



NOTICE is given of the
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
of the
1st Swindon Sea Scouts Group Council
to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams
Friday 25th June at 18:00

Dear Friends of 1st Swindon Sea Scouts,

In order to ensure the continued good governance of the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts and to comply with Charity Commission Law and the requirements of the Scout Association, the Executive committee is serving notice of this year's Annual General Meeting.

We are inviting all those involved and supporting 1st Swindon to log on and 'attend' and hope that you will be able to support our AGM. We expect the formal business to last no more than half an hour.

We will share a link to allow our members to join us nearer the time.

We look forward to joining with you.

Best wishes,

Sanita Rai
Chair, Executive Committee

Catharine Smith
Group Scout Leader

Charity Commission number: 305941 - www.firstswindon.co.uk

AGENDA

1. Welcome from Group Chair
2. Apologies
3. Approval of last year's A.G.M. Minutes 26th September 2020
4. Presentation of Accounts (Treasurer's Report)
5. Chairman's Report
6. Approval of nomination of Group Chairman
7. Election of Group Secretary
8. Election of Group Treasurer
9. Appointment of Examiner
10. Confirm Section Leaders to be Trustees
11. Election of Parents to serve on the Group Executive
12. Group Scout Leader (GSL) Report
13. Section Reports
14. Guests - District Commissioner (or representative) - Verbal Report

Welcome from Group Chair

In my first report as Chair, I am happy to announce that we have a thriving, diverse, busy, financially sound and above all, fun group. I am very happy to report yet another hugely successful scouting year for all sections of the group, regardless of the strains of the pandemic.

With healthy numbers across all sections, we are able to offer the friendship and adventure of Scouting to more local young people. As you will see from the section reports from Beavers through to Explorers, they have achieved a great deal throughout the year – be this virtually. We have a very active programme across all sections, whether at the Wick, at Bowmoor Lake or on one of our annual events - everyone is again starting to get out for some great adventures and fun and building skills for life.

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic contribution of time and enthusiasm given by the various Section Leaders and the parent helpers to this scout group. I wish to praise the time, energy and enthusiasm put into the group by the Group Scout Leader, Catharine, and all the members of the Executive Committee. The contribution of all of these people to the smooth running of the group is essential and greatly appreciated. Without these leaders and helpers, the groups would not be as successful as it has been over the years and the time and effort put in by these leaders and helpers far exceeds the time in Section meetings, that is the 'visible part' of scouting. We must never forget that they are all volunteers, and that the time and expertise they bring to the group is reflected in the continuing success of scouting in all sections in our group.

Especially this year, in these extraordinary and unprecedented times we find ourselves in, I would like to say a really HUGE 'THANK YOU' to our volunteers in all the roles they have and take on from committee members to helpers to leaders and assistants who make this group achieve what it does for the young people and community.

Our young people are incredible and so are our brilliant volunteers. Again, thank you for all you do to step Scouts up, play their part and gain skills for life. It's people like you who give their time, commitment and dedication in inspiring a new generation to be confident, take the lead and find their place in the world. We are bringing people together and building a more resilient community. Most of all, we are helping young people to see that anything is achievable and everything is possible.

With the unexpected pandemic and the disruption this caused, our volunteers have demonstrated that nothing falters them. They have continued to support the children, be it virtually, and provide activities along with online challenges to continue to aid the learning of our young people. We have been lucky to have supportive parents to allow this to happen.

Although the AGM was always the point in the year to reflect on the activities of the various sections, financial standing of the group, and election/re-election of volunteers to the Executive Committee, it has also been an opportunity to ask for new volunteers to step forward. We are looking for more adult volunteers to enable us to keep growing the group and provide scouting in our community. With more adult support, we would be able to offer a higher quality of scouting not only for our current members but for future members too. If

you are interested in providing support please speak with your section Leader or Catharine our Group Scout Leader.

We as a Group and Executive are conscious of the fact that everything we do is for the benefit of the young people, and it gives us all great pleasure and a sense of achievement when we see such enthusiasm and commitment to scouting. It is very pleasing to see the Young People take full advantage of everything we are able to offer.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the executive team for the support they have given to myself, Catharine and the group over the last year.

Sanita Rai

Group Chair

Annual General Meeting
Teams online meeting – 26th September 2020

ITEMS

1.0 Welcome by Chairman

- 1.1 Sundar welcomed parents, helpers, leaders and District representatives to the AGM for 1st Swindon Sea Scouts.
- 1.2 Due to the COVID situation and rules around lockdown and social distancing, it was decided to utilise technology and hold the meeting virtually over Teams.

