

1st St Leonards Forest Scout Group

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS

It has been a very unusual year, but as always the leader teams have delivered yet another year of excellent programmes, which have been Scouting at its best, educational and more importantly fun for all their members. Since April it has been even more challenging for the leaders having to come up with interesting evenings which could be done virtually due lockdown, so a massive thank you to them on your behalf for keeping your children wonderfully entertained.

Also a big thank you to Robert our Group Chairperson and his brilliant Executive Committee for all the hard work they do in the background keeping this group running so well.

Although this year hasn't been without its problems, with the attacks on the minibus brakes, which caused me along with a number of other leaders a few sleepless nights until we found the culprits were young foxes. We have put in measures to stop these attacks and you can be assured that the minibus is checked before every journey to insure it's safe to drive.

As in previous years I'm going to make my usual offer to you, giving you the opportunity to get involved, as parents you are all members of 1st St Leonards Forest Scout Group of which you should be proud, so if you could spare a little time to help out either on section evening or as parent representatives on the Executive Committee, please contact me or your section leader; you will be warmly welcomed.

I don't usually like to single out any one leader as they are all fantastic, but this year one of them has inspirationally coordinated the fund raising, purchase and building of the indoor cave system at the campsite. Martin, thank you and a huge appreciation from everyone in the Group, the District and from all the 1000's of budding young caver's in the future for your contagious enthusiasm to get this project completed. Well done.

Graham Clayton (Group Scout Leader)

CHAIRPERSONS

Well, this certainly wasn't the way I imagined addressing my first AGM as Chair. Who could have predicted the experiences of the past few months, however I would personally like to thank you all for the support you have shown to the Group over the course of the past year and especially the last couple of months. The impact on all our lives has been at times overwhelming. The things we have for so long taken for granted, like meeting up with friends, hugging family members, going to work and even just getting together as a group have been temporarily put on hold.

I feel especially proud of the way our young members have dealt with the situation, it must be incredibly difficult to understand when the world changes so immediately, yet they have been so compliant with the rules and changes to everyday life and made us all very proud.

Technology now plays an increasing role in all our lives and it's been amazing to see that the sections have embraced all of its forms to allow the children to still get together and have fun remotely.

With new guidance and information slowly changing, I hope we can all look forward to a return to normal scouting behaviour in the near future, but only when it is safe to do so.

Obviously Scouting is a year-round activity, so there have been opportunities pre-Coronavirus for some social interaction, if you can cast your mind back as far as October last year, the group held an Italian themed quiz night. As previously announced, it was an overwhelming success and we managed to raise a total of £1600, however, more than just the fundraising (which always helps) it was fantastic to see so many of you attend, get involved and have fun. We certainly want to organise something special for when we can safely convene again.

Funding has become a topic of many conversations within the Exec over the past few months and through the hard work of many of the team members we have managed to secure some Government funding to assist with the day to day running costs of the Scout Hut. This has helped enormously as some of the groups normal revenue income from Amber Pre-School and the Yoga group has reduced.

It makes me very proud to be part of such a caring and inclusive group and I look forward to the return of normal Scouting and seeing what the rest of 2020 brings.

Robert Marshall (Group Chairperson)

BEAVERS

WILLOW COLONY

Willow Beaver colony has been very busy over the last 12 months. We have welcomed many new beavers and said goodbye to others who have gone up to Cubs. We have 6 leaders and 2 young leaders.

We currently have 22 beavers, 7 of which are girls. The maximum we have as a colony is 24, so we will continue to take children from the groups waiting list.

Our beavers have been able to experience many exciting and new activities. We had a visit from Owls about Town, this was an amazing experience for the Beavers as they got to hold the owls and learn all about them. We visited Horsham Fire Station, this had to be the highlight of our year. Learning about the fire engines and being able to play with the hoses – until they got called out on an emergency and we got to see them leave with lights and sirens!

We did some community work litter picking in Horsham Park, visited Clip and Climb and the Cermaic Shack in the town. We made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, learnt all about Chinese New Year and had a drumming lesson from a local samba band.

This has all been accompanied by lots of craft evenings, knots and scouting skills.

Looking at the achievements the beavers have made over the year is amazing and this is recognised by the number of badges that we have given out. This has included:

25 x Challenge badges

130 x Activity badges and staged Activity badges

We have been joining in with some Zoom meetings since the Lock down in March, this has involved scavenger hunts and quiz's, we plan to carry on with these every other week for the time being. Gemma (Ratty)

BEAVERS

AKERWOOD COLONY

Akerwood currently has 22 beavers, 3 adult leaders and 4 young leaders. One adult leader left us during the year, we gained 2 young leaders and one of our existing young leaders became an adult.

