

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Scout Group**

## **AGM REPORT**

**13.05.2016**



**GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2016**  
**FOR AGM 13 MAY 2016**

I am delighted to report the past year has been another busy and successful year for the Group. Each section in the Group ( Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)– have reached their capacity of young people therefore any young person wishing to join the Group has had to go on a waiting list, or has been directed to other groups in the district. It is unlikely that any young person who has not been a member of the Beavers will get a place in Cubs or Scouts at this Group.

We have had some changes in our Adult Leadership team. David Herbertson decided it was time for him to step down from being the Sea Scout Leader. I would like to thank David for all his hard work and efforts with the Sea Scout Section and the Group over the years. David together with Keith Tallent introduced Sea Scouts to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and led the team to achieve Royal Navy recognised Sea Scout Troop and has supported Sea Scout Leadership team and Sea Scouts in retaining this recognition over the years. David has not left completely he is still going to be involved with the Boat Base at Binsey and will assist with the youngsters on the water. He will also be seen helping out at Sea Scout events and family camp.

With David stepping down we had to look for another Scout Leader luckily John Gledhill decided to move up from being a Beaver leader to become the Scout Leader. So far from what I can see and have heard John is doing a great job. I would like to welcome Janice on board with the Sea Scout team she has been getting involved for quite a while now. Whilst talking about the Scouts I would like to thank all the Scout Leaders for all their hard work and providing an exciting programme for the scouts and young people to undertake.

We need to increase our Adult Leadership team for all sections to keep the sections going as some of us are not getting any younger so if you feel you would like to help and become a Leader or helper or may have an interesting hobby which you believe young people would enjoy and are prepared to share it please speak to either myself, a Section Leader or Anthony Yates the Group's Chairman.

We are also looking for people to join the Group's Executive Committee because Leaders cannot provide exciting programmes without the equipment and support of the Committee providing funds to purchase such equipment. There are three Executive Committee meetings a year the next one will be in September. Please speak to Anthony Yates, Dave Woodcock (Treasurer), Stuart Broad (Secretary) or myself about becoming a member of the Committee.

Many of our young people in all sections have achieved various badges and the appropriate Chief Scout Awards during the past year congratulations to everyone. This is despite the Scout Association decided to introduce (change) the various awards and badges during the year. I would like to thank the Leaders for getting to grips with changed requirements and ensuring that the young people know what they have to work towards to achieve the awards.

There has been changes at District level we now have a new District Commissioner Martin Richards as Liz Farr retired from that role.

Last year I mentioned that the Scout Association decided to bring in computerisation for young people and adult membership known as Compass. It has been a trying year for all of us but it is now believed that things have been/being sorted out. I would like to thank the Leaders and David Herbertson for overcoming the difficulties with the system and for sorting out 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Scout Group membership records. Also thank you to you as parents and guardians for bearing with us during this period.

We have young Leaders from the District Young Leaders Team working within every section and their enthusiasm and help is invaluable. Young Leaders are aged 14 to 18 years old it helps the young people to gain confidence and achieve certain standards for their awards and Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

The young people in their various sections have enjoyed a variety of programmes ranging from environment to water skills there will be more detail of these in the Section Reports.

It has been a busy year with fund raising this year with providing catering for the Abingdon Marathon packing goody bags, giving them and the medals out at the end marathon to the competitors. The weather was mixed but we still got rid of nearly all the burgers and drinks. One of the competitors this year was a young mum pushing her baby around the course this year. She did finish in a good time. We were short on helpers at this event and if we are to do it again this year we will need more volunteers.

The Firework Display which took place in November was excellent again and successful both in monetary terms and the display itself. We seem to be getting slicker in setting up, despite the weather and packing away. I would like to thank the firers, the Church on Long Furlong, the Abingdon Town Explorer Unit, and Leaders from 11<sup>th</sup> Abingdon and 1<sup>st</sup> Longworth for helping us as we were short on volunteers. I would also like to thank those parents and young people who came down to the Market Place the Saturday before the display to help promote the event. The weather was terrible but despite the rain and wind they still soldiered on. Thanks for those who provided cakes to sell as well.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the fund raising events. We could not undertake the fundraising without your support. The money raised from these events buy the boats, camping equipment and any other equipment that the sections need to function to provide fun packed programmes for the young people. Fundraising is also needed for repair and maintenance to the building as we do not get any funding from Headquarters for the maintenance and improvement to the building. Additional help at fundraising events is always welcomed and needed because at certain events we have been short on volunteers. We would expect parents to volunteer for at least one of the fund raising events. It is not the role of the Leaders to do the fundraising. If you have any ideas for fundraising events please contact Anthony our Chairman and/or join the Committee.

