

XVII Colchester Sea Scout Group

Group Scout Leader's AGM Report 2019-2020

After a great start in 2019, 2020 has turned out to be the bizarrest year for Scouting and the wider world. There are a number of notable successes mentioned later in this report, but it is important to take the time to acknowledge the efforts of all of the volunteers, both leaders and all other supporters who give up hundreds of hours of their time to help in our successes.

All sections this year have provided a varied and balanced programme and more can be read about these later in this report. Although we had to shut the Group down during lockdown, this has been another successful year for the Group. This year we have refaced the front wall on the hut at Mersea, replaced the 3-man hike tents used by the Scouts and replaced our all-terrain vehicle used for launching boats with a brand-new vehicle (the previous one was second-hand). Steve Deighton was the project manager for the new water pipe and new retaining wall at Mersea which have future-proofed our building for many years to come.

During the first lockdown, we were able to successfully apply for a grant of £6,500 from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund. We were also awarded £10,000 from the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant, as our building on Mersea is a rateable premises. These sums, in conjunction with a fantastic "Lockdown Plant Sale" meant that we were able to replace our ATV which had to be economically written-off at the start of the first lockdown, as well as ensuring that no child had to leave the group for financial reasons whilst parents may have been furloughed. These grants will appear in the accounts for 2020-21 due to the date they were awarded.

Our normal main source of funds comes from the annual Plant Sale and huge thanks must go to Colin and Marleen Batchelor, Sarah Mason and their team for organising, ordering, sorting and delivering the plants. Sara Cheeld and family also need thanks for their efforts with the Christmas pudding sale. If you are able to help with either of these events, we would very much welcome your help. Also, please help to support the events by buying even more plants and puddings.

Although our sailing programme was almost completely curtailed by the lockdown, we were still able to achieve some socially distanced sailing over the summer, with some of the experienced sailors in the group. Although our time on the water has been limited this year, it was great to be back on the water and the adults got as much (if not more!) from the experience as the young people. Sadly we have not been able to complete a single Nights Away event during 2020 and we are all looking forward to when we can start these again, with our summer camp planned for 2021 to be in Veere, Holland (lockdown permitting).

The Group still meets in the Army pavilion and we are grateful for our continued relationship with the Army and Sodexo who manage the Gymnasium and Pavilion. We are always looking out for a bigger venue and will keep you informed if we are able to find anywhere as a more permanent home. Our water base on Mersea continues to provide a home for our boating activities and in 2021 we will be looking to replace the roof as our next fundraising challenge.

This report started with thanking the volunteers in the Group. They are an incredibly dedicated team of people, constantly striving to provide outstanding activities and experiences for young people, especially this year despite the limitations and restrictions caused by Covid-19. Their commitment to the Group and its young people cannot be underestimated. It is also worth noting that we are fortunate to have a fantastic group of young people who push, stretch, challenge and

entertain us in equal measure. It has been a privilege to be the Group Scout Leader this year and I look forward to reporting to you next year of our continued success!

Ian Edgar
Group Scout Leader

Marleen and Colin Batchelor
Joint Chairs

Beaver Scout AGM Report 2019-2020

Beaver Scout Leader: Elizabeth Mullender

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader: Gill Murgia

Beaver Section Assistants: Jacki Gardener, George Cheeld

The Colony has maintained around 20 - 24 Beaver Scouts over the past year. We have held weekly meetings and outings and events.

At present we have a number of names on the waiting list, both boys and girls, and at present we have almost been able to take in all those who are old enough to join.

During the year we have followed themes for every meeting and programmed each week to include being creative, learning how to co-operate with other Beavers in team games and events, as well as encouraging individuality and learning life skills. We have also attended District events and had lots of fun.

We have covered many themes during the meetings.

We joined the rest of the 17th Colchester group at Thorrington for the day at their group winter camp and had a fun filled day enjoying mixing with the older sections.

We held a Christmas party on the last meeting of December with plenty of games and food and fun for all.

2020 has been an interesting year as we have not been able to hold many face-to-face meetings due to Covid-19. We have been running Zoom meetings which have gone down well with both the young people and the parents.

We have invested a number of new beavers during the year, with most of the beavers leaving us at 8 years old to go onto Cubs. Due to us not holding face to face meetings we have a number of badges which we have done but will presented once we meet again.