Until lockdown we had good attendance with a full compliment most Thursday evenings. During 2019 we had a nights away trip to the campsite where the beavers enjoyed camp crafts, den building and an adventure course constructed in the forest. We also had a treasure hunt in the woods as well as a glow stick in the dark trail adventure. The beavers all thoroughly enjoyed the 1st SLF paddling day with one beaver then also coming to the Powell white water trip to the Nene Valley artificial course. In preparation for Cub camps the beavers learnt how to pitch a simple tent as well as assemble a campfire and basic map reading. 1st aid was also covered over a couple of evenings with the beavers learning how to make an arm sling as well as bandage their arms and heads. Archery and Nerf Gun alley shooting is also a beaver favourite with us running 2 sessions in the year.

For March awards ceremony we had 8 beavers eligible for their Bronze award.

After lock down we have been running Zoom virtual meetings with games, cooking, personal skill development, quizzes and challenges. We regularly have 12 beavers attending these virtual sessions.

CUBS

KIPLING PACK

Kipling has reduced slightly in numbers but have taken new cubs from the waiting list. We are currently sitting between 18-22 on a regular basis. We are currently at 22 cubs

20 boys and 2 girls

Since the cancellation of scouting in March (due to the COVID 19) we have adapted our running of cubs. This has been a huge challenge for most of us, but as usual we have stepped up and embraced it, coming out of our comfort zone. We have continued offering our Cubs a weekly evening. We have been running sessions through Facebook and Zoom. On average we have half of the cubs attending. They have completed Athletes, Games, and Cooking etc

The cubs were due to attend a camp In April with Willow and Baden but this was cancelled instead we offered a 2 night virtual camp, the cubs loved this, they was set challenges like a scavenger hunt, hike, cleaning and other chores. At the end of the camp a quiz.

On the leader front there is a change but as always we cannot run the pack without the dedicated team of volunteers. Stacey (Raksha), Ross (Rama) and Paul (Shere Khan) have remained, we said cheerio to Cara (Kaa) who decided to take some time off. We have welcomed two new section assistants Ellen (Keego) and Luke (Bagheera) and a young leader Nathan (Dizzy). A challenge we continue with is only having 2 warranted leaders and with Stacey working and Ross now in full time work. This will cause difficulties in running some evenings, but I will in advance try and source help.

As for badge work I have to commend both the cubs and their parents, carers and family who continue to support their cubs through the maze of badges.

Whilst as leaders we try to develop a strong programme that supports the badges we inevitably have to send some work home to finish. Through the support of parents we have we have managed to achieve between 01/06/2019 to 01/06/2020

- 7 Chief Scout Silver awards - the highest in award in cubs
- 64 challenge badges
- 55 activity badges
- 64 Staged activity badges
- We are due to award 75 badges

Over the next with the permission of the parents I will be offering a doorstep presentation of their completed badges

Kipling cubs had 2 camps arranged Spring Camp and District but looking forward we will aim to offer 3 camps in the next year.
Here's to the next year of cub scouts getting the most from Kipling

Kipling Cub Leaders

CUBS RUDYARD PACK

It's been a strong year for Rudyard as a pack demonstrated by having grown in numbers to 32 cubs. This year started with the cubs county camp which was in September when we were lucky to have some amazing weather for the weekend and had an amazing time. We went on from there to do some climbing, pioneering, ending with our annual Panto trip and an amazing talent show put on by the cubs for our parents at Christmas. At the start of 2020 we managed to get a few pieces of badge work completed before the lock down and have been online ever since. We are managing to still get through quite a bit of badgework looking at those that aren't hampered too much by not being in the same location. Communicator, Naturalist and Skills badges have been the focus through the summer term with the cubs responding really well to the change in approach to the extent that we've had a couple of cubs complete their Silver Chief Scout Award during the lockdown.

Mark Amarasekara

SCOUTS

POWELL TROOP

Powell Troop are currently working with 28 scouts with a healthy mix of 10 girls & 18 boys. Our programme for each year is designed with the goal of helping all our scouts reach their full Scouting potential and this last year continues to demonstrate just how much we can all achieve, with 3 Gold Chief Scouts Awards, another 5 nearly there and so many more with a range of Challenge Awards and activity badges proudly displayed on their uniforms!

This supports our view that the programme we plan with our Scouts around Scouting basics, what they suggest and what suits the seasons provide the outdoor and adventure skills necessary for a full and adventurous Scouting life and a range of other skills that should stay with our Scouts as they smooth their way into adulthood.

