



12th Gateshead Scouts

All Sections Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Authors: Alan Scott, Susan Reece, Lewis Hunter, Luke Abbott
and Jack Coleman



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1 About the group

For over forty years 12th Gateshead scout group has been offering fun, challenge and adventure to young people aged 6 to 18 years of age. The Group is based in the Gateshead village of Whickham and is part of the Gateshead scout district.



The Group comprises Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, supported by adult leaders. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission, charity number 1017268.

Principle address

St Mary's Centre
Church Chare
Whickham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE16 4SH

Website

12thgatesheadscouts.org

Governing document

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.
www.scouts.org.uk/por

Nature of Charity

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustees 2023 - 2024

Alan Scott (Group Scout Leader), Susan Reece (Assistant Group Scout Leader / Beaver Leader), Doug Short (Chairman), Ken Murray (Treasurer), Donna Robson (Parent), Lucy Hetherington (Parent), Frazer Gregory (Parent) and Janet Pendlebury (Parent).

Advisors 2023 - 2024

Andrea McGuigan (District Commissioner)

Charity Objectives

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 the 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.

Public Benefit Criteria

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.

The Scouting Movement complies with two key principles set by the Commission with regard to public benefit:

1. *Identifiable benefit:* The way in which Scouting is carried out helps young people develop towards their full potential; this benefit is directly linked to the Purpose of Scouting.

2. *Public benefit:* Scouting is a national movement open to young people aged 6-25 and adults. Full membership is restricted to young people and adults who are willing to make the Scout Promise. The Association enables those in poverty to benefit from Scouting; while the Association charges a subscription to its members, the benefits of Scouting are not constrained by the member's inability to pay. Locally, there are arrangements to waive

subscriptions and other costs for those who cannot afford to pay. Nationally, there are funds available for uniform and activities so that young people are not excluded from activities if they are unable to pay. Any private benefits of Scouting are incidental. The benefits of Scouting are further demonstrated throughout this report.

Selection of Trustees

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with *The Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association*.

Management of the group

The Group is managed by the *Group Executive Committee*, the members of which are 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 three independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders and parents representatives. It meets every

3 months.

This 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 administration of Group finances
- 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.

Group history

12th Gateshead Scout Group (Whickham Lions) was formed in 1979, under Graham and Sue Wood, from Whickham. The group was set up for the south side of Whickham, namely Clover Hill and the Grange Estate, and was based in a

primary school. After this, Jim Jamerson became group scout leader. It was so successful, that the group had two cub packs running at the same time. Some time later, when George McLeod was group scout leader, his wife, Mary moved one of the cub packs to Dockendale Hall, very close to the Front Street. We then lost Clover Hill primary school as a venue for the group, because they wanted to run Karate at the same time as our cubs and scouts, so we moved the whole operation to Dockendale. At this time the group was ran by Graham Scott. More recently, we were given the opportunity to run our group in St. Mary's church hall here in Church Chaire, and that's where we've been ever since!



2 Important remarks relevant to all sections

The scout group as a whole is always trying to improve. Whether that be in communications, IT, changes to policy or the purchase of new equipment, each and every decision made at a group level is made ultimately to benefit the group's young people.

What's new?

We have recently overhauled the way we communicate with the group's parents. As always, we shall use Facebook to keep in touch, especially to make announcements that are important. But we have recently been developing a website. The website's address is 12thgatesheadscouts.org and features updates on what each section is doing.

To catch up with, for example scouts, you would simply visit the website, click scouts, and then the latest updates appear on the page. You can read more and see some photos by clicking onto the link and reading the blog post.

We also have overhauled the way we store information about young people. We are now using OSM (the Online Scout Manager) more effectively, as we now use features which we were previously unfamiliar with.

When a new child joins the group, we give them contact information sheets which are completed by the parents / guardians. This is then inputted onto OSM by the section leader. This system is great, because it stores all the information that we need about

the children in one place.