As you will see the extension has come on, and we are still waiting for the last bits of plumbing, painting and flooring to be completed we can then start to use the facilities. I was hoping that we could be in a position very soon to allow visiting Scouts to camp in field and use the facilities over weekends and the summer for a fee this would generate income. We will let you know when this is happening.

Family camp took place last year, unfortunately I was unable to attend due to my niece getting married that weekend. The weather was kind to us and I understand that the Army chefs provided a good Saturday meal. I understand from Paul who organises these events that this year's camp is already full and we have families and young people from 11<sup>th</sup> Abingdon joining us as they did last year. I hope we do not have any disasters like last year when a youngster fell from a tree he was climbing. Climbing of trees is not allowed this year, as I will be joining you! I have been asked or volunteered by Paul if I would cook the Saturday evening meal. I am not sure it will be up to the standard given by the Army cooks but my excuse is that they have all the equipment and are trained chefs/cooks!!!

Before I close my report I would like to thank the spouses and families of our Leaders and Executive Committee members for giving them their support to allow them to provide scouting activities at the 2<sup>nd</sup>. I need to give a special mention to Anthon Yates who as Chairman of the Executive, has continued to work tirelessly throughout the year for the Group by recruiting new members for the Executive, organising crews for fund raising events and many other things despite your work and family commitments. Also thank you to Stuart our Secretary he is there at every meeting and event helping and providing a good input to events. Stuart has the most infectious laugh which keeps us all happy. Most of all I would like to thank Anthony and Dave Woodcock (our Treasurer) for being my sounding boards and providing me with your support especially over the past year when things have been tough for me. (Dave and his family always have a cup of tea or coffee on hand when you go to their house).

Finally, in closing my report I must thank all the Leaders, Executive Committee, and Helpers for their continued support and dedication which makes my life easier. They are all unpaid yet give up valuable free time because they feel they are doing something worthwhile for young people!

## Chairman's report 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon AGM 2016

**Thanks to all who have turned out this evening for the 2016 AGM.**

**A very busy and challenging year for all is how we can describe 2015/16.**

Beavers, Cubs and Sea Scout have all had a tremendous year with camps, hikes, sleepovers... and lots and lots of fun activities.

Trophy's have been won and badges earned to add to the considerable amount of silverware already accumulated by the Group...well done.

But we must thank the Leaders and their team of helpers who plan, run and spend their own time in making sure that everybody in their sections fulfils as much as they can in the time that they have, and more importantly have FUN!

Talking about fun its great news to learn that we will back at Phasels wood this year for our world famous family camp and with 250 people attending! ...Thanks Badger.

### **Fundraising**

The focus again this year has to be our long lasting project at the rear of the HQ, the extension. Finally we are near to completion and we are now a few weeks away from completion. Special thanks to all who have helped in this project.

To build this extension we have had to raise and have nearly spent in the region of £40,000. We are nearing the end of the spend but we must remain focused in our push to raise enough funds to complete the project and to also have enough reserve funds for emergencies.

Fundraising has been hard work but fun.

The Abingdon marathon BBQ and Market square between them raised nearly £1800. which is a great effort by all involved.

Finally the Group's annual firework display. Last year we saw record crowds and record profits. This was a great reminder to all that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon can arrange and run significant events and make a decent profit.

Thanks to all who have helped over the year at these events. All profits go towards not only our new extension but new equipment, activities and events. As you are all aware subscription does not contribute anything towards these extras..

Many, many more fundraising days (and nights sometimes) have over the years earned the group thousands of pounds in much earned revenue. Thank you to all who have helped cook, pack, shake, put up, light, sell and many more activities.

### **A challenging year yes, but what lies behind the success of the Group.**

#### **The Leaders and Helpers**

Leaders and their helpers run all sections of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and even Explorers.