We have awarded a number of Chief Scout's Bronze Award this year

My thanks to Gill, Jacki and George without whose help I could not run the Colony each week and it is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the leaders of the group who have helped us over the last year when we need assistance. Also thank you to all the parents who have helped with outings or events during the year - the help and support you give to the leaders is very much appreciated.

Liz Mullender

Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Scout AGM Report 2019-2020

Cub Scout Leader: Jonathan Hay

Assistant Cub Scout Leaders: Emma Parker, Simon Hurley, Aaron Traynor

Cub Section Assistants: Kaz Kerrigan

We started the year with 24 Cubs in the Pack and ended it with 20. 3 went on to the troop & 1 left Scouting. The leadership team now comprises 4 warranted leaders & 1 section assistant. Due to external commitments we do not enjoy a full quota of leaders every week, but we plan for this and have managed with the valued help of the Explorer Scouts Danielle McClean & Becky Deighton.

Attendance is excellent and the Cubs participate in all the activities with great enthusiasm. This year 9 Cubs gained the Chief Scout Silver Award; the highest award achievable in the Cub section and are to be congratulated and many are well on their way to doing the same. We have also awarded 163 other badges over the year due to regular badge emails detailing various badges the Cubs can do at home, which has been administered by Kaz (King Louie). This has proved very successful along with the badges achieved through our weekly programme.

21 members of the Pack attended our annual Pack camp down at our HQ at Mersea. In a twist to the usual format the Cubs had dropped off their gear on the Thursday and we put the tents up as a Pack activity. The Cubs then met at Seaview Holiday Park and we walked into camp along the beach enjoying a glorious evenings weather. We helped Proud of Mersea litter pickers with a litter pick along the beach and surrounding streets and were treated to a Barbeque and prizes at the Victory afterwards. The afternoon activities were all based around the scientist badge with a beach walk after dinner. On Sunday we took an educational trip out on Lady Grace and did some beach art and firelighting, ready, steady, cook & seashell picture frames.

The Autumn term saw us walk the Wivenhoe trail which was well attended. We made Halloween masks & carried out hedgerow surveys. We had a fundraising Beetle Drive in aid of Colchester Foodbank and raised £115 on the night for this worthwhile charity. First Aid was covered by Aaron and we had a skills challenge night building paper towers. The term ended with a visit to Clip and Climb in Chelmsford which was a great success partly funded by excess monies from September camp.

As well as Christmas craft the Cubs were well represented at the Christmas activity day at Thorrington. This year saw a similar format masterminded by Emma Parker (Bagheera) which mixed all the sections in teams completing different challenges which once again proved a great success.

Spring term covered Chinese New Year, we had a Valentines night making cards, flowers and decorating cupcakes. We covered the Hobbies badges on two evenings with many questions being asked. We were taken on a tour of Merville Barracks by Aaron which was interesting, including going aboard a Dakota aeroplane which is sat at the Entrance as well as exploring various vehicles and having a go on some night vision gear. The Pack was represented in a fun swim night at Leisure world. The term continued and we did some work towards the International activity badge making some sculptures before the lockdown hit us.

Once we had 'acclimatised' to lockdown we started some meetings on Zoom. This saw attendance drop but circumstances notwithstanding they were a success. We started with a simple scavenger hunt night and moved on keep fit with Bagheera, lava lamps with King Louie, a look around Longleat Safari Park, a two-week Adventure with Shere Khan and mug cupcakes with Bagheera.

When we came out of lockdown initially, Scouting only allowed 15 people including leaders outside and we ran a couple of sessions late in the Summer holidays – firelighting – one in the August rain! This was the first time in almost 6 months that we had seen the Cubs in person which was great.

The second part of the year was something that none of us ever expected to experience. As ever the Cub leadership team rose to the challenge. My thanks once again over the last year go to the leadership team in no particular order for their friendship & support:

Emma Parker

Simon Hurley

Aaron Traynor

Kaz Kerrigan

Ian Edgar (Scouts)

Paula & Steve Deighton

Hannah Smith

.....and a big 'thank you' to the Cub Scouts and their parents & guardians for their continued enthusiasm.