This leads us nicely onto the next point about communications. When a new person joins the group, they now get a welcome pack which includes all of the useful information about the group, as well as forms which parents need to complete for permission to use photographs and a generic permission to leave the meeting place under leader supervision. This information is also collated on OSM and can tell us instantly if we can, for example place photos of children onto the website, or if we can take them out of the hut on a Friday evening session.



The GSL and AGSL

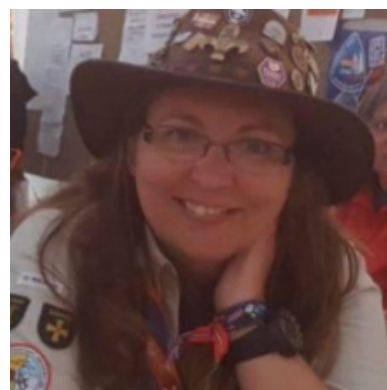
Every scout group in England has to have a person responsible for the group, and a deputy

- we call these people the 'Group Scout Leader (GSL)' and the 'Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL)'. These people are responsible for the general running of the group, long-term decisions and are the people who the section and assistant section leaders report to if anything goes wrong, or if a big decision needs to be approved for example.

The GSL and AGSL are currently Alan Scott (GSL) and Susan Reece (AGSL).



Alan Scott



Susan Reece**GSL remarks**

I would like to start my report by saying that I'm extremely pleased with the current state of the group, as we have a very healthy group with in excess of sixty young people attending on a regular basis each Friday.

I am also confident in saying that this level of success is very much down to the Leaders we now have, you will remember from the last year's AGM event when our District commissioner invested our four new leaders, it was great to see the future of the group take its first steps forward at that point, I can assure you that the development of their skills and knowledge did not stop there. Apart from their burning enthusiasm for scouting and their raw talent in engaging young people they have worked extremely hard to complete their leader training modules to become fully qualified leaders.

Thanks to the local ward Councillors we were able to secure a grant that allowed us to take our new leaders away on an intensive training weekend where they worked hard to complete their modules and create a training portfolio. The weekend also allowed us the time at the residential

experience to gel as a strong leadership team.

So I pass on my sincere and huge thanks to Jack, Matthew, Luke and Lewis. Although Calum Abbott and Janice Scott were unable to attend the weekend, they remain an integral part of the leadership team who also deserve thanks and recognition for the skills they bring to 12th Gateshead.

I also feel I must thank Susan Reece who is now our Assistant Group Scout Leader and has brought her considerable skill to the group improving the group administration and being a thoroughly good organiser, and I thank her for the support she has given me and the others over the past year. As we move forward into 2024/ 25 I am confident we will continue to go from strength to strength.

You can follow the group through our Website <http://12thGatesheadScouts.org> or by signing up to the group Facebook Page for Parents and Carers.

From a national scouting viewpoint we are heading into a new era after the biggest shake up since the review in 1967 when Wolf cubs became cub scouts. This means not only change to practice but name changes to the roles we carry

out in Scouting, The rationale behind these changes are designed to encourage Volunteers into scouting and once a part of the movement to give a clearer understanding of what their own role is.

Important changes

The scouting association have recently came up with new titles for leadership positions at scouts.

New Titles:

District Commissioner - Lead Volunteer Gateshead District

Group Scout Leader - Team Leader 12th Gateshead Group

Assistant Group Scout Leader - Group Leadership team leader

Section Leaders - team leader Explorer Scouts/ Scouts /Cub Scouts /Beaver Scouts

The other main change within the management of the Group is with the Executive committee which is made up of parent representation and the leadership team will now transform into a Trustee Board with Board members made up of Parents taking on the responsibility of a Charity Trustee. So I'm fully enthused by the energy and enthusiasm with in the group as we move forward into 2025 and beyond.

3 Beavers

Welcome to Beavers! This is your first chance to join the worldwide family of Scouting with 12th Gateshead, and we are really pleased you're here. Our programme is designed to help every Beaver achieve the Chief Scouts Bronze Award, and we do this by running activities that help developing skills, learning to care about ourselves, each other and our surroundings, all while having fun with our friends.