2.0 Apologies

- 2.1 No apologies were received

3.0 Minutes of last AGM

- 3.1 Previous AGM minutes were approved as an accurate account of proceedings and were agreed by the Chair

4.0 Presentation of Accounts

- 4.1 The annual Financial Report was available for reference within the AGM pack.
- 4.2 Overall the Group funds are in a healthy position with full reserves as required by the Charity Commission and funds still being held for the future extension of The Wick. We would like to thank parents that have continued to contribute the Subs.
- 4.3 The accounts have been fully audited and approved.

5.0 Chairman's Report

- 5.1 The full report was available within the AGM pack.
- 5.2 For another year running the popularity of the Scout association is very high with all sections are remaining at maximum capacity and we still hold waiting lists to which parents will be contacted when spaces become available. A special thank you for all of the hard work of the leaders and helpers especially during the current pandemic
- 5.3 As always we cannot run our groups and numerous activities without the help of our community and we still would like to recruit more parent helpers, Executive Members and Leaders to support the Group, please contact Sundar or a member of the executive team if you would like to help out.

6.0 Nomination of Group Chairman

- 6.1 Sundar announced that he was standing down from the role of group chairperson. We will advertise for a new chairperson

7.0 Election of Group Secretary

- 7.1 Chris Williams was nominated and seconded as Group Secretary

8.0 Election of Group Treasurer

8.1 Sarune Valentaite was nominated and seconded as Group Treasurer

9.0 Appointment of Examiner

9.1 The Examiner of accounts will be confirmed nearer the time as per previous years.

10.0 Confirm Section Leaders to be Trustees

10.1 The Group Scout Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leaders and all Section Leaders have confirmed and agreed to be Trustees for the Group.

11.0 Elections of Parents to Serve on the Executive

11.1 Parents are requested to speak to any leader or executive member if they wish to volunteer

12.0 Group Scout Leader Report

12.1 The Full report was available within the AGM pack.

12.2 Catharine thanked all the leaders for their hard work and dedication and also for their support to deliver the programs.

13.0 Section Reports and Awards

13.1 All section reports were available within the AGM Pack

13.2 Section leaders provided a verbal summary and overview of their years with special thanks to their section leaders, parents and all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers for a successful year.

14.0 Awards

14.1 Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, awards were not presented for this year and it was agreed that there would not be Beaver(s), Cub(s) and Scout of the year awards

15.0 District Commissioner

15.1 District Commissioner offered his thanks to all concerned for their hard work throughout the year, for the excellent turn out for the AGM and support of the Group.

Meeting Formally Closed at 18:30

Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2020

1st Swindon Sea Scout Group

Section A Reference and administration details

For the period	31/03/2020 – 31/03/2021
Charity Name	1 st Swindon Sea Scout Group
Charity Number	305941
Charity's principal address	11 Hardwick Close, Swindon, SN25 4TR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Sanita Rai	Chairperson	
2	Christopher Williams	Secretary	
3	Sarune Valentaite	Treasurer	
4	Catharine Smith	GSL	
5	Carl Steckerl		
6	Lucy Schofield	Finance Chair	
7	Claire Brewster		
8	Jacqueline Stevens		
9	Mark Edwards		
10	Paul Stevens		
11	Mark Crossland		

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Susan Heath	104 Avonmead, Swindon, SN25 3PS

Section B Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The Group/District/Area/County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues	The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This

	<p>includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parent's representation and meets 6 times a year</p> <p>Members of the Executive Committee complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.</p> <p>This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:</p> <p>The maintenance of Group property; The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; The insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; Appointing any sub committees that may be required; Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.</p> <p>The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The Purpose of Scouting</p> <p>Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting</p> <p>As Scouts we are guided by these values:</p> <p>Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.</p> <p>Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.</p> <p>Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.</p> <p>Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.</p>
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	<p>Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>The Scout Method</p> <p>Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects</p>	<p>The Group main function is to support the sections in achieving the aims of the Scout Association. Group numbers has remained constant during Lockdown.</p> <p>Normal scout activities were limited during 2020/2021 - but the group managed to get online and started to recover in the Summer of 2020, some sections were up and running after Easter and big thank you to our volunteer leaders who went the extra mile to keep scouting moving forward.</p> <p>The Provision of Scouting within the Group is totally dependent on the contribution made by volunteers.</p>
<p>Public benefit statement</p>	<p>The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>

