



Everyday adventure, Skills for life

**1st Hensingham Scout Group
Annual report 2017-18**


Scouts
1st Hensingham

Welcome to our 2017-18 annual report

I think it has been another good year for 1st Hensingham Scout Group.

The everyday adventure our young members enjoy is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of leaders.

We have had more new recruits to the leadership team this year with Laura Bell, Brian Penny, Dan Pocock, Dan Easdon and Michael Bannerman joining us. Sadly we've also said good bye to some of our volunteers; I would like to thank Becky Sparkes for her work with Beavers and Cubs over the last few years as she moved back to Cheshire, and wish her happy Scouting with 15th Macclesfield Beavers.

As well as our adults leaders it's great to see a number of our former Beavers, Cubs and Scouts coming back to help their old sections as Young Leaders. Our Young Leaders do a fantastic job helping our adult volunteers run the sections and sharing their enthusiasm with the young people. However, these Young Leaders are with us to train to be leaders of the future, not as a substitute for adults now. As Group Scout Leader my biggest concern is ensuring we have enough adult support to continue delivering the active programme that our young people deserve and have come to expect, and my top priority is ensuring that we strengthen the adult support for our Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs.

If you or someone you know is up for the challenge of learning new skills, inspiring our young members to achieve their best and having fun whilst you're doing it, speak to myself or your child's section leader. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment.

I am pleased to report that all the sections have been

active getting out and about locally during the year, and I've been pleased to see all three sections putting on lots of nights away experiences.

As Group Scout Leader, it was good to see all the sections come together in July for Group Camp where we had a relaxing weekend of camping and activities, made even better by the good weather! There are of course hundreds of photos and some video from this on our Flickr stream (there are links from the website).

During August I managed to visit the Scouts at their summer camp for a couple of days and it was great to see them getting so well with the Danish Scouts who had come to join them. (The Danish Scouts were from the Group who hosted our Scouts on their international trip to the Danish National Jamboree in Sønderborg last year).

I'm also delighted that a number of our former members, including two of our current young leaders (Josh & Charlotte), have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in North America next summer as part of the Cumbria contingent.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone (leaders, parents and young people) for helping make the last 12 months a huge success. I know the section leaders are already planning lots of activities for the next year, and with 2019 marking the 70th birthday of the Group I'm sure that 2018/19 is going to be another fantastic year. I look forward to having you share the fun, challenge and adventure with us.

Alf Branch
Group Scout Leader

BEAVERS

Last year saw the Beavers doing lots of activities, camps and a multitude of badges. They made bug houses which they took home and we're sure were well loved. They became scientists and made wonderful gooey multi-coloured slime. They have also made fudge by 'cooking' it under their armpits!

We looked at a number of traditions from different parts of the world. From New Zealand we learnt about Oratio, the Kea Parrot, Beavers in New Zealand are called Keas. We tried our hand at the HAKA which had the Beavers making very strange faces and very loud shouts. We carried sacks of wool up and down hills from Tetbury and rolled cheeses from Gloucester.

In January we had a sleepover at Branthwaite where the Beavers tried their hands, very successfully, at archery. They made homemade desert pizza and partied with glow sticks and some very cool dance moves (and that wasn't just the Beavers)!



May saw us on District Camp at Ennerdale where the Beavers launched water rockets, and climbed along the low ropes. In June we had a Taster Camp, where we purely camped and played games much to all our enjoyment. Our newer Beavers got a taste of being under canvas and camp breakfast, yummy. And then finally in July we were on Group Camp. The Beavers got to experience a mammoth water slide, built by the Scouts. They lit fires and sang at the camp fire.



Breakfast on Taster Camp



Pebble skipping on Taster Camp

Last year saw us say goodbye to Becky as she headed off to a new job and Beaver Group. Michael made a much-welcomed return and has slotted back into the Group like he's never been away. We've also said goodbye to two of our long standing Young Leaders, Daniel and Robert. Both are going off to University and

we would like to sincerely thank them for the time and effort they have given the Group over the years and wish them both the very best for their next adventures.

We finished the year with what seems to be becoming an end of year tradition. We held a 'slip n slide' night which had Beavers, Young Leaders and a certain Leader, namely Ross, flinging themselves down a wet soapy tarpaulin. We also had a Colour Run evening which had clouds of powder being deposited on the Beavers, Leaders and a couple of willing parents.