3.1 Achievements and Performance

Get a taste of what we do at beavers

You can get a taste of what we get up to in our section, by visiting our website, 12thgatesheadscouts.org and then clicking on beavers.



The numbers

There are currently 16 beaver scouts in attendance at our group.

The last six months

Over the last 6 months, we have taken part in a range of activities both within the group and the wider Gateshead District. We had a very successful evening at the Beaver Sports day in June, and everyone

enjoyed the cheerleading and junk modelling events that were arranged by District earlier this year. We also went bowling at Christmas with the rest of the group, which was a really enjoyable evening.

Within our own group, we have completed the bookreaders badge, and the My Faith badge. For My Faith badge, we visited St Mary's Church where Father Barry kindly showed us around and talked to us about the history of St Mary's. This was one of his last acts as Parish Priest, and we are very grateful that he took the time to help us achieve our badges.

Camp at Dilston in September was well attended. For the first time, we invited the new Beavers who had only just started to come and join us for the day only on Saturday so they could get a taste of what camp is like. This was really well received, and will be a definite part of our plans going forward.

We were also absolutely delighted to see such an amazing turn out of the Beavers at

the Remembrance Day parade. This is such an important date in our calendar, and we can't thank you enough for the support shown.



The next six months

The next year is going to bring exciting times for the Beavers. As well as our usual weekly meetings, we have Sports Day coming up, and another chance to join in with the group camp at Dilston. Sadly, we are unable to be there overnight this year as we do not have access to the accommodation, but we are planning a special beaver sleepover so the children will get the opportunity to have a night away from home.

Special mentions

A big shout out must go to Alessio, who joined us at the bag pack just before Christmas. His wonderful smile, santa hat and winning performance of "Ho ho ho, merry christmas"

to practically every single customer who walked past him definitely helped to add a good few pounds to the total!

Beaver of the year

Spencer Cooper. Spencer has

been an outstanding member of the troop this year. He is one of the quieter beavers, but always has a smile on his face and has thrown himself into practically every activity with enthusiasm and joy.

3.2 Adult leaders

Beaver leadership team

The leadership team for Beavers is currently Susan Reece as the section leader and Calum Abbott as the assistant section leader.



Susan Reece



Calum Abbott

Section leader remarks

Over the last six months, our Beaver numbers have stayed

strong and we are currently at 16. We have a very healthy waiting list in place as well, so are confident that as the young people progress throughout the sections, we have many more waiting in the wings to come and join us and see what Scouting is all about.

As always, this is a team effort. Calum Abbott is the most supportive assistant leader going, and has such a special rapport with the kids. Lewis in Cubs is always on hand to help out, and this is so important for the Beavers who get to know the Cub leader in advance of moving up. Luke, Matthew and Jack give so much time not only to their own section, but also to the others as well and carry a lot of the load both physically and mentally for me personally. Matthew and Jack were both Cubs in my old pack, and although it has been very strange to make that transition from leader / young person to friends, I am overwhelmed with pride at just how much they (and Luke and Lewis) have grown into their roles.

Alan as GSL and as a friend is

one of the most decent people I have ever been fortunate to work with, and I can't say a big enough thank you to him for everything he has done in what has been a challenging year for me personally.

Last but not least are the kids themselves, and the parents. The enthusiasm shown is off the scale, and although it can sometimes be on the loud side... I never fail to be amazed by the confidence, ingenuity and downright joy the Beavers seem to get out of life. I've been involved in Scouting and Guiding since the age of 7, and can honestly say this is one of the most exciting and satisfying times I have had.



4 Cubs

A very warm welcome to our cub pack! 12th Gateshead cubs meet every Friday night during term time and work towards different activity badges, enjoy the outdoors and play games. We encourage cubs to work together to complete fun activities, which are both satisfying and build key life skills such as independence, determination and team work. Whilst at cubs, you can expect that your child will enjoy the exciting activities that we do, whether that be learning basic first aid, learning how to tie knots, learning about the local area, playing dodgeball or constructing camp fires.