We have great Scouts making it a pleasure to give the energy and time to plan and run some fantastic and varied adventures including over this last year;

- A Summer Camp spent mainly in the River Wye (we mean in it!)
- Visit to the mines at Godstone
- Paddlesports at Southwater Lake
- WW Paddling trip to the Nene WW Centre in October, River Dart in Nov & River Usk in Feb; truly great adventures in challenging but fun waters
- Target sports evenings (we have some sharp shooters and archers)
- Hiking across our St Leonards Forest in the dark and in the mud!
- A winter's paddle at Southwater Lake in icy Feb (12 mad scouts attended, paddled and then jumped in the frozen waters!)
- Campsite activities including fire lighting, clearing woodland and wide games
- Themed cooking evenings including a Burns Night and a soup evening
- Pioneering, Navigation & Problem Solving activities

Our Summer Camp for 2019, the highlight of our Scouting calendar, was held on the banks of the River Wye in the Forest of Dean. A fantastic camp exploring the forest by foot and by cycle, exploring beneath the forest in coal mines, exploring the river by all means possible to keep cool, visiting the Castle that overlooked our camp base, cooking and Scouting basics.

With current restrictions in place we have had to be innovative, June seeing our eScouting 9 session. With the sense of fun and Scouting energy that the troop has plenty of we are collectively keeping Scouting alive! Actually, been really fun but more stressful than a proper evening!

To manage all this, we have a team of impressively active, adaptive and skilled leaders and helpers at Powell who as volunteers give and provide so much personally to see Scouts grow and develop so positively. If you are curious as to why we give and do so much, come and join 1SLF to experience how much fun it can be!

Don Moyse SL Powell Troop 1SLF

SCOUTS

BADEN TROOP

So... what a year we have had in Baden Scouts and who would of thought we would have finished the year holding the weekly meetings on Zoom, and coming live from the family home.

Currently in the troop we have 27 members, a mix of boys and girls, although Scouts is for 10-14 ½ year olds, the eldest is only 13 ½ at the time but over the year we will be back to the full age range. We have welcomed Karen Aylmore as a new leader to the troop; Thank you to the other leaders for all their support, however if there are any parents reading this who think I would like to help on a weekly basis or have a skill please do shout as I would also be grateful for more support – you can never have enough!

We have spent some nights camping and hiking together, teaching and enhancing the skills learnt in Cubs. Through the Summer nights we made Scout Law videos, undertook problem solving, Raft building and racing, Orienteering and finishing the term with an extremely loud but fun drumming night at the campsite from the Horsham Samba Band. The Autumn term brought a mix of new skills for some taking part in archery, shooting, cooking, street dancing, as well as other core scouting activities. As we started 2020, lots of plans and hopes were made to see us through to the summer term, we got to do some of these, but hopes of summer and weekend camps had to be put on hold during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

However, as we finish the year we have been 'zooming' around each week, taking part in scavenger hunts, quizzes, undertaken Personal Challenges and completing other badge work remotely. It has been a learning curve for us as leaders but the Scouts themselves have taken to it without challenge. During this face to face break, Scouts have individually taken part in online campfires, Camps at Home (world record bid), and supported the Walk to the Moon!

We look forward to getting back together face to face in due course, when allowed but we will continue to 'zoom' till then!

Despite these challenges we have still managed to award a number of badges this year.

0 x Chief Scout Awards – *sadly being a younger troop we haven't had enough time for the scouts to achieve this yet – watch this space!*

22 x Challenge Badges

102 x Activity and Staged Activity Badges

All that is left to say is a massive thanks to the Scouts and their parents too for supporting their children and us leaders.

Chris Jones – Scout Leader Baden Troop

EXPLORER SCOUTS PEGASUS UNIT

Like all areas of scouting, Pegasus has been no different in being significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Thankfully we have adapted well and in recent weeks we have successfully continued to meet virtually.

Earlier in the term Pegasus took part in a virtual camp, with Explorers building all manner of dens, tents and shelters in which they slept overnight as part of the #CampAtHome world record. Several Explorers have identified and organised virtual evening activities that progress towards the new 'Great Indoors' badge.

One of the biggest impacts of Covid-19 has been on our trips. Our eagerly awaited mountain expedition to Saas Fee in the Swiss alps was cancelled. In addition, our annual Easter trip to the Lake District did not take place this year. Fortunately, we are already optimistically planning to return to Switzerland in Summer 2021 and aim to be back in the Lake District for the Easter holidays.

Prior to the lockdown period, we delivered a balanced programme including physical activities such as mountain biking, to more scout based activities promoting the importance of navigational skills, fire making and camp craft. We supported the local community by carrying out litter picking in the local area whilst on a walk, this taught the Explorers the importance of respecting and maintaining the environment.

We've formed closer relationships with our fellow District Explorer units, joining a fantastic District wide bonfire night and holding two joint activity evenings with Taurus (Cowfold).

Pegasus Explorers is not possible without the great commitment of the leaders, a huge thank you to everyone involved. We have had a couple of changes in our leadership team this year - Vicky Savage is moving on from Pegasus and we thank her for a fantastic 6 years of volunteering. We also welcome back Stephen Dawes into a more active role after stepping back for a year.