This year we have already got plans for a sleepover. We are looking into a session at the swimming baths. We are going to continue with tying shoelaces as part of the Beaver Personal Challenge award and many others.

Lastly a huge thank you to all parents and families that have helped this year, we can't do this by ourselves so thank you and here's to this year's Beavers.

cubs

2017 was a great year for Cub Scouting, here is a round-up of some of our activities.

The Cubs put on a show within the section meetings, each of them learnt a song, or little sketch in small groups which they performed to the enjoyment of the other Cubs and the leaders.

Once again Remembrance Day saw a great turn out

from the Cubs, which gets larger each year. Hopefully we can get maximum attendance this year to show our respect to celebrate the Centenary of the end of WWI.





Christmas laser quest was once again “get Eddie night” with all of the opposing team, and some on his side determined to shoot him as much as possible, however he has developed even more ingenious ways of cheating so he wins. (though this year for some reason he didn't – the Cubs are getting wise to him obviously)

The summer term saw our Cubs take part in a colour run, which they thoroughly enjoyed, including our adult volunteers - apologies for car seats which are now various colours of the rainbow, it may become a fashion trend!



We also completed our Community Challenge badge with the Cubs clearing the weeds from part of the hardstanding at St Nicholas church in Whitehaven, after a plea for help was put out by the Church, and they were grateful for the amount the Cubs achieved and how clean the area looked after their hard work.



Throughout the term we took part in some challenges which go towards the Challenge Cumbria badge, these ranged from racing oranges down a hill, to how many knots can be tied in a minute, having all your six wearing bin bags and keeping Haribo sweets on your face for a minute.



A big thanks has to be given to our cubs, who have tried and done their best all the activities we have given them to do.

Two of our leaders left due to other commitments, and we all would like to say a great big thanks to them both for the time and energy they have given.

We also welcomed three new leaders in Brian, Laura and Leah, so our cub leadership team is still as strong as ever.

In 2018, cub scouting promises to be even more challenging and adventurous so watch out for news as it appears.

SCOUTS

It's been a very busy year for Helvellyn & Skiddaw Troops – we've awarded over 200 Challenge and Activity Badges, invested 30 new Scouts and have racked up 393 Scout-nights away across 9 different camps!

There've been plenty of opportunities for the Troop to find out about Scouting in other countries with our first JOTI sleep over last October proving a big hit with the

Scouts and then our epic Summer Camp with Danish Scouts from Østerhøj-Måløv in August.

Summer camp was a huge success – with approximately 55 Scouts and leaders from both Groups camping together for 7 nights at Scout Adventures' Great Tower activity centre. As well as some traditional Scouting and team building challenges, we took full advantage of the adventurous activities on offer with ghyll scrambling, rock climbing and axe throwing proving to be some of highlights for the Scouts. It was great for the leaders to see our Scouts

integrating with the Danish young people so well, and we hope that they'll be able to stay in touch with their new friends. We've already started talking with the Danish leaders about another joint camp in 2020 and/or joining them for the next Danish Jamboree in 2022!



Through the year we've had a varied programme including some traditional Scouting – including cooking on open fires at various Troop meetings and at our “smokey hammocks camp” in April, team building & problem solving and developing our pioneering skills leading to us building a water slide at Group camp.



We are very proud that Otter and Eagle Patrols bagged 1st and 2nd place in the District cooking competition in

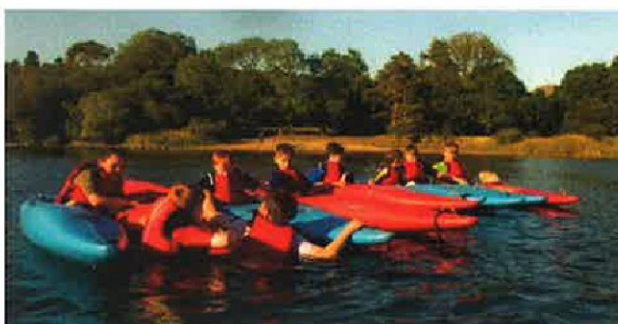
July. Otter Patrol will be representing the District at the County competition this October.



A number of our older Scouts successfully completed their Expedition Challenge in Eskdale last October, and our younger Scouts have started to develop their navigation skills, enjoying a hike over Cat Bells (followed by a swim in the lake) in the summer term.