4.1 Achievements and Performance

Get a taste of what we do at cubs

You can get a taste of what we get up to in our section, by visiting our website, 12thgatesheadscouts.org and then clicking on cubs.



The numbers

We currently have 15 cubs and two adult leaders.

The last six months

In the last six months the cubs have been working on multiple badges, have completed some fun activities, and have attended our as always action packed winter activity camp at Hawkhurst (Kielder).

The following badges have been achieved: Athletics, Emergency Aid level three and the Chef badge. The young people competed in team games at Chase Park in order to earn their athletics badges, with individual challenges such as a 'blind walk' (where they had to follow a rope through an obstacle course whilst blindfolded) and jumping as far and as high as they could in the hall.

In order to be awarded their emergency aid badges, they listened to a presentation about DRAHB, the sequence of things to do when coming across someone who is injured, practised how to treat choking, practised how to treat hypothermia and hyperthermia. They played a game of bingo where they had to match the definition of each medical emergency to the jargon, learnt how to treat bleeds and learnt how to call and what to say to the emergency services using 999.

For the chef badge, the cubs learnt about basic food hygiene, different utensils in the kitchen, and cooked a spaghetti bolog-

nese.

We have done some work on wellbeing and keeping our minds and bodies healthy and positive, and looked at anti-bullying strategies and what we can do if we see someone else being bullied.

Art has played a big part in the programme with the decorating of wooden ornaments for christmas and pebbles for remembrance day.

Along with the Beavers we took part in some spooky activities for Halloween, and went bowling at the end of term as a Christmas treat. The cubs also went on a night hike around the local area.

I'm sure the children who went to Kielder camp really enjoyed the activities too. This is the camp which I and I think most of the other young people and leaders look forward to the most, as the young people are busy all day, doing the climbing, or abseiling, the zip-wire, crate stacking, night-hiking or sitting around the

campfire singing songs.



The next six months

Over the next half a year or so, we have a jam-packed programme planned in terms of badge work, fun activities and of course more camps.

We're going to work on the fire safety badge and the backwoods cooking badge simultaneously. We'll start with a session on theory about how fires can be prevented and which fire extinguishers should be used on what.

We are hoping to be able to arrange a visit to the fire station in Swalwell and see what it's like to be a fire-fighter.

We'll head down to Whickham Thorns to set some fires with flint and steels, some sticks and pieces of wood and practice putting the fires out. Then,

we'll move on to the backwoods cooking part, which involves cooking potatoes in the fire, heating banana and chocolate and of course, marshmallows.

Next up will be maps and compasses, where the young people will learn how to read an Ordnance Survey map and a compass, take a simple bearing and will have to follow a route (supervised by the leaders) around Whickham. This will ultimately earn the young people their navigator stage two badge.

We will always play games and do other fun activities with the cubs after the theory has been completed in sessions which take place in the hall, or sometimes we'll dedicate the whole session to an activity which is purely fun and does not have anything to do with the badge programme. These will be sprinkled through the year as time goes on. Now the weather is starting to get a little better, we've allowed the cubs to go to the park and have given them free time to have a run about and let off some steam.

We'll be taking part in our all section camp, with the beavers, scouts and explorers in the summer.

Special mentions

Many thanks to Massimo for

laying the wreath at remembrance parade, and a great deal of thanks to Charlie (from scouts) who is going to run two sessions on communications in the forthcoming weeks.

Many thanks to Luke who planned Hawkthirst this year, and of course a great deal of thanks to the Group Scout Leader, Alan Scott who as always puts in a lot of effort to keep the scout group going. Thank you also to Susan, who works very hard behind the scenes completing administration work.

Finally, I'd like to say a great big thank you to the parents, who drop their kids off every week and then pick them up again, drive them all over the place so that they can take part in the many activities that we do, read and sign all of the letters and pieces of paper that we give out, and continue to invest their time and their children's time in the scouting project.

Cub of the year

This year's cub of the year is George Alder.