Our leaders give up their own time to keep their sections running. Not only are they working on section nights but they spend hours planning and prepping for the next meeting, taking part in fundraising activity's, checking and maintaining equipment to be used, the list could go on and on.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication, for instilling the right values into our kids and giving them the greatest foundation to life they could get. Without the leaders the Group does not function, please support our leaders when asked for help.

### **The Executive Committee**

The Exec committee comprises of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and parent section reps, and on committee nights include the leaders. Their job is to make sure that the Group have enough funds to run the everyday running of our buildings (HQ and Boat base) and the extra money which is needed for equipment, i.e. tents, boats, camp equipment and extra activity's. This is raised through fundraising, i.e. fireworks, BBQ's and bucket shakes

This cannot be carried out solely by the exec on their own, so we always ask for parent volunteers for help. Sometimes it seems we are always asking for help with those slips of paper and emails being sent (it seems) every week. Please look and see if you can do your bit, every little helps as someone said.

### **Secretary**

Its not just pen and paper and taking down a few notes. Our Secretary Stuart has a varied role in the Exec. Helping with fundraising, joining various sub committees, and always being available as the Chairman's back up. Thanks Stuart!

### **Treasurer**

David our esteemed treasurer has an eye for detail and spends many long night going over the Groups accounts. He is also finding new deals to save us thousands, applying for gift aid for valuable rebates and joining in with fundraising as well. Dave has spent many nights going through our accounts and making sure we have enough money to spend on the important things at the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A cup of tea is always ready when visiting Dave. Thanks Dave!

### **Section Rep**

All section reps (Beaver, Cub, Scouts) are a valuable member of the exec committee. Attending the 3 meetings a year is an important job, deciding on budgets and projects, but also helping to run fundraising activities for the Group.

We are desperate for new members and currently we have vacancies to fill for Beaver, Cub and Scout reps. if you can help please let a Section leader know or Rita or myself.

**Thanks to all the committee for their tireless work and support over the last year..**

### **The Quatermasters**

These chaps work very hard to keep all the gear in tip top and working condition. Reporting on defective kit, making repairs and keeping the loft tidy, tidying and making things, obviously a very important job...cheers Dave and Alan.

## Parent help

No Scout group can just run on leaders and the exec on its own. Parents are always needed to help with fundraising, helping at camps, working parties at the HQ and Boat Base and of course bringing our little darlings to meetings and camps. An important job.

## The GSL

Our GSL Rita of course is the boss! Rita as the GSL is the link between the executive committee and the Leaders. She cracks the whip with the leaders and keeps them in line when needed (not usually) and gives me a gentle kick up the backside when I forget to do things (usually). Of course this is usually done in her very gentle and persuasive way.

The bedrock of the Group Rita spends a lot of her time behind the scenes but is always there when needed. She works tirelessly on her role and is always at fundraising activities from the start and until the end.

Thank you Rita

So another challenging year. I've enjoyed myself this year and enjoyed the company of everybody I have had to work with. It's a pleasure to be the (Retired ) Chair of the second Abingdon.

Of course if you would like to step up to this role as the Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> there is a vacancy. You will find it very rewarding and with a hardworking and dedicated team to help and support you, the job gives back more than you could possibly think.

**Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication.**

Anthony

Group Chairperson (Retired )