We've also been getting involved with some environmental projects, helping the the National Park rangers remove non-native trees from Eskdale and planting native trees in Wasdale with the West Cumbria Rivers Trust!

Adventurous activities have remained a big part of this year's programme. In January we returned to WinterCamp where the Scouts got to try caving (in a bus), the big air bag drop, quad biking, laser tag and host of other activities (and the leaders got to try out the new wood-burner for the mess tent)!. May saw the return of District camp where we helped run many of the big activities. The warmer weather allowed us to return to Scarness for another season of kayaking and sailing, and we're thrilled that our new store has enabled us to set up an air rifle range so that we can offer the Master at Arms badge again.



Finally, we'd like to thank our young leaders Josh & Sam for all their help. We've had a great year and want to thank the Scouts for their enthusiasm and energy - we hope they're looking forward to 2018/19 as much as we are.



Treasurer's Report

The Group Finances for the financial year of 2017/18 remain healthy, increases in our major expenditure have occurred during this reporting period most notably being the need to secure a commercial storage unit to store and maintain our equipment. With just over 110 members and approximately 30/40 new starters/leavers each year our subscription and subsequent accounts are constantly changing.

The transition to using the Online Scout Manager (My.SCOUT) system for payments for camps and subscription has helped the Group leaders regain time to concentrate on running the respective section programmes. Please could I ask all those still paying by the other options to please consider switching to OSM for payments as it really helps our leaders! The system also automatically reminds you if you have overlooked making a payment, so for me this is great as we all sometimes need a little reminder in the busy lives that we lead! It is very important that our normal income can meet the expected annual costs and that the subs can be kept as low as possible, so thank you to everyone who pays promptly, your co-operation is very much appreciated.

In addition to our current account, in the 2017/18 the Committee looked to move funds from our reserve account to an account that would generate a small return on investment. Unfortunately the terms of this account changed and this changed our risk – the money has been moved back into the Natwest Business reserve account that we have held for a number of years. A slight increase in funds was generated in the new account and no monies were lost. The total amount held in reserve is considered to be sufficient to allow us to operate the normal activities of the Group for 12 months should income and fundraising activities fall short, as well as having adequate provision for future maintenance / disposal of our storage facility at Hensingham School. This account currently is "stable" as the current financial

market and subsequent low % returns on interest - yield very little for the group

The major source of normal income to supplement our funds from subscriptions remains our annual Gift Aid claim. With your help, gift aiding generated income to the order of just over £1900 this year. If you haven't signed up but are eligible, please do so - it's very simple and won't cost you a thing. Gift Aid is essential in helping the Group finances go further; together subs and the money claimed from Gift Aid cover the basic running costs of the Group.

Most events and trips are self-financing but we do fundraise to allow us to offer financial support to those members who need it, as well allowing us to organise subsidised Group and social events (such as the AGM and Family camp for example). We have a nominal budget for each section's programmed activities throughout the year, any surplus money goes directly back into the Group funds.

Our main fundraising activities in the last financial year were the Fiesta night and the annual bag pack at Morrisons. These, together with other fundraising supported by friends and family of the Group raised in excess of £1800. Furthermore we were gifted generous donations, from both individuals and company/community funds, of just over £6000. These vital funds support the Group to renew "worn out" equipment, purchase new equipment to allow leaders to offer our members even more activities, and fund our programmes.

As usual, the Annual Returns and the year-end accounts for the previous financial year (2016/17) and updated Trustee information were submitted to the Charity Commission. A summary of our accounts is available on the Charity Commission website.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, benefactors and fundraisers for their continued support during this year.

Daniel Frankland
Treasurer

Summary of Accounts

Income	2016/17	2017/18
Membership subscriptions	£ 8,193.76	£ 9,394.23
Donations	£ 4,268.10	£ 6,053.93
Gift aid	£ 1,704.36	£ 1,939.24
Fundraising	£ 2,206.20	£ 1,870.99
Group activities	£ 17,229.10	£ 17,060.96
Uniform	£ 1,685.80	£ 2,364.80
Other income	£ 3.44	£ 9.64
Total	£ 35,290.76	£ 38,693.79