We have decided to award this to George because we think he is a shining example of what a cub-scout should be, considerate, passionate, hard-working and he gets on with everybody.

4.2 Adult leaders

Cubs leadership team

The leadership team for Cubs is currently Lewis Hunter as the section leader and Janice Scott as the assistant section leader.



Lewis Hunter



Janice Scott

Section leader remarks

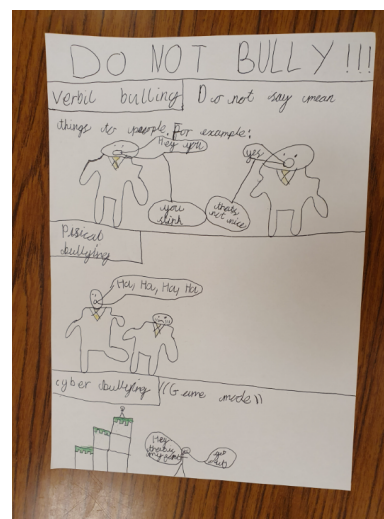
It has been a pleasure working with these young people over the few years that I've been part of the group. They really are a very special group of youngsters. I know I say this every year, but this group truly is amazing. The sense of community it has with it is fantastic, the support we get from the community and the parents is terrific, the leadership team is such a friendly bunch, working with Janice has been such a pleasure, and I believe that we are coming on leaps and bounds as a group.

It made me smile when we had a few more cubs join the group at the end of last year and when the new cubs came up and joined our group from beavers. All of the new kids seemed to have settled in very nicely, and they always try their very best in everything that they do.

I've been writing a programme over the last 8 months and have tried to plan for the next two years. But what I would

really love to do is to get the children's and parents input and suggestions for things to do as well. Remember, if you do think of anything that you want us to try, or if you have any comments that you would like to make, please try and catch me at the end of the night or before/after an activity as I always try and stand close to the door.

Lets hope the next year continues to go well and I hope that the young people have, and will continue to enjoy being a cub at our group.





5 Scouts

Scouts was set up in 1907 by Baden-Powell and encouraged youngsters to participate in team-oriented activities in patrols, under the supervision of a patrol leader. After two world wars and over 100 years on, the world is a very different place, but traditional scouting values and skills remain very valuable. At 12th, the scouts take part in activities every week, some of which count towards activity badges, and some of which count towards challenge badges – but others are designed purely for fun or to get our creative juices flowing. Most of the activities will take place in the hut, at Church Chare, but sometimes we will venture out and take part in district and county events elsewhere.

5.1 Achievements and Performance

Get a taste of what we do at scouts

You can get a taste of what we get up to in our section, by visiting our website, 12thgatesheadscouts.org and then clicking on scouts.



The numbers

We currently have 25 young people attending, and two adult leaders.

The last six months

The last six months have been filled with fun and exciting

badges and activities, this has included our annual Hawkhirst winter camp, our climbing trip to Whickham Thorns and a lot of new badges for the Scouts.

One of the badges that the young people have completed is the climbing badge, for this badge the Scouts needed to demonstrate their knowledge of climbing and how to do it in a safe way.

We had a guest in one of the Sessions to teach the young people how to properly put on a harness and how to do the proper knots to ensure that everyone is always safe. The Scouts also had to demonstrate their climbing skills, and they have had two opportunities to show their skills, one at Hawkhirst and the other at Whickham Thorns. I was very proud to see the Scouts working as a team by successfully belaying each other up the climbing wall. I was extremely impressed with the resilience of some of the young people and it was great to see some overcome

their fear of heights and even get to the top of the climbing wall.

In the last six months we have also begun to work on the international badge, this badge involves making contact with various scout groups around the world. The young people have written down what they want to find out about other countries and they have devised a series of questions that they wish to ask them.

Currently we are still attempting to make contact with international scout groups but I am confident that we will connect with other groups soon which will allow us to run fun activities which we hope will give the young people a greater understanding of the world.