Jonathan Hay

Cub Scout Leader

Scout AGM Report 2019-2020

Scout Leader: Ian Edgar

Assistant Scout Leaders: Glen Foster, Adam Skull

Scout Section Assistant: Chris Dorrian, Matthew Johnson

The Scouts had a varied programme in the Autumn term with Pavilion nights including completing more of the Essex Scouts Centenary Challenge badge with a fashion show and a debate night. We took part in a Diwali celebration and the National Baking Week. We had our annual Fireworkless Firework Night at Thorrington and completed our Level 3 First Aid Badge. We attended what turned out to be the final Royal Navy Soccer Sixes competition (as HMS Bristol is no more) and although we didn't bring home any silverware this year, it has been an honour to attend and to help run this prestigious event for many years.

In addition to the usual Wednesday night activities, Scouts attended other group events. A number of Scouts stayed over at the Christmas Camp weekend with some additional Scouts attending the meal. Scouts took part in sailing and powerboating. The Scout section helped raise money through selling Christmas puddings. The Scouts helped serve tea, sandwiches and cakes at a Bridge Club Tea.

During the Spring Term 2020 we undertook our Scientist Badge and celebrate Chinese New Year, World Book Day and St Patrick's Day. Our annual Ready Steady Pancake night was another success.

And then we went into lockdown...

During the first lockdown, we found new and creative ways of delivering our Scout programme through Zoom and another means during the summer term and over the summer holidays. Nearly all Scouts took part in the Zoom programme which was really pleasing. We had a number of quiz nights, bingo, scavenger hunt and the Zoom cooking sessions were a real triumph. Whilst the first lockdown was in progress, we worked hard on making plans to restart face-to-face Scouting as soon as we could. Initially this involved having several socially distanced sessions down at Mersea where we undertook firelighting (in the rain!). We also managed to get some of the more experienced Scouts out on the water during the summer holidays, all socially distanced of course.

We were able to deliver quiz prizes to the Scouts, as well as several badge deliveries! There were lots of badges earned during lockdown, including numerous Chef badges and it was impressive to see how many Scouts embraced the opportunity to cook at home.

Summer Camp would have been the Essex Jamboree this year, but this was cancelled as expected and all monies were refunded. The deposits paid have been transferred to Summer Camp 2021 in Veere, Holland and we are all hoping that this event will be able to go ahead.

There are currently 30 Scouts in the troop. The leadership team for this year will be Ian Edgar, Adam Skull, Chris Dorrian, Glen Foster and Matthew Johnson, ably assisted by Jon Hay, Paula Deighton and Steve Deighton.

Ian Edgar

Scout Leader

Tsunami Explorer Scout Unit AGM Report 2019-2020

Explorer Scout Leader: Hannah Smith

Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders: Steve Deighton, Pete Bartholomew, Phil Bartholomew, Clare Hollingsworth, Roland Victory, Richard Nunn

We are a District based Explorer Scout Unit and also, importantly, in partnership with the 17th Colchester Sea Scout Group. We place a strong emphasis on water-based activities, as well as enjoying shore-based events. We meet at the Colchester Garrison Pavilion and at the 17th Colchester's HQ at Mersea on Tuesday nights between 7.30 and 9.30pm.

We wear the Sea Scout uniform with ties, although we still wear the scarf of the 17th Colchester for other less formal activities. The 17th Colchester Sea Scout Group is Royal Navy Recognised, and the Explorer Unit shares that recognition. It is one of the few Explorer Scout Units to carry this prestigious recognition with such numbers as we have.

Membership of the Unit is available to both boys and girls aged between 14 and 18 years old.

Autumn 2019

Tuesday night activities were once again full and varied and included fire lighting, cooking and international evenings, as well as exploring ocean pollution through creating large artwork using recycled materials and celebrating Diwali with food kindly prepared by a Scout parent.

The Unit undertook cleaning, repairing and winterising the boats, as well as bringing the larger boats off the water and we attended the 17th Colchester's Christmas Activity and Dinner weekend in large numbers.

Spring 2020

Our Tuesday evening meetings this term had a focus on Queen's Scout and Platinum expedition planning. Unfortunately, the expeditions have not yet been able to take place however we hope to resume these next year. Other activities included covering the Global Issues badge as well as celebrating Chinese New Year and cooking pancakes.

The end of the term led to the closure of the unit in line with the countrywide Covid-19 lockdown. Initially, we sent home activities for the explorers to complete individually but this had limited uptake.