## 2nd Abingdon Scout Group Cashflow Apr 2015 to end of Mar 2016

Pre-Audit Accounts

	Current Account	CC Buildings	CC General	Sea Scouts	Lloyds deposit	Total	Notes
Opening accts balance	£25,041.61	£0.47	£0.02	tbd	£5.62	£30,875.01	
<b>INCOME</b>							
Subscriptions and admissions fees	£11,051.00					£11,051.00	
Explorers Rent	£150.00					£150.00	
Gift Aid Income	£0.00					£0.00	1
	<b>£11,201.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£11,201.00</b>	
Fireworks	£9,617.00					£9,617.00	
Donations	£0.00					£0.00	
Fundraising	£2,500.00					£2,500.00	
Hall Hire	£240.00					£240.00	
Camping	£9,073.75					£9,073.75	
Activities	£348.00					£348.00	
Interest	£0.00		£6.77		£0.00	£6.77	
	<b>£21,778.75</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£6.77</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£21,785.52</b>	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£32,979.75</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£6.77</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£32,986.52</b>	
Transfer of Funds	-£250.00			£250.00			
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
Firework Expenses	£4,773.74					£4,773.74	
Camping	£8,434.33					£8,434.33	
Fundraising	£1,209.47					£1,209.47	
	<b>£14,417.54</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£14,417.54</b>	
Capitation	£3,737.25					£3,737.25	
Insurance	£3,220.10					£3,220.10	
	<b>£6,957.35</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£6,957.35</b>	
Southern Electric	£576.00					£576.00	
Thames Water	£150.11					£150.11	
Cleaning of Scout Hut & Cleaning materials	£0.00					£0.00	
HQ Maintenance	£1,915.05					£1,915.05	2
Photocopier	£240.00					£240.00	
Gas	£3,514.07					£3,514.07	3
Building Work	£7,789.15					£7,789.15	
	<b>£14,184.38</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£14,184.38</b>	
Rent (Oxf CC)	£600.00					£600.00	4
Southern Electric	£132.00					£132.00	
Boat repairs & maintenance Boat Base	£150.79					£150.79	
Licences & Subscriptions	£428.82					£428.82	
	<b>£1,311.61</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,311.61</b>	
Activity Expenses (All)	£1,109.25					£1,109.25	
Uniform (caps and Tallys)	£0.00					£0.00	
Badges	£1,253.21					£1,253.21	
Equipment	£75.00					£75.00	
Training	£0.00					£0.00	
Misc	£0.00					£0.00	
	<b>£2,437.46</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,437.46</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£39,308.34</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£39,308.34</b>	
Balance C/f	£25,041.61	£0.47	£0.02	tbd	£5.62	£25,047.72	
Transfers in	£32,729.75	£0.00	£0.00	TBD	£0.00	£32,729.75	
Transfers out	-£39,558.34	£0.00	£0.00	TBD	£0.00	-£39,558.34	
Balances c/f	£18,213.02	£0.47	£0.02	TBD	£5.62	£18,219.13	
<b>Net income over expenditure</b>	<b>-£6,828.59</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>-£6,828.59</b>	

### Notes

- 1) Pending receipt of payment
- 2) Includes £1050.05 for boiler repair
- 3) Overpaid this year. Most likely due to overdue meeting reading.
- 4) Yearly rent settled at £500 with OCC. An additional £100 back rent was charged this year. Next rent review is 2019.



**Treasurer's Report Apr 2016: 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Scout Group**

**General**

Cash flow accounts for Financial Year 2015/16 are presented with accounts for 2015/16 for comparison.

The accounts are broken down into General Income (e.g. subscriptions), and Other Income (fund raising activities), with Expenditure appearing below these incomes. Transfer of funds between accounts is shown also.

**Summary**

Figures for the end of March 2015 show total cash position of **£18,213.02**, compared with **£25,041.61** in March 2015. This drop in funds is due to the expenditure on building and maintenance work at the HQ over the past 12 months (offset by fundraising income). A total of **£7,789.15** has been spent on the shower block extension this year.

The budget for building work to completion was agreed at £18k in 2014.

**Approximately £3,000 remains in the agreed budget to complete the shower block building work.** It is anticipated that remaining building work can be completed within this budget.

A total of **£57,342.56** has been spent since work on the shower block began in 2012. Accounting for the additional budget remaining, **the total anticipated expenditure from 2012 to completion is just over £60k.**

In addition to the above building work on the shower block, additional expenditure has been taken to complete essential boiler repairs (£1,050.05). Anticipated repairs to the hall flooring have not, however, soaked up as much funding as anticipated and do not appear as a separate notable item in the accounts.

**Analysis of Expenditure**

The table below provides a summary of expenses for the group over 2015/16, alongside the same expense items for previous years. The difference between 2015/16 & 2014/15 is calculated to for comparison. Please note that this table lists net expenses (i.e. where direct funding has been received against items e.g. fundraising, only the net expense has been entered).