Expenditure	2016/17	2017/18
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,305.25	£ 3,915.00
Programme and activities	£ 16,038.29	£ 24,872.71
Rent & rates	£ 1,960.00	£ 3,707.62
Insurance	£ 591.96	£ 588.86
General administration	£ 160.38	£ 333.90
Uniforms	£ 1,619.40	£ 2,268.00
Fundraising expenses	£ 326.74	£ 91.73
Asset & investment purchases	£ 2,160.29	£ 6,070.47
Other expenditure	£ 228.11	£ 589.21
Total	£ 26,390.42	£ 42,419.50

Statement of assets & liabilities	2016/17	2017/18
Unrestricted cash funds	£ 16,393.33	£ 7,717.92
Restricted cash funds	£ 10,053.48	£ 15,003.18
Non-monetary assets	£ -	£ 18,988.63
Liabilities (accounts not yet paid)	£ 885.30	£ 553.92

NB: The value of non-monetary assets held by the Group was not recorded in 2016/17.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee plays a vital role behind the scenes to support the activities of 1st Hensingham Scout Group, most of which go unnoticed but are important in ensuring that the leaders can concentrate on providing the full and varied programme that they do.

Recently we have welcomed Louise Hodgson to the Committee as our new Treasurer, replacing Daniel Frankland who has kindly stayed on to see the handover take place. This September we also say goodbye to Alan MacDonald, a long-standing member

of our group, and also Adrian Pavey, Janette Lount, and our Secretary Andrea Bird. Most of these parents have seen their children grow up through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and are leaving us because their association with 1st Hensingham has come to an end. We give them all our thanks for their contribution to the running of the group.

I'm pleased to report that, as a result of our plea for help earlier this year, we have a number of parents ready to fill the vacant positions following the AGM.

New Equipment Store

The main focus of the first half of the year was finding suitable alternative premises for our equipment store.

After much searching, we finally found a unit at Sneakyeat Industrial Estate and the move from our previous store at The Whitehaven Academy was completed in February under some quite wet conditions. A massive thank you goes to everyone who lent a hand, or a car or a van that day. Thanks to a donation from Shepley's of some shelving units we also have things more neatly stashed and accessible for use. In addition, our resourceful Leaders managed to find a way of setting up a range for air rifle shooting within the new store. This means that the Scout section can now run the Master at Arms course which wasn't previously possible.

Fundraising

Bag packing: Our supermarket bag pack took place at Morrisons, this time in June, allowing our members to come face to face with the public and demonstrate their helpfulness, resulting in funds being raised for the group. Thank you to all members, parents and leaders who helped with this event.

Kit Sale: This year we collected your unwanted kit and clothing and a number of our families benefitted by picking up a bargain at the Kit sale held across a number of section nights. A respectable £70 went into our group funds, so thanks to all who supported this endeavour.

Donations: We have been fortunate this year to receive donations from companies (Jacobs and BEPDT) due to members of staff nominating 1st Hensingham Scout Group as a worthy charitable recipient. If your company operates a scheme for grants or donations which you feel might benefit our youth members, please let us know.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Hensingham Primary School for the use of the school and grounds.
- Kerry the caretaker for opening and closing the school on every session.
- St John's Church Hensingham for the occasional use of the hall.
- All the section leaders, assistant leaders and young leaders, without whom 1st Hensingham would not be the fabulous Group that it is.
- All Exec members and parents for their support for our Group.

Ann Walkingshaw
Group Chair

Group Information 2017-18

Registered Name: 1st Hensingham Scout Group

Registered Charity No: 520612

Registered Address of HQ:

Hensingham Primary School

Main Street, Hensingham

Whitehaven, CA28 8QZ

Bankers: NatWest, Lowther Street
Whitehaven, CA28 7AH

Independent Examiner: N/A

Investment Advisers: Not required as the Group only holds cash

Insurance Advisers: Unity Insurance Services

Executive Committee:

Mrs Andrea Bird	(Secretary)
Mr Alf Branch	(Group Scout Leader*)
Dr Jonathan Cheesewright	(Scout Leader*)
Mr Daniel Frankland	(Treasurer)
Mrs Janette Keenan	
Mr Alan MacDonald	
Mrs Kam Massey	
Mr Adrian Pavey	
Mr Jonathan Stamper	
Mrs Lisa Stanaway	(Beaver Leader*)
Mr Eddie Stewart	(Cub leader*)
Mrs Ann Walkingshaw	(Chair)

* Ex-officio appointments by nature of their role.