In addition, our great support network is invaluable and helps us go on the trips that are so important, so again thank you to those unit helpers. Finally, thank you to the Explorers themselves who make every Wednesday great fun and a pleasure to lead. In the past year we have been especially pleased that the unit size has expanded to over 30 Explorers.

We look forward to moving back towards the 'new normal' at Pegasus, with a return to face to face meetings and hope to achieve the trips we couldn't complete in 2020.

Matthew Lillywhite
Pegasus AESL

1st St Leonards Forest Scout Group

Year to 5th April 2020

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS 2020	TOTAL FUNDS 2019
	Funds	Funds	Funds	£	£
RECEIPTS					
<u>Donations, legacies & other similar income</u>					
Membership fees	12,717				
Less paid to District	-8,775			3,943	3,721
Donations	0			0	0
Gift Aid	12,448			12,448	0
 <u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Hall hire	8,250			8,250	9,870
Fund Raising - Italian Night	1,658			1,658	0
Other	105			105	232
 <u>Section activities</u>					
Akerwood	1,465			1,465	1,497
Willow	1,597			1,597	270
Rudyard	6,712			6,712	4,936
Kipling	3,174			3,174	2,966
Baden	3,467			3,467	9,178
Powell	8,602			8,602	9,180
Explorers - Pegasus	10,885			10,885	4,510
Archery	784			784	863
TOTAL RECEIPTS	0	63,090		63,090	47,224
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
<u>District activities</u>					
Leader training and uniforms	1,556			1,556	428
Badges	345			345	116
Equipment	2,493			2,493	460
Miscellaneous - scouting	416			416	1,237
Miscellaneous - Other	910			910	0
Hall - services	3,413			3,413	3,035
Hall - cleaning	1,533			1,533	525
Hall - maintenance	1,128			1,128	3,773
Hall - Council tax	917			917	897
Hall - Insurance	2,937			2,937	2,863
Minibus - insurance	1,112			1,112	1,087
Minibus - repairs and MOT	1,873			1,873	1,318
Stationery and postage	0			0	0
Jamboree	0			0	1,500
Camp advance	0			0	1,260
 <u>Section activities</u>					
Aker wood	1,208			1,208	1,518
Willow	1,799			1,799	616
Rudyard	7,037			7,037	2,695
Kipling	3,400			3,400	2,157
Baden	3,356			3,356	9,512
Powell	8,608			8,608	9,465
Explorers - Pegasus	9,596			9,596	5,485
Archery	1,445			1,445	319
 <u>Support Costs</u>					
Insurance	243			243	1,211
TOTAL PAYMENTS	55,325			55,325	51,478
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,765			7,765	-4,254
Bank balances as at 6th April 2019	64,363			64,363	68,617
Bank balances as at 5th April 2020	72,128			72,128	64,363

1st St Leonards Forest Scout Group

As at 5th April 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
Cash funds					
Current Account	43,672			43,672	37,652
Members & Subs Acc	14,128			14,128	12,565
Cash held by Sections					
Akerwood	1,623			1,623	1,365
Willow	2,046			2,046	2,248
Rudyard	2,500			2,500	2,825
Kipling	466			466	692
Baden	1,572			1,572	1,461
Powell	590			590	596
Explorers - Pegasus	2,855			2,855	1,566
Archery Account	2,677			2,677	2,926
Cash in hand	0			0	468
Total Cash funds	72,128			72,128	64,363
Other monetary assets					
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Scout building			103,619	103,619	103,619
Scout group Minibus and equipment	85,119			85,119	82,626
Depreciation on Minibus and equipment	-82,820			-82,820	-81,528
Total	2,299		103,619	105,918	104,717
Liabilities					
No liabilities					

Notes to the accounts

1 Unrestricted cash funds are to be retained and spent as the Group Executive deem fit, the following amounts have been designated for specific purposes:-

2020

£nil

2 Cliff Palmer & Mark Fidling as outgoing members of the Executive committee received gifts totalling £100

3 Depreciation - Assets are depreciated over 4 years with no residual value

	Buildings	Equipment	Total
Cost At 06/04/19	103,619	82,626	186,245
Additions	0	2,493	2,493
Disposals	0	0	0
At 05/04/20	103,619	85,119	188,738
DEPRECIATION			
At 06/04/19	0	81,528	81,528
Charge for year	0	1,292	1,292
Disposals	0	0	0
At 05/04/20	0	82,820	82,820
Net book value at 06/04/19	103,619	1,098	104,717

Report to the Trustees of the 1st St Leonards Forest Scout Group

On accounts for the year ended 05th April 2020

Charity Number 274365.

I report to the trustees on the examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 05th April 2020.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the completion of the cash book, income and expenditure report and balance sheet.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: JACKIE BRAMLEY

Date: 19/6/20

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