Section D Achievements and performance

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year</p>	<p>In addition to the regular management tasks undertaken to ensure the smooth running of the administration and finances of the group, the Executive Committee have continued to review the Group structure as we continue to grow to make it as productive and efficient as possible.</p> <p>Having received formal approval from the Scout Association we continue to move ahead with the plans for extending The Wick. We are starting to submit grant applications and hope to start building in the near future.</p>
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	<p>We continue to look for more adult volunteers to enable us to keep growing the group and provide Scouting in our community. With more adult volunteers we hope to be able to continue and expand our exciting and varied programme across all sections in the group. More adult support enables us to offer a higher quality of Scouting not only for our current members but for future members as well.</p> <p>The Executive Committee are actively working on promoting the Group within the local area to ensure a strong community link.</p>
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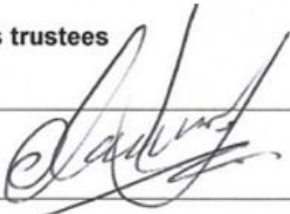
Section E Financial review

Brief statement on the charity's policy on reserves	<p>The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £8000.</p> <p>The Group held reserves of approximately £8000 against this at year end.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a ring fenced building fund amount of £48,800 held which will be offset against the cost to extend our meeting place once sufficient funds have been raised.</p>
Further financial review details	<p>The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.</p>

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
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Full name	Christopher Williams
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Position held	Group Secretary
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Date

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts Group Executive**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's/District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's 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 Group 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 any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


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 130 of the Charities Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Name: SUE HEATH Signature: 
Qualification: SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER
Address: 104 AVONMEAD SWINDON SN25 3PS
Date: 31/5/2021

Treasurers Report for the year to 31 March 2021

With the continued growth of the Group in the last year, we remain in a good monetary position with minimum overheads and our financial focus is providing excellent Scouting opportunities to our members.

We have continued to make progress towards our building extension goal and have £48,800 ring fenced and allocated to this. We will be looking to apply for further grants in the near future to contribute more to our building fund so work can commence. If any parents would like to nominate our Group for a fundraising event or corporate donation/grant we would be most appreciative. These contributions will make a real difference and bring us closer to having a meeting place to suit our needs.

This year we have also signed up to both Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile, both of which will donate a percentage of your online purchases from a really wide range of online retailers (at no additional cost to you) to Swindon Sea Scouts once you've registered. These sites are easy to use and can really benefit the group, so please consider registering next time you're making an online purchase.

We have also received various grants from Swindon borough council to help us with Covid-19 expenses and to get back to face to face meetings.

As we are a Charity, we are able to claim Gift Aid on your subs, which gives us an extra 25% income. Thank you to all who have opted in to Gift Aid via our record keeping system My.Scout. If you have not signed up and would like to, please ask your section Leader who can arrange for the link to be sent to you.

Sarune Valentaite

Group Treasurer

1st Swindon Sea Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	31/03/2020	To	31/03/2021
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Receipts and payments

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	12,604	15,191
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	-	-
	4,444	5,166
Net membership subscriptions retained	8,160	10,025
Donations	43	383
Legacies	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-
Other similar income - Boat sale	-	-
Sub total	8,202	10,408
Grants		
Start up Grants	-	-
Other grants	2,382	-
Sub total	2,382	-
Fundraising (gross)		
Scout Post	-	2,016
Bag Packing	-	31
Badges	-	-
Activities / Events	-	16,634
Sub total	-	18,619
Investment income		
Bank interest	22	90
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Property Rent income	-	-
Other investment income	-	-

Sub total	22	90
Total Gross Income	10,606	29,117
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	10,606	29,117

Receipts and payments

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities	3,852	23,865
Adult support and training	-	346
Badges	619	1,372
Rent	525	612
Premises	2,423	1,022
Premises building project	-	-
Insurance	2,571	2,490
Admin	-	-
Grants	-	1,098
Sub total	9,990	30,804
Fundraising expenses		
Activities	-	-
Scout Post	-	728
Other fundraising costs	-	-
Sub total		728
Total Gross Expenditure	9,990	31,532
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	9,990	31,532
Net of receipts/(payments)	616	- 2,416

Cash funds last year end

55,536

57,952

Cash funds this year end

56,152

55,536

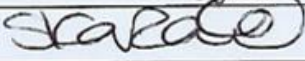
Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	5,053	4,169
Bank deposit account (Events Account)	2,232	2,522
Bank savings account (ring fenced building fund)	48,867	48,845
Building society account (ringfenced building fund)	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	-	-
Total cash funds	56,152	55,536
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	400	400
Shop stock	-	-
Other stock	-	-
Land and buildings	260,149	269,306
Motor vehicles	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	20,055	21,502
Sailing and Kayaking Equipment	13,516	14,466

Sub total	294,391	305,674
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 26th April 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	SARUNTA . K . RAI Chair
	Sarune Valentaite Treasurer

Group Scout Leaders Report

Overall the group has gained 7 Bronze, 11 Silver, 5 Gold, 5 Platinum awards over the course of the year.