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the

1ST HENSINGHAM SCOUT GROUP/DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended 5/4/2018

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages 1 to 3.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name: Robert Fearon

Address: Manar House,

Kinniside,

Cleator

Cumbria. CA23 3AF.

Date: 25/9/2018.



1 st Hensingham Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	06/04/2017	To	05/04/2018
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Receipts and payments

	2017/18			2016/17
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	9394.23	0.00	0.00	9394.23
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	-3915.00	0.00	0.00	-3915.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	5479.23	0.00	0.00	5479.23
Donations	6053.93	0.00	0.00	6053.93
Legacies (Reserve for new built)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid	1939.24	0.00	0.00	1939.24
Uniform	2364.80	0.00	0.00	2364.80
Trips	2545.00	0.00	0.00	2545.00
Camps	14515.96	0.00	0.00	14515.96
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Refunds/Rebates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carried Forward Year End Apr 17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	32898.16	0.00	0.00	32898.16
Grants				
Maintenance grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising (gross)				
Fiesta Night	332.00	0.00	0.00	332.00
Christmas Towels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	142.16	0.00	0.00	142.16
Bag Packing	1396.83	0.00	0.00	1396.83
Everyclick	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	1870.99	0.00	0.00	1870.99
Investment income				
Bank interest	0.00	9.64	0.00	9.64
Building Society interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Rent income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other investment income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	9.64	0.00	9.64
Total Gross Income	34769.15	9.64	0.00	34778.79
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	34769.15	9.64	0.00	31985.51

1 st Hensingham Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	06/04/2017	To	05/04/2018
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Receipts and payments

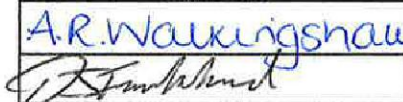
	2017/18			2016/17
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Payments				
Charitable Payments				
Youth programme and activities	3966.95	0.00	0.00	3966.95
Adult support and training	90.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Rent and Rates	3685.50	0.00	0.00	3685.50
Water and Sewerage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity and Gas	22.12	0.00	0.00	22.12
Insurance	588.86	0.00	0.00	588.86
Repairs and Renewals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Materials and equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Badges	1371.86	0.00	0.00	1371.86
General Administration	333.90	0.00	0.00	333.90
Contribution to camp costs	19506.99	0.00	0.00	19506.99
Uniforms & Scout Shop	2268.00	0.00	0.00	2268.00
Group Events (AGM, socials)	26.91	0.00	0.00	26.91
Adjustment	2.72	0.00	0.00	2.72
Other costs detail 2 Dist/County Levy & HQ Subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other costs detail 3 Donations/Presents	478.49	0.00	0.00	478.49
Sub total	32342.30	0.00	0.00	32342.30
Fundraising expenses				
Fiesta Night	91.73	0.00	0.00	91.73
Christmas Towels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Refunds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Banks Wilson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	91.73	0.00	0.00	91.73
Total Gross Expenditure	32434.03	0.00	0.00	32434.03
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	6070.47	0.00	0.00	6070.47
Total payments	38504.50	0.00	0.00	38504.50
Net of receipts/(payments)	-3735.35	9.64	0.00	-3725.71
Transfers between funds	-4940.06	4940.06	0.00	0.00
Cash funds last year end	16393.33	10053.48	0.00	26446.81
Cash funds this year end	7717.92	15003.18	0.00	26446.81

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2017/18			2016/17
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank current account	7717.92	0.00	0.00	7717.92
Bank deposit account (+ interest)	0.00	15003.18	0.00	15003.18
Building society account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash/Floats	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total cash funds	7717.92	15003.18	0.00	22721.10
Other monetary assets				
Tax claim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance claim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment assets				
Investment property - detail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Quoted investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other investments - detail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Badge stock	2008.63	0.00	0.00	2008.63
Shop stock	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uniform stock	1480.00	0.00	0.00	1480.00
Land and buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trailer	2100.00	0.00	0.00	2100.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	13400.00	0.00	0.00	13400.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	18988.63	0.00	0.00	18988.63
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid	553.92	0.00	0.00	553.92
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	553.92	0.00	0.00	553.92

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 28th September 2018 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	A.R. WALKINGSHAW Chair
	DANIEL JAMES FRANKLAND Treasurer

Annual General Meeting

Friday 28th September 2018, 6:30pm

Venue: St John's Church Hall, Hensingham

Present: Ann Walkingshaw, Alf Branch, Jonathan Cheesewright, Eddie Stewart, Lisa Stanaway, Matt James, Paul Tyson, Allan Simpson, Daniel Frankland, Kam Massey, Joanne Fisher, Louise Hodgson, Clare Bethwaite, Gemma Pattinson, Leaders, Young Leaders, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families.