The young people have also worked hard on achieving the craft badge. For this badge they needed to build a bridge which would sustain weight. I was very impressed by the bridges that included engi-

neering techniques and these bridges were the ones that did the best, leading them to win the prize.

Our Hawkthirst camp was filled with adventure and fun. We did a wide range of activities including: zip wire, abseiling, low ropes, hiking, climbing and crate stacking. The scouts showed a lot of teamwork, communication and leadership skills. It was really nice to see the troop working in cohesion. The staff at Hawkthirst commented on how well behaved the young people were on the weekend.



The next six months

The next six months will see the Scouts continue to focus on exciting badges that will give the young people new experiences.

The Scouts will be working on the photographers badge where they will be creating their own short films to showcase scout values, after this we will

begin to focus on summer camp and work on the chef badge to prepare the Scouts for the challenge of cooking at Dilston camp.

Also on camp the Scouts will be working on the outdoor challenge badge which will help them achieve the Chief Scouts Gold Award.

We are also aiming to do more external activities like the Whickham Thorns climbing night more often as the Scouts seemed to really enjoy that.

Special mentions

There are no special mentions this year.

Scout of the year

This year's Scout of the year award goes to Ewan Norman for his dedication and compassion in all aspects of scouting, especially when helping with Cubs weekly for his Duke of Edinburgh award.

5.2 Adult leaders

Scouts leadership team

The leadership team for scouts is currently Matthew Corder as the section leader and Luke Abbott as the assistant section leader.



Matthew Corder



Luke Abbott

Section leader remarks

As always myself and Matthew couldn't do any of this without the support of the other leaders from different sections. They have all contributed to the program that the young people enjoy in some way or another. They all help to keep the Scouts engaged in activities and offer their expertises at every opportunity.

We also want to thank you, the parents, for your continued support throughout the year, from dropping off and collecting your kids every Friday to showing your support through fundraising events such as bag packs.

In addition, the troop is filled with amazing and varied personalities who contribute so much to our amazing troop. The young people's enthusiasm is shown by how much energy

and effort they put into everything they do within scouts. It is a pleasure to be able to work with so many incredible young people who are truly amazing and full of character, they are a credit to you all.



6 Explorers

Once scouts reach 14 they become explorer scouts. Being the oldest section, the young people take part in more adventurous outdoor activities, have more responsibility and do more activities at a district level.

6.1 Achievements and Performance

Get a taste of what we do at explorers

As explorers is run at the district level, you should check the Gateshead District website for updates.



The numbers

There are 9 young people and 2 adult leaders.

The last six months

The last 6 months we have been working towards completing a couple badges, as well as doing some fun activities and going to our annual camp at Hawkhirst in Kielder.

Starting with badgework, the young people started the Chef badge on the 2nd week back from Christmas and completed

it mid February.

The Chef badge contains extensive work in the Kitchen, which includes creating 3 different large cakes, a quiche, 12 iced cupcakes, 12 biscuits, 12 scones, 12 flatbreads and a loaf of bread.

The original plan was then to work towards the Global Issues badge throughout March, but other things cropped up which other sections asked us to do, which we believed would benefit the young people more and would also be more enjoyable for them.

For the Cub section, the young people spent a week building a stand by cutting wood using a hand saw and then an electric drill to screw all of the wooden pieces together. They then spent another week sanding and painting the stand in the Cub colours. This stand is now used in the Cub section so that they can present good work and notices for the section.

For the Scout section, the young people spent a week developing a plan to run the Electronics badge for them. This badge includes using a

soldering iron to construct 3 simple circuits, and then using a multimeter to measure the Voltage, Current and Resistance in the circuits.

A risk assessment is needed for the Scouts when completing these tasks, and so the young people discussed and explored a number of risks that could potentially occur when running this badge for the scouts.

A presentation is also needed for the Electronics badge, to discuss electronic components, symbols that represent electronic components, the uses and benefits of electronics, and a number of other things; so the young people also spent time working together to create a presentation for the scout section.