Analysis of expenses	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	% change compared with 2015-16
<b>General Expenses</b>							
Capitation	£3,737.25	£2,287.00	£3,969.00	£4,551.00	£4,662.00	£4,433.00	63.4%
Gas	£3,514.07	£2,389.01	£2,930.54	£2,317.38	£2,115.49	£2,491.58	47.1%
Insurance	£3,220.10	£2,957.71	£3,164.51	£3,022.83	£1,435.10	£2,334.30	8.9%
Maintenance HQ & BB	£1,915.05	£1,666.98	£0.00	£1,027.74	£1,014.35	£840.05	14.9%
Badges	£1,253.21	£323.09	£814.96	£804.09	£1,078.78	£894.67	287.9%
Scouting Activity Expenses	£1,109.25	£1,485.58	£1,695.21	£2,451.97	£1,715.02	£1,340.59	-25.3%
Boat Base Rent	£600.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	50.0%
Electricity	£576.00	£588.72	£691.00	£832.00	£694.65	£996.00	-2.2%
Licenses & Subscriptions	£428.82	£505.18	£226.06	£433.29	£173.10	£218.29	-15.1%
Photocopier	£240.00	£240.00	£157.85	£172.87	£81.00	£128.82	0.0%
Cleaning of hut	£0.00	£0.00	£192.00	£288.00	£288.00	£288.00	
Misc	£0.00	£30.00	£0.00	£24.99	£62.00	£0.00	
Training	£0.00	£0.00	£99.00	£0.00	£55.00	£704.20	
Uniform	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£425.70	£19.98	£0.00	
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>£16,593.75</b>	<b>£12,873.27</b>	<b>£14,340.13</b>	<b>£16,751.86</b>	<b>£13,794.47</b>	<b>£15,069.50</b>	<b>28.9%</b>
Tents and equipment incl boats	£75.00	£1,402.00	£101.94	£563.01	£3,419.40	£1,276.30	-81.9%
Building & Maintenance Expenditure	£7,789.15	£7,282.41	£33,010.49	£9,260.51			

The target defined last year for general expenses was **£16,000**. Expenditure has exceeded this budget by ~£600.

The total spent on building work this year is **£7,789.15**, as previously commented.

### Analysis of Fundraising and Donations

The table below provides a breakdown of fundraising and donations over the past year, with totals for previous years for comparison.

Analysis of Fundraising and Donations	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2013-13	2011-12	2010-11	% change compared with 2013-14
Fireworks	£4,843.26	£3,952.62	£3,119.60	£3,419.40	£5,083.60	£4,370.00	22.5%
Fundraising Events	£1,290.53	£1,076.66	£1,522.52	£4,293.62	£1,721.26	£3,198.64	19.9%
Hire of Hall	£240.00	£384.00	£0.00	£537.00	£220.00	£280.00	-37.5%
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>£6,373.79</b>	<b>£5,413.28</b>	<b>£4,642.12</b>	<b>£8,250.02</b>	<b>£7,024.86</b>	<b>£7,848.64</b>	17.7%
Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£3,944.00	£350.00	£130.00	£4,380.00	
<b>Total Fundraising and Donations</b>	<b>£6,373.79</b>	<b>£5,413.28</b>	<b>£8,586.12</b>	<b>£8,600.02</b>	<b>£7,154.86</b>	<b>£12,228.64</b>	-37.0%

Notes:-

- The net income from fireworks last November was the best over 4 previous years.
- Net income from other fundraising events this year was relatively low.
- Net income from donations this year was zero.

We continue with a set of regular fundraising events throughout the year. These regular events are:-

- Cake Stand and Bucket Shake in Abingdon in October.
- Abingdon Marathon Burger Stand at Tilsley Park in November.
- Fireworks on Bonfire Night Season at Long Furlong in November.

In addition to these the committee members and group leaders continue to propose a deliver additional successful fundraising activities such as Quiz Nights, Raffles, Christmas Bag Packing at Waitrose, so there is at least one new significant fundraising event each year supplementing the regular activities above.

As ever if anyone has any further suggestions for fundraising then don't hold back and please let us know. Whilst we have a good list of fundraising events, they are not guaranteed to continue for us indefinitely.

### Notes To The Preliminary 2015/16 Accounts

- Gift Aid payment from HMRC for the past few years is still pending. HMRC are very difficult to contact to resolve matters.