A total of 120 people were in attendance.

Welcome and Introduction:

The 1st Hensingham Group AGM and second Pinewood Derby was opened by our Chair Ann Walkingshaw. Ann welcomed and thanked Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders, Parents, Members of the Executive Committee, and our Deputy District Commissioner Allan Simpson for attending.

Apologies: Apologies for absence have been received from Ross Cleeton, Adrian Pavey and Jonathan Stamper.

Minutes of 2017 AGM:

Copies of the 2017 AGM Minutes were available around the room.

The approval of the 2017 AGM minutes was proposed by Alf Branch and seconded by Matt James.

Presentation of Annual Report, including Annual Statement of Accounts:

All attendees received a copy of the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2017-2018. The report detailed the Groups activities, challenges and achievements over the past year, as well as the work of the Executive Committee. The Group Leaders dedication and enthusiasm was recognised and appreciated.

Daniel Frankland, our treasurer presented the accounts. The Group remains financially secure, with numbers in all sections looking good. The Group Accounts are internally & externally checked.

- He encouraged the continued up take of the 'Online Scout Management System', to further improve efficiency in sub payments, to allow Leaders the opportunity to better plan, cost out and manage expenditure.
- He also encouraged and emphasised the importance of Gift Aid Declaration.
- The slight rise in subs over the past year has allowed the Group to secure a much needed Business Unit/Store. The store is proving beneficial in various ways and is essential to meet Group needs.
- He welcomed ideas from all attendees on ways to reduce operating costs.

The approval of the report, including the Annual Statement of Accounts was proposed by Eddie Stewart and seconded by Lisa Stanaway.

Group Scout Leader's Nomination of Chair:

Alf Branch nominated Ann Walkingshaw to remain as the Group Chair, no objections raised and she was duly elected.

Election of Group Secretary and Treasurer:

Gemma Pattinson has volunteered to take on the role of Secretary this year. This was proposed by Daniel Frankland and seconded by Alf Branch.

In the summer the committee co-opted Louise Hodgson as new treasurer, as Daniel Frankland steps down. This was proposed by Eddie Stewart and seconded by Lisa Stanaway.

Elections to the Group Executive Committee:

The Chair advised the meeting that Parent representative Jonathan Stamper, and our elected general rep Kam Messey are willing to continue serving on the committee. They were re-elected, proposed by Alf Branch and seconded by Paul Tyson.

New volunteers joining the Executive Committee Joanne Fisher and Clare Bethwaite were proposed by Paul Tyson and seconded by Eddie Stewart.

Lisa Stanaway and Jon Cheesewright have indicated they are willing to continue to sit on the executive committee as charity trustees.

Any attendees, who would like to be part of the Group Committee in any capacity, and especially anyone with a flair for publicity to help promote the Group, would be most welcomed and encouraged to contact any member of the Executive Team.

Appointment of Independent Scrutineer:

Due to the increased demands on our current Scrutineer Robert Fearon, the Chair advised that the Group are looking to appoint a new Scrutineer. The Chair proposed a resolution to authorise the Executive Committee to appoint a new Scrutineer at or before the end of the Financial Year. This was seconded by Alf Branch.

Review of our Scouting Year – Group Scout Leader and Section Leaders

Alf Branch gave an overall review, followed by Lisa Stanaway, Matt James and Jon Cheesewright. They gave a short update on the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts section respectively; see Annual Report for full details.

Presentations – District Commissioner:

Allan Simpson, Deputy District Commissioner presented:

- Kam Massey, 5 Year Scouting Service Award
- Eddie Stewart – 10 Year Scouting Service Award
- Paul Tyson, 15 Years Scouting Service Award
- Margaret James, 40 Years Scouting Service Award
- Matt James was presented with a Medal of Merit for Outstanding Service to Scouting.

Any Other Business:

Thanks were given to the Scout Leaders and committee members Alan McDonald, Andrea Bird, Janette Keenan, Adrian Pavey and Daniel Frankland, who are stepping down this year.

Formal Business concluded and the Second Pinewood Derby raced into action.