The young people also enjoyed a weekend away at Hawkhirst Scout Camp, where they indulged in a number of activities, which includes; Ziplining, Climbing, Hiking, Abseiling and Crate Stacking. During this camp, they also learned essential teamwork skills which will come in handy for the next 6 months or so.



The next six months

In the next 6 months, there is an enjoyable program which includes badgework, exciting activities, running badges for the Scouts, and of course, a camp.

Starting with the badgework, the plan over the next 6 months is to run several badges. These include; the International badge, the Navigator Badge (Stage 4), and the Paddle Sports Badge (Stage 2).

The International Activity Badge includes exploring other countries traditions and culture around food and dining, organising an activity for a younger section exploring another country's festival, exploring another country's culture such as greetings, religion and approach to gender, and showcase a form of art or culture from another country.

The Navigator Badge (Stage 4) includes learning how to read a six figure grid reference,

walking on a bearing, estimating your current position using a compass, interpreting contour lines and learning what a Valley, Ridge, Spur and Col looks like on a map. This badge also includes learning how to dress appropriately for a walk and what kit you and your group will need. During the next camp, the young people will be camping separately and will be walking two 5km hikes, one route's start and end point defined by the leaders and the other by themselves.

The Paddle Sports Badge (Stage 2) includes learning how to lift, carry and launch a boat, paddle forward in a straight line, steer around a course, stop the boat safely, exit the boat onto the shore safely and also capsize, swim to the shore and empty the boat of water. This will hopefully be achieved by organising a couple trips to a kayaking/canoeing centre, where they can learn the above. This Badge also needs the Explorers to gain the British Canoeing Paddle Discover Award on their own accord.

A few nights have been allocated for the young people to plan a sessions themselves, and allow them to express their views on what they want to do. We understand a number of them have expressed their views on wanting to go climbing and also trampolining, so that may be included in our plans going forward.

Of course, using the plan designed in the previous 6 months, the young people will be running the Electronics badge for the Scouts in the near future. This should develop their leadership and teamwork skills. While not only providing a badge for the Scouts, this will also complete a chunk of the explorers Leadership Badge, which the young people may want to focus on in the future.

The young people will also be participating in games with the Scouts in the big hall, once all necessary badgework has been done for the evening, providing we are at the church hall. As said previously, some nights will be dedicated to their own ideas, and so if they would like to go to the park or dedicate whole nights to playing games, that may be something we can do.

We shall be taking part in the group camp at Dilston, although we shall be running our own programme which encompasses part of the Navigator badge described above. During the camp, the young people will also have time to enjoy themselves by playing games, and having a campfire.

Special mentions

I would like to give a special mention to James Gray for his incredible work at organising all the sections and showing remarkable leadership during the camp at Hawkhurst.

I would also like to give

a special mention to Luke, who planned Hawkfirst camp this year, and of course a special mention to our GSL, Alan Scott, and AGSL, Susan Reece, for their fantastic work throughout the year and, as always, their immense amount of work in keeping this scout group running.

Finally, I would like to say a great thank you to the parents for their unwavering support of our scout group, dropping their children off every week and also driving their kids to and from activities beyond the church hall, as well as continuing to invest their time and their children's time in scouting, it

does not go unnoticed.

Explorer of the year

This year, the Explorer of the Year award goes to James Gray. We think James is a fabulous example of remarkable leadership, courage and consideration for others, while also being incredibly dedicated to the scouting project.

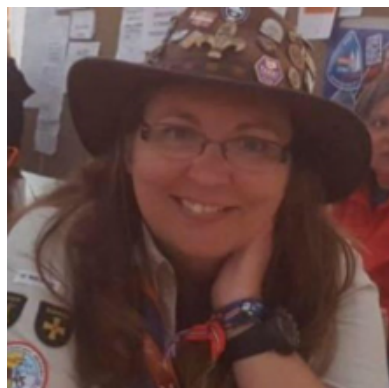
6.2 Adult leaders

Explorers leadership team

The leadership team for explorers is currently Jack Coleman as the section leader and Susan Reece as the assistant section leader.