Group numbers have dropped slightly due to COVID 19.

We have been asked as a Group to manage this and look at continued growth. As a volunteer for 15 years, I am passionate about the difference we can make for children in our community, but we need more leaders to enable the sections to grow. The challenges we face linked to COVID 19 also need us to focus on growing our volunteers who can actively support sections. I am pleased to announce that we have two leaders who have joined Nelson Cub pack and I am supporting them at the moment until they are settled.

Flexible volunteering is the main focus of the Scout Association, this can only happen with more leaders in our sections, this makes it easier to manage work / life balance for everyone.

This is always an ongoing process but the more parental support we have with people stepping up to Section Assistants, Exec, Skill Instructors and Leader roles the more active a programme and positive message in the community we make.

I would like to thank all of you (past and present) for your support, but it never stops so please continue to support.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Kelvin King for his support and the recognition the Scout Association has given me by awarding me - "Award for Merit",

Catharine Smith

Group Scout Leader

ONTARIO BEAVERS



What a year, most scouting brought to a standstill by the Covid virus but not our Blue Ninjas! They have adapted to the challenge with positivity and enthusiasm. I can remember the government announcing the lockdown on the evening we were in the middle of running a beaver session, 24 beavers laughing and having fun as they planted bulbs/ seeds and learnt about photosynthesis, while leaders took in the news. Did we stop like so many other groups? NO! parents were fantastic at continuing the programme at home via emails of tasks from leaders, very quickly changing to virtual meetings on teams. Initially running two group sessions on teams then all together. In the middle of this many beavers took part in their first camp virtually, what a great weekend building aliens with a guest speaker and practicing our fire lighting skills amongst many other exciting activities. As soon as face to face was announced, all the Blue Ninjas excitedly joined us on the local fields for activities, graciously accepting the very quick move back to Teams. So where are we now? Back to face to face enjoying spending time with our friends again and meeting new beavers for the first time. Hoping that we will not have another lockdown so that we can camp and enjoy activities on the water again this year!

So here is a snapshot of our year!

Fantastic story making, puppet making and performances from our beavers which included videos they had made. Very creative large homemade marble runs and machines. Thank you, William for creating a Lego Challenge badge in which the beavers had to work through his criteria to complete the badge. Fire lighting and cooking at home was a hit and many parents have said they have used the recipes again. A favourite communication task was alien sandwiches in which many of us ended up with jam on our faces. Pirate story in which the beavers changed the direction of the story when they answered multiple choices questions within it. Of course, coding came into our pirate activity.

Facial expressions of parents and beavers were very different when we made armpit fudge and bum sandwiches, I'll leave that one to your imagination! We have participated in many activities using natural resources to enable all children to participate. This includes making

bird feeders, bug houses and natural art. We have been all around the world, inviting people from various countries to join our teams' meetings, showing us games, recipes from those countries and learning about their lives. Learning knots is often greeted with a groan, not by our beavers, they practiced and used their skills to make catapults. Some of them even managed to tie a knot with their eyes closed! We have made maps of where we live, used compasses, hiked and found Wally in the woods.



We have taken part in a variety of celebrations including Halloween, Easter egg hunts, making Easter bonnets, decorating pebbles for Remembrance Day, stories for St George's day, candles, and biscuits for Founder's Day. Promises have been renewed and the beavers have been helping neighbours by shopping, litter picking and making cards for those who are isolating.

The beavers' well-being has been in all our minds, as such we have taken part in activities aimed at boosting self-esteem and confidence, which has included specific well-being sessions. As such we now have a well-being monitor as well as lodge leaders.

During this time, we have awarded 372 Badges in total and 9 Chief Scout Bronze awards! This is a fantastic achievement by all the Beavers. Well done to each one of you we are so proud of what you have accomplished.

The leaders have also received awards: Terry King - 5 year service award, Dave McGaw - Wood Beads, congratulations to you both.