Dave Woodcock  
16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016

# DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE MTG

## 2nd Abingdon Scout Group Cashflow Apr 2015 to end of Dec 2015

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Building Work	£7,789.15					£7,789.15	
	<b>£14,184.36</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£14,184.36</b>	
Rent (Oxf CC)	£600.00					£600.00	4
Southern Electric	£132.00					£132.00	
Boat repairs & maintenance Boat Base	£150.79					£150.79	
Licences & Subscriptions	£428.82					£428.82	
	<b>£1,311.61</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,311.61</b>	
Activity Expenses (All)	£1,109.25					£1,109.25	
Uniform (caps and Tallys)	£0.00					£0.00	
Badges	£1,253.21					£1,253.21	
Equipment	£75.00					£75.00	
Training	£0.00					£0.00	
Misc	£0.00					£0.00	
	<b>£2,437.46</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,437.46</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£39,308.34</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£39,308.34</b>	
Balance C/f	£25,041.61	£0.47	£0.02	tbd	£5.62	£25,047.72	
Transfers in	£32,729.75	£0.00	£0.00	TBD	£0.00	£32,729.75	
Transfers out	£39,558.34	£0.00	£0.00	TBD	£0.00	£39,558.34	
Balances c/f	£18,213.02	£0.47	£0.02	TBD	£5.62	£18,219.13	
<b>Net income over expenditure</b>	<b>£6,828.59</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£6,828.59</b>	

### Notes

- 1) Pending receipt of payment
- 2) Includes £1050.05 for boiler repair
- 3) Overpaid this year. Most likely due to overdue meeting reading.
- 4) Yearly rent settled at £500 with OCC. An additional £100 back rent was charged this year. Next rent review is 2019.

D. Woodcock 16th Apr 2016

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ABINGDON BEAVER SCOUT COLONIES

REPORT FOR AGM 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

VITAL STATISTICS	Monday	Wednesday	Total
Beaver Scouts Easter 2015	20	23	43
Invested	13	14	27
Transfers	1	-	1
Swim up to Cub Scouts	4	12	16
Left Group	6	3	9
Beaver Scouts Easter 2016	24	22	46

There are 42 boys and 4 girls. Since Easter 7 boys have left or gone up to Cubs, and 6 boys and 3 girls have started. Our waiting list has 38 boys & 9 girls on it after this intake, including a few 6 year olds we can't get in.

### PROGRAMME

**Bronze Challenge Award:** All the Beavers who had been with us at least a year achieved the old award scheme by the time it finished last October. As suspected the new Chief Scout Bronze award scheme is far too onerous, but we are doing our best to get as many through it as possible.

**Badges:** We have covered the Safety Badge, Air Activities Stage 1 Badge, (with help from Fox), the new Communicator Badge, and Emergency Aid Stage 1 Badge. Some achieved Time on the Water stages at Binsey in September (thanks to Sea Scout leaders), and some the Faith Badge at the county Easter Eggsravanza.

**Activities:** Last summer, we had plenty of outdoor activities, including police station visit (thanks to Mr Hickman), wide games at Youlbury, go karts, park and river walks, grass sledges, tag rugby, water rockets, and outdoor cooking.

In the autumn we enjoyed torch trail and singing in the dark at Youlbury. Through the winter as well as doing badges we did plenty of crafts, games, and Christmas activities. We celebrated Pancake Day and Easter. John Foley brought his robots again, Dave S-S and our leaders enabled us to use the climbing wall regularly.

**EVENTS:**

**District Events:** Joint evenings and torch trail with other colonies.

**County Events:** Go wild day at Wittenham Clumps in September. Santa singalong at Beckley at Christmas. Eggstravaganza at Sutton Courtenay just before Easter. All well supported and greatly enjoyed.

**Camps:** Family camp at Phasels Wood. Joint sleepover with the 11<sup>th</sup> Abingdon at Youlbury in October (thanks to James Dagg).

**LEADERS:**

**Monday:** We said sad goodbyes to Kirsty Hunt (Kangaroo) and John Gledhill (Fox - who has become Sea Scout Troop leader). We welcomed Martin Gillett (Meerkat) and Stuart Broad (name needed!) to join Jonathon Purdie (Otter) as main leaders. We hope to see more of Emily Woodcock (Hedgehog); but have James Bywaters and Nathan Hawkes as young leaders.

