

2nd Lexden Scout Group AGM

Reports

GSL Report

I am pleased to report the group goes from strength to strength both in terms of young people participating and the adult volunteers that enable the programme to go ahead.

We have welcomed new leaders in all sections this year and we welcome their support in addition to the team already in place.

Whilst we have a strong team, we are always looking for more volunteers, be it in the running of the sections or on our Executive committee which governs the running of the group.

We say good bye this year to two long standing members of the Exec committee. Iain Logan was a former Chair of the Exec and since standing down from this position has been assisting as a quartermaster and helping Richard who is our current chair. Trevor Gilby has been the treasurer for many years and has always supported the group. Both of these members joined when their children were members of the group and have remained for many years since.....your long service is very much appreciated and we hope that we still see you occasionally in the future.

In the following reports, you will see that the sections have been busy with many activities over the year. We remain an active group with a commitment to providing a balanced programme of activities and allowing our young people to grow and develop.

This year we need to again focus on our fund-raising activities. Whilst the balance sheet is now healthier than it has been, we will soon need to spend money on replacing more kit to ensure our programme remains complete. We appreciate Parents and Carers assistance and participation in these activities and enabling the young people to do the same.

As with previous years our partnership with the church has developed. We have taken part in Church Parades, taking an active role in some. It is with sadness that we have said goodbye to Theresa, who has always been supportive of the uniformed groups. We had again a youth worker from the church assisting us. Bori will be much missed by many of the members.

As we start our new Scouting year, we have much to look forward to. A strong Team, a new District Commissioner and a membership of young people who are always ready for fun and learning, which after all is the point of scouting.

Yours in Scouting

Ian Butler

GSL

Beaver Section Report

We are running at capacity with 24 beavers – and it is good to see that we currently have 5 girls who will hopefully progress through the Sections at 2nd Lexden. Last term we saw 3 moving up to Cubs and at Christmas we will be losing 6 hopefully all moving up to Cubs, but we still have a healthy waiting list.

The Beavers have had many visits out over the past year and have continued to learn new skills. Summer 2016 finished with a visit to the Fire Station, and the Beavers also learnt out to play Footgolf and had free rein at a Drama Workshop. Seven survived a Night At The Museum District Sleepover at Chelmsford Museum and half the colony attended a District Easter Craft Afternoon.

Once again, the Beaver's supplied tea and cake at our Badge Presentation Evening which they thoroughly enjoyed preparing for.

Our Scout/Beaver Camp at Thorrington was a great success with the rain holding off. We had 17 Beavers attending with 16 Scouts and I think they got little bit of sleep, not sure the Leaders did. This was the first time we had the Beaver Scouts under canvas which we think was a great success – hopefully the Beavers did too.

Our Young Leader has now turned 18 and has returned as a Section Assistant which will also help him in attaining his Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

We also welcome a new Explorer Scout who will be joining the section to work towards his Young Leader Badge.

We have lots more planned for the rest of the Year and a big thank you to all my leaders/parent helpers and the children themselves who make each meeting balanced and fun – thanks for your continued support.

Lastly, we must not forget our Church Youth Workers who help each year. This year we had Bori from Hungary who has now gone back to University and we will be welcoming Luisa from Germany.

Cub Section Report

The cubs are running at 30 -35 cubs in the pack with about 6 girls, a leader team of 5 leaders and our young leaders two of whom have now taken on adult roles having turned 18 years, we are always keen to have a parent take up an appointment and join us as a leader at cubs.

Over the last year the cubs have enjoyed many different activities; last year we had a joint Sailing/Sleepover weekend in September at 17th Colchester Sea Scouts Mersea HQ with 30 cubs attending, followed by a joint Cub Camp at Thorrington in October with 32 cubs attending for a weekend of fun, Backwoods Cooking, Pioneering, shelter building, and loads more.

This year the cubs have enjoyed another joint Sailing/Sleepover weekend at Mersea with 30 cubs attending. In June the cubs had the opportunity to try canoeing with two Canoeing evenings at Colchester Canoe Club. At the request of the cubs for a second opportunity to go sailing the leader team booked a sailing session for the cubs for a Sailing Day/Hike with a hike from the 17th Colchester HQ to the beach huts along the beach at the beginning of September. We have a camp booked for the cubs at Thorrington at the end of October in the Hayvern building, where we plan to do many scouting skills with them including a large Pioneering building project, fire lighting, cooking on fires and other activities to complete their Outdoors, Our Adventure and Teamwork Challenge badges.

The cubs have taken part in all the District Cub events that have taken place over the past year, the huge Promise Party at the end of last year's celebration for the Cubs Centenary, the Mayor's Castle Sleepover, and Cubs at Colchester United Day in March, and Cubs Nature Day at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve in June.

Over the past year the cubs have been busy working on many badges including their Challenge badges which once all 7 challenge badges have been gained a cub will be awarded their Chief Scout Silver Award which is the highest award a cub can earn. Seven of our older cubs have been awarded their Chief Scout Silver Award this year, with several other cubs very close to gaining theirs.

I would like to thank my leader team and my young leaders for giving their time and all their hard work because without whom the pack would not be able to run. Thank you to all the parents for bringing their cubs along each week and to all those who give their time to help as a Parent Helper on the termly "Parent Rota", and to all the cubs for taking part in everything we do, giving us the ideas of things they want to do and for making Cubs such great fun for everyone; cubs, parents, young leaders and the leaders.

Scout Section Report

We currently have 22 Scouts, our soon to be newest member having seen the Scouts in action at the Church Fete, where we ran a survival bracelet making stand.

We have a very strong leadership team including Ian, Chris, Richard and I. We benefited hugely from having Bori the Church Youth worker also help out at Scout meetings and we are looking forward to meeting the new Youth worker.

The Scouts enjoyed a fun camp at Thorrington with the Beavers. Where they took part in backwoods cooking, abseiling, climbing, the 3D maze and air rifle shooting.

We have also been swimming, completed badges like the geocaching badge, DIY badge and my faith badge as well as themed evenings such as 'Scouts have talent' and the 'great British bake off'.

We have also taken part in several other cooking evening run by our resident Chef Ian. We designed, built and programmed our own robot it to draw geometric shapes, as well as designing web pages and learning about online safety.

I am looking forward to another year of Scouting at Second Lexden.

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