We have been very lucky to have the supportive parents, so thank you for bearing with us, thank you for your patience in teams' meetings and thank you for doing preparation for the activities.

I would also like to thank Terry King ASL, Dave McGaw ASL, Tersia Hall SA, Nick Smith SA, Tracy Hatton and Lucy Schofield who have stuck with the group through-out this difficult time and have learnt about technology, put up with virtual planning and have changed without complaint when we have needed to. To enable Ontario Beavers to have the best experience possible. Without your support we would not have been able to run throughout lockdown as we have.

Jackie Stevens (Beaver Scout Leader) and the leadership team as above

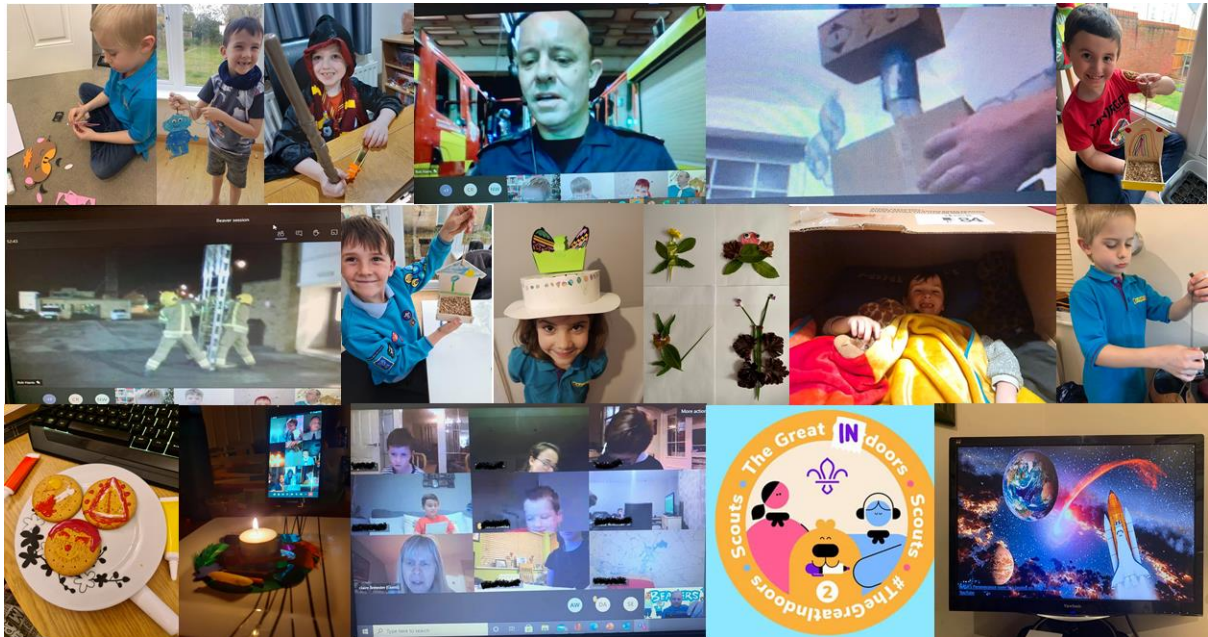
Ontario Beaver Colony

Michigan BEAVERS

Not the year we planned but a year of scouting we won't forget.

With all our plans somewhat disrupted last year and uncertainty with respect to what we could and could not do, Michigan Beavers was transformed into a virtual Beaver group where we learned and played together - but in the comfort of our own homes!

Our incredible team of Beavers got creative and from making robots from junk, to learning about different cultures and countries, we learnt about our planet and the animals that live on it. We learnt about the importance of water and did our bit for the environment learning about recycling.



Our virtual Christmas Party was a blast and we all had so much fun!

Continuing the theme, we moved to the “great indoors”; we learnt about the origins of scouting and the Beaver Promise, we learnt how to tie knots and learnt a little bit more about the world outside, from canals to fire stations to the mysteries of Hogwarts we had several visitors join us to learn about new things - we even made our own indoor gardens!

We ended our spring term with an Easter Crafts session – where we all joined in to make the most wonderful of creations!

In the last term we have continued our journey to outdoors – we learnt to draw animals, we created a bird feeder, understood how to act safely outside and inside out houses, we learnt about animals, and we got creative with things from the garden – learning about plants and how they work with us on our planet!

As we move into warmer times, we will be moving outside and getting back to some form of normality – it has been a tremendously challenging year, but the Beavers have all done fantastically.

