battle.

We have been on numerous camps, including joint camps with Parkhall and an amazing sleep over at the Super Play Centre that was crazy but great fun.

We are the current Swimming Gala champions in the District and also finished runners up in the 5-a-side competition with a very young team. Well done everybody who represented us, you all did the Sea Scouts very proud.



We wouldn't be able to run the Cubs if it wasn't for the leaders in our team. I really do need to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped. Milly (Baloo), Sara (Hathi), Ben (Shere Khan), Julie (Chil) and Phil (Rama) have been amazing leaders. They do so much and without them I can honestly say we wouldn't be the best Cub Pack in the District.

We also have Ryan and Ben who are young leaders and we also had Jess when her studies allowed. Thank you everyone.

I have completed 12 years as the Akela of the Sea Scout Cubs and they have been an amazing experience, where I have met some fantastic people, made fantastic friends and have many great memories. I thank everyone who has supported me from day one to be able to make this possible.

Sea Scouts really are amazing!

**Akela (Mark Woodward)**  
**Cub Scout Leader**

# Beavers' Report

We have had a very busy year and the Beavers Section is at its healthiest ever in terms of the size of our happy throng of boys and girls! We have 17 children at the time of writing.

We had three camps at Rudyard last year and this ensured that most children came to our Rudyard site at least once. We also had a camp with the Cubs for the older Beavers who were about to go up. We know that camps are often the first time that the children have stayed away from home without a relative present and hope you agree that this is an excellent opportunity to have lots of fun and build confidence as well as introducing new skills. It is great to see the children develop new skills and confidence to help others, enjoying time with friends and helping the younger children to settle and to take part and enjoy.

Activities out of our usual meetings included the Three Towns District Beavers Day Out to Gulliver's World where we had non-stop rides, a visit to Keele Observatory whilst undertaking the new Space Badge, a fun day at Kibblestone, two outings for bell-boating with Chris Voisey at Trentham Lake, Halloween and Christmas parties and the visit from the Space Bus as a reward for the "Beaver of the Week Award". We had an insight-provoking visit from George and his guide dog Barney and had a night of sculpting as well as other craft activities.

We have probably done more badge work than ever before this year. While we don't want to push the children to take part, most do enjoy this and get a real sense of achievement and of "doing their best". There are lots of badges that can be achieved outside of meetings with the support of parents and teachers. We had three children achieve their Chief Scout Bronze award, which is the highest award achievable in the Beavers Section. Well done Charlie, Alfie and Daniel.

Almost every Tuesday, at least one child has worked towards staged activity badges - for example Musician and Swimming - telling us about activities they enjoy. We have also awarded many activity badges such as Animal Care, Gardening, Sports Activity, Air Activities, Computer, Safety and Creative.

With various activities we raised £550 towards the Lucas' Legacy Fund, which contributed to Jo and Andrew Williams reaching over their target of £100k towards Brain Cancer Research in children, a much neglected area. Christmas craft work, stuffing a matchbox and half of the funds raised from the Pie and Pea Supper, Quiz and AGM night in 2016 contributed to this. Beavers assisted with the selling of items at the Willows School Fayre and the Christmas Craft Fayre at Penkhull. Thank you!

We went daft as usual with Halloween and Christmas parties and the photos in the album bear testimony to this. We have welcomed many new Beavers and they quickly get into pursuing the Hobbies, Collector and Animal Friend badges. Those without a pet at home can borrow a relative's or meet the criteria by attending the night at Pets At Home. Parents and children wishing to look up the badges and criteria for awarding these can look on [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk) (follow the link for "Beavers" and "Awards").

I was especially pleased to see lots of our Beavers at the St. George's Day Parade and Service in April. St. George is the patron Saint of Scouting and it is a special day for Scouting and the service is always good fun too. Some of the Beavers also braved the cold for the Remembrance Day Service and Parade in November and this led to interesting discussions about our history, loss, the role of the armed forces in Britain and some of our military ancestors.

My thanks go to our assistant leaders and helpers whose dedication and help mean that we can run a large group. Paul, Julie, Becky and Chris are stalwart members of the Beavers Section, all of whom race out of work to get to us for the 6pm start and of course give up time at the weekend for outings and activities. A special thank you is extended to Erin Vincent, who has supported camps and some weekly meetings as an occasional helper. We are always looking for new occasional helpers and the process of application with a DBS check is becoming more streamlined. If you might be able to help on occasion, for outings, camps or weekly meetings, please ask for a form and we will be glad to have you on board for fun and adventure and lots of laughs with the children. Please get involved if you have a few hours to spare to help keep the 89<sup>th</sup> Sea Scouts strong.

There is also a requirement that permanent adult leaders undertake various updating training in areas such as First Aid, Safeguarding and Risk Assessment. Leaders also attend 89<sup>th</sup> Exec meetings and District Beavers meetings to plan for the larger events. All adults in Scouting are Disclosure Barring Service checked and we take the health and welfare of the children seriously.

Please take time at the AGM to look through the photo album recording events and activities over the last year or so.

Finally, do feel free to phone me as it is helpful to have feedback from parents as well as Beavers. You are welcome to call me to discuss any matter concerning the Group on 07709 558956 or email me [NickiKenney@aol.com](mailto:NickiKenney@aol.com) or post on the Facebook page.

**Rikki (Nicki Kenney)**  
**Beaver Scout Leader**



# Lawrence Fleet Explorer Unit Report

The Lawrence Fleet Explorer Unit is a District-based unit for 14 to 18 year olds. The unit has a Partnership Agreement with 89<sup>th</sup> Sea Scouts Group and works very closely with the Group, especially in its provision of Sea Scouting and water activities. The aim of the section is to provide a flexible and active Scouting Programme for young people, with an emphasis on teambuilding, personal challenge and adventure.

Led by Simon Ault (ESL) and supported massively by Ben Kukla (AESL), Sara O'Leary (AESL), 2016 was an interesting year for Lawrence Fleet. We welcomed back Hannah Marshall as a young leader, we had a few leavers, but with several new members welcomed and a few investitures to undertake, our membership stands at 10.

This year we've had some great experiences including Flipping Out, Archery, Axe-Throwing!, Backwoods Cooking, a very muddy Assault Course and several Hikes. We've had great fun too, with our own Jelly Eating contests, Carrier Bag themed shows, Tie dye t-shirts, and a 'Water Challenge' in the Dark Woods, attended several camps, "Winter Camp" at Consall, "Lets Party" at Kibblestone, and "Hunger Games" at Beaudesert with hundreds of other Explorers and Scouts.



The Explorer programme remains focused on core Scouting values, and working towards completion of the requirements for the Platinum, Nautical Skills, Climbing, and Survival Badge Awards.

Lawrence Fleet Explorers are regular attendees on parade and regularly support the various 89<sup>th</sup> Sea Scout sections as part of their service.

Our exciting programme looking forward includes the infamous "BIG" camp, camping in the Lake District with many activities including an overnight canoeing expedition, later this year we'll be seeing our Explorers Sky Dive (indoors!) and we'll host our second Jamboree On The Air event.

Many thanks go to all those who are involved in the provision of Scouting for Lawrence Fleet Explorers both directly and indirectly. We couldn't do it without you!

Anyone aged 14 to 17 may become an Explorer Scout and we always welcome new members. Recruits for our Leadership Team are always welcomed too. If you are interested in becoming a member, leader or assistant, please do not hesitate to email me at [esl@89thstokeseascouts.org.uk](mailto:esl@89thstokeseascouts.org.uk).

**Simon Ault**  
**ESL Lawrence Fleet**