Summer 2020

During the summer term, we began to use Zoom to conduct weekly online meetings. Explorers took the lead for organising and running many of these evenings which involved various quizzes, games and escape rooms. The summer holidays saw the change from red to amber for Scouting so we were able to begin to offer sailing sessions for some of the more competent explorers. The explorers decided that they did not wish to continue meeting over the summer holidays outside of the sailing sessions offered.

Young Leaders

Members of the Unit regularly assist with all the other sections within the 17th Group. This secures the relationship with younger members of the Group, providing them with an insight into the opportunities offered in joining the ESU – the best type of promotion for future recruitment. This has continued where other sections have offered online scouting throughout the pandemic.

Summary

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have not achieved any awards this year however we hope to make up for this next year.

Currently we have a leadership team consisting of Hannah, Steve, Claire, Roland, Phil, Richard and Pete, with other leaders joining us for sessions when available. This has enabled greater flexibility in terms of attendance. Numbers have reduced, with 15 on the books.

Hannah Smith
Explorer Scout Leader

Mersea HQ AGM Report 2019-2020

Having boasted a superb season at last year's AGM, it would be fair to say that this year has been a challenge!!

RYA Centre

Centre Personnel has fluctuated over the year and we will continue to do so with a number of instructors off at University. With the emergence of COVID 19, this has had a significant impact on all our plans. We were fortunate to manage two First Aid courses either side of lockdowns and this ensures all the instructors and leaders are kept up to date.

Fleet

Our second rib Initiative was given a major overhaul on her tubes giving her another 5 – 10-year lifespan, we also added a rear A frame and navigation lights. The winter months were spent carrying out the usual maintenance on the fleet, all the boats were completed well ahead of the season and then you all know what happened then. The Group's launch had a brand-new stainless fuel tank fitted. The new wayfarer was cleaned, sanded, painted and 90% complete but due to COVID, this has not been completed.

Headquarters

Despite the COVID Situation, the upstairs has been decorated, during the lockdown the workshop doors were replaced to allow room for the Group's new 4 Wheel drive vehicle DAVE II, a brand-new vehicle to replace the ageing one that we had. During the summer holidays the front of the building had all the cladding replaced, the HQ has had new whiteboards and been constantly updated to remain COVID Compliant. With some clever utilisation of space, we have managed to store all the groups boats and keep the troop room free to ensure we can continue to meet during these strange times. The retaining wall at the front of the building has been replaced during lockdown and the field also now boasts a modern water pipe.

Group Sailing

Despite a massive set of plans for the season, our dear friend COVID put paid to that. However, thanks to some serious work from Ian & Steve with risk assessments, we were able to get some sessions going in August and it was so good to see all the young people out on the water smiling. We managed to run a full socially distanced course weekend for the younger scouts with a superb pass rate, well done all!

So, a strange year and one that I have not experienced in my 29 years as an adult in the Group. Despite it all we have improved the HQ both cosmetically and the equipment within, we have managed to improve the longevity of some of the boats, fitted in 12 sessions and a full weekend course for 8 Scouts.

Steve Deighton

Assistant Group Scout Leader

Principal 17th Colchester Sea Scouts RYA Centre

Mersea Activity Co-ordinator

17th Colchester Sea Scout Group

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Total Receipts	63,931	50,263
Total Payments	(60,928)	(49,486)
Net Income / (expenditure) for the year	<u>3,003</u>	<u>777</u>
Cash, bank and invested funds b/fwd	24,958	24,181
Cash, bank and invested funds c/fwd	<u><u>27,961</u></u>	<u><u>24,958</u></u>

Statement of Monetary Assets and Liabilities @ 31st March 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Barclays Group Account	19,658	16,434
Barclays Mersea Hut Account	2,875	3,096
Investment Account (Scouts Association)	5,446	5,427
	<u><u>27,979</u></u>	<u><u>24,957</u></u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 17th Colchester Sea Scout Group

I report to the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st March 2020 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act, 1933 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act
 - To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and
 - To comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached
3. Which gives me reasonable causes to believe that in any material respect the accounting rules of Group's constitution has not been met.

Name..... CLARE COLLETT

Qualification..... MAAT

Address..... 23 EDWARD MAULE DRIVE

CANGENHOE

COLCHESTER CO5 7LP

Date..... 28/11/2020