**Wednesday:** Jacqui Graham (Squirrel), Tim Shipman (Wombat) and Matt Szyndel (Red Kite) continue as main leaders. We have new young leaders in George Webber and Tom Rowe. Michael Price has gone to uni, but hope to see him in the holidays.

**THANK YOU:**

Without the great dedication and enthusiasm of all the leaders and helpers mentioned above we would not be able to do so many activities, and I offer a huge thank you to all of them.

I would also like to thank all the parents who have remained willing to cheerfully take their turns on the rota and ferry their children about, enabling us to do so many exciting activities.

**LOOKING FORWARD:**

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beaver Scouting becoming an official part of the Scout Association. The county have provided a special badge, and are organizing a big birthday fun day in September.

We will be looking to try out new badges such as Cyclist (with Red Kite).

Phasels Wood family camp in July is full, should be fun!

**PAUL SHIPMAN**  
**Beaver Scout Leader**



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ABINGDON CUB PACK ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

We are currently running at 33 cubs.

We have another very good year with lots of activities and badge work. Some of the activities were various crafts, quizzes, knotting, firelighting, tracking plus much more. We worked on the air activities stage 1, international, pioneer and naturalist badges plus we did some work towards the challenge badges.

We took part in several District events including the sixer and seconder Camp, hockey, football, chess, scrapheap challenge, and mastermind. Well done to all Cubs who took part in these events.

We had a Cub camp in September which was well attended and was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Badger for helping out at this camp.

As you can see we had a full year and we have lots of activities planned for the coming months including sixer and seconder camp in June, family camp in July, Cub camp in September carty rally, cross country, athletes day plus much more. Over this term we are going to be working on the personal safety, backwoods cooking and challenge badges and doing a lot of outdoor activities.

Many thanks to Baloo (Phil Giddings), Daniel Lovell, Beth Devine, Cherry and our young leaders Susie and Tom for all their help on Cub nights and all the activities the Cubs take part in.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Sea Scouts



RN No28

"virtual" treasure hunt to Sunningwell which demonstrated our need get to grips with navigation skills!!

We were proud to award Chief Scouts Gold on the old badge scheme to 4 sea scouts; Liam Deegan, Edward Jones, Sophie Martin and Rebecca Preece. Sophie and Rebecca are still 12 so this is particularly remarkable. The requirements of the new badge scheme are a little more challenging so we will be looking closely at those due to move up to Explorers this year to see how we can help them achieve the award.

For the Spring Term we have concentrated on preparing scouts for the events in which we participated and for our time on the water which started on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Sailing will start a little later, after half-term.

### Out and About

Once again we were proud to be invited to participate in events organised in association with the Royal Navy. 6 sea scouts attended the RN Swimming Gala at HMS Raleigh in Plymouth on 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January. The scouts behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the Group. Sophie Martin brought home Gold and our scouts featured in publicity shots for the RN Sea Scout magazine. We were also invited to attend the first ever Practical Leadership Skills evening with the Oxford University Royal Navy Unit (URNU). 4 of our Sea Scouts and 2 Explorer Sea Scouts took part in a range of practical team building scenarios organised by the cadets at the URNU. Again, our young people were a credit to us and demonstrated the highest standards of behaviour – especially compared to the Sea Cadets!!

We entered two teams into the Oxfordshire County Winter Challenge on the Ridgeway on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Both teams completed the 18 mile hike in fantastic times, beating last year's times by 1 and 2 hours respectively. Great fun was had along the way and, thankfully, the weather was fairly kind!

I attended a County Winter Mountaineering course in Patterdale on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February and gained my Terrain 2 Summer Hillwalking Permit.

On 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March we ran our first Winter Camp at Youldbury. This was really well attended and the scouts had a great time. We met at HQ for lunch, checked that everyone had the appropriate kit, and then hiked in lovely sunshine up to Youldbury via Sunningwell, Bayworth and Boars Hill. The scouts pitched their tents and then cooked their supper on spirit stoves. Badger organised a wide game which the scouts completed in the dark before we huddled around a roaring camp fire. We awoke to sub-zero temperatures, ice on the tents, and rather lumpy water! In the course of the morning we had snow, rain and hail before the sun finally broke through as we were striking camp. Our walk back to HQ was in splendid Winter sunshine. During the course of the event we were visited by two assessors and the DC and I was able to gain my Nights Away Permit.