Thank you so much to mums and dads and other carers who have helped us run the virtual programme - we simply could have not done this without you. Thank you to my great team of leaders and young leaders who have done a sterling job – from getting the craft packs out to each of you right through to running the sessions themselves!

A huge thank you to our many outside speakers who have helped deliver the programme and finally a thank you to our Beavers who have worked so hard this year!

Well done to all Beavers who received their Bronze Awards and to the rest of the colony who are now well on the way to earing theirs!

Thank you.

Mark Edwards

Leader – Michigan Beaver Colony

Section Reports: Drake Cub Pack

cubs



It certainly has been a very different year. Looking back at Easter 2020 we had just entered our first lockdown and to quote "an unprecedented time".



For Drake Cubs we paused our programme as the leaders came to terms with what was happening around us. We posted sunflower seeds to everyone and enjoyed watching these grow over what was a long and warm summer.

On behalf of the leaders, we wanted to thank you for your support during this period as we didn't hold any meetings until after the October half term.

Some sections had started remote meetings before the summer break and supported by the Exec the Drake Leaders started to learn about how to use something called Microsoft Teams! How that has changed all of our lives.



In October we were allowed to meet outside in groups of up to 15 and so we planned the end of the autumn with a mixture of Teams meetings during which we made Christmas crafts and had two hikes.



After Christmas we were back in lockdown and so reverted to remote meetings using Teams. Our confidence grew and we enjoyed baking corn flake cakes, completing our home safety badge, making Easter crafts and earning about egg production and making an omelette! Whilst remote Cubs was not for all, those taking part enjoyed the activities and the leaders said that actually we did things which we couldn't have done so easily in 'Normal' times. Big thank you to Jamie for introducing us to Kahoot, new one to me but everyone certainly enjoyed the quizzes! One evening whilst baking the muffins we suddenly saw a cat on the screen from one of the

Cubs. We did hello and before we knew it we were meeting everyone's pets! We knew exactly what to do after the Easter holidays - our Animal Carer badge.

Our year and report ends at Easter but I wanted to mention that with lockdown easing our programme after Easter involves us once again able to meet outside but with no restrictions on numbers. We have planned hikes, bug hunting, cricket, shelter building and a visit to Jungle Parc. We also have a camp at Cranham booked for September and we are hopeful that this will be able to go ahead.

I wanted to mention David who left us as a regular Leader over the summer. David has been a fantastic leader with Cubs and he will be missed each week. On behalf of everyone thank

you. David hasn't quite gone as he promised to be available if we need him and I think if we ask him nicely he will be on camp and help with the Fun Day.

The Drake Cub pack continues to be a busy one, run by Vicky, Aga, Luke and myself as leaders and joined by Jamie as our young leader. We typically have around twenty-two Cubs in the pack.

During the year, we have continued to make use of our Facebook page to share information and to keep everyone updated.

Each week, Cubs needs planning and organising and so I would like to thank David, Vicky, Aga, Luke and Jamie along with the parents who have all helped over the past year.

Once again thank you for your help and support.

Carl, Vicky, Aga, Luke and Jamie
Drake Cub Pack Leadership Team

Section Reports: Nelson Cub Pack

What a strange year this has been – most of the year has been on virtual programme with a few weeks in the Autumn where we were able to get together. Silver awards were completed for the cubs moving to Scouts including a virtual award ceremony.



Our virtual programme included cooking, scavenger hut virtual and face to face - fire pit cooking, Camp care, Taskmaster, the Cube Game, boat building, shelter around the world, Global and Team Leader Challenge.

We are very proud that we are still managing to work through the cubs Silver awards and hope that at least 6 more cubs will achieve this award before moving to Scouts in September – almost there with a bit of focus we will get them through this – despite the circumstances we have found ourselves in this year.

Sadly, since the last AGM Mandy and Andy have left the pack, but I happy to welcome Noria and Sally to the leadership team, their support is very welcome. Jack Franklin is becoming a Section Assistant as well to help strengthen the team. We would like to strengthen the team further – anyone who wants some fun, pretend to be 10 again, getting messy and enjoy the outdoors please let us know – we welcome flexible volunteering and all support appreciated.

We cannot run the section without parental support. A big thank you as well to the parents who help support the pack to allow us to give the children what we hope is a fun and varied scouting programme.

I'd like to say a big thank you to the Nelson team, who carried on managing the programme and supporting the Pack –

Noria and Sally as well as our Young Leaders, Jack and Maddie.

Nelson Cub Pack