Jack Coleman



Susan Reece

Section leader remarks

It has been an absolute honour working with these young people during the past 5 months I have been running this section. They have been absolutely outstanding in their support, as well as providing me with some great knowledge on how to better my programme.

I admire the respect that the Young People have shown me and the leadership team, while also showing us new ways to allow them to express and enjoy themselves. Our leadership team is a really friendly bunch and I believe, as a group, we are progressing really well with our spectacular young people. Prior to me taking on this role, Explorers were often bound to the Scout section and almost always did the same activities as them. Although this was enjoyable, I felt it necessary to allow the older young people their own space to grow and develop with people more their own age. This is why I took on this role and I am dedicated to providing an extensive program which will

allow them to explore these opportunities.

I've been writing this programme for the last few months, but I would find it beneficial to get the Young People and parents input on it, and any suggestions for the year ahead. I will always be available at the end of the night for any comments, discussions or advice.

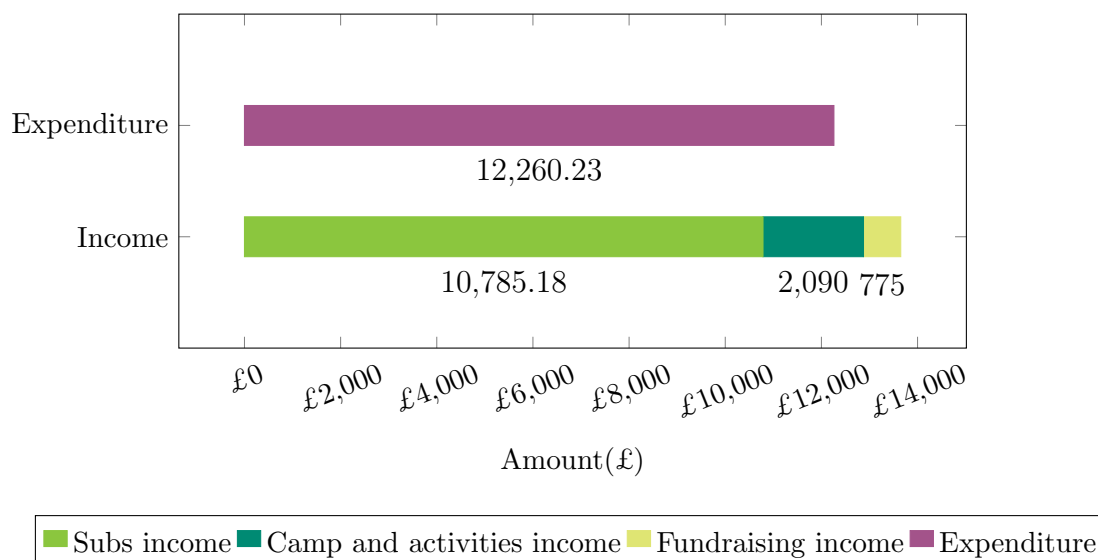
I hope the next year goes as well as the last 6 months and that the Young People will continue to enjoy being in our Explorer unit.





7 Financial review

The group is always trying to find new ways to raise money through fund raisers, although most of our money comes from subs.



This diagram provides a summary of the Group's finances including income from subs, income from fundraising and expenditure.

7.1 Income and expenditure account for last year

Income Amount (£)

Membership subscriptions	10785.18
Camp & activity fees	2090.00
Fundraising (bag pack etc)	775.00

Expenditure Amount (£)

Programme Running	1306.65
Camp Fees & Food	5738.67
Capitation Fees	1810.50
Hall Rent	1005.00
Other (incl. tuck shop, badges and activities)	2399.41

This means that the total income is: £13650.18

The total expenditure is: £12260.23

7.2 Bank accounts

The group has one bank account which is managed by Ken Murray, the treasurer. At the moment the group fund stands at: £1389.95

8 Notice of approval

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Name Mr Alan Scott
Position Group Scout Leader



Signature
Date April 28, 2024

Mr Ken Murray
Treasurer



Signature
Date April 28, 2024