### Annual Camp to Italy





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Sea Scouts

RN No28



### Report for the Annual General Meeting – May 2016

#### Boating season 2015

Our boating activities with Scouts formally came to an end in September with the Midland Sea Scout Meet. One weekend late September, we set off for Powells Pool, Sutton Coldfield for the Midland Sea Scout Meet 2015. The stalwart band of 12 sea scouts and 4 explorers were going to have to work hard in the 25 events to defend the trophies we had brought home last time. Seamanship, sailing, and sculling took place on the Saturday - we were well-placed in the Seamanship Trophy, won the Explorer sculling, and enjoyed the sailing.

Sunday was the busy day with Dinghy Rowing, Canoe relay, Canoe straight line, and Pulling for U12, U14, and Explorer. We put up a good show in the Canoe events, did very well in the Pulling events, and won the Dinghy event in all three classes.

So, now came the final tally of the points and who had won what. Seamanship Trophy - 2nd Abingdon Sea Scouts. Pulling Trophy - 2nd Abingdon Sea Scouts. Oarsmanship - Abingdon Explorer Sea Scouts. Overall Winners - 3rd Walsall Sea Scouts. A great weekend!

We provided a day on the water for the Beavers on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The weather was kind and we had a good turnout in two sessions.

We managed to do some pulling instruction for leaders on December 12<sup>th</sup> using Gyr and the ASC. David and Mick led the activity.

#### Scouting at HQ 2015/16

This year we had a change in the leadership of the troop. David Herbertson retired as Sea Scout Leader and I took over from September. David continues to provide our admin support and runs the Boat Base in Binsey. Some weeks it's almost as if he didn't retire at all! Cherry Scott moved to the Cub section in April and I would like to formally thank her on behalf of the Sea Scout section for all her hard work over the years. She'll always be welcome.

Sarah Deegan, Mick Elkins and Keith Tallent continue as Assistant Sea Scout Leaders and we are delighted to welcome Janice Thomson who has worked with us for some time as a parent helper and who has decided to take the next step and train to become an Assistant Sea Scout Leader. We're also very fortunate to have Rob Spence, District Explorer Leader, and Nathan, our Young Leader with us most weeks. We hope that this will strengthen our ties with the District Explorer section and benefit both of us. The leadership team puts in a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, often at weekends and through the holidays, and I want to thank them for all of their commitment and support. I may have the Sea Scout Leader title, but this troop only exists because of the team.

For the Winter Term we focused on outdoor skills with sessions on pitching and striking tents, fire lighting, backwoods cooking (including skinning rabbits and gutting fish!) and packing a rucksack for Winter hikes. We finished the term with a very muddy night hike and



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Sea Scouts



RN No28

For the first time since 2007 we are planning our annual camp overseas. Plans are advancing for an October Half Term camp at Castelfranco in Italy. We have 15 young people and 5 adults signed-up and fundraising for the event is underway. We need to raise around £3,000 on top of the fees we charge so it's a formidable challenge. We've raised around £500 so far from sponsorship of the Winter Challenge and cake sales at the Abingdon Clubs and Societies Day and by the river as we readied the Boat Base for the new season. I will be undertaking a sponsored walk along the whole length of the Ridgeway on May 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 86 miles in three days. Details are on the Scout notice board in HQ and on our Facebook Page. We have other events planned for the Summer term including three car boot sales and we are considering an event at HQ in September – a quiz night or similar – to raise further funds.

All in all, a busy year for the Sea Scouts so far, and a very busy Summer of boating to look forward to. None of this could happen if it weren't for the support and encouragement we receive from our parents, and from the leadership of the Group and the District. It is our privilege to see our Scouts joining us at age 10 and growing into young adults in their time with us. We hope that they leave us with happy memories and practical leadership skills that will serve them for life. We quite like it if they have a jumper full of badges as well!

John Gledhill  
Sea Scout Leader  
On behalf of the leadership team  
2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Sea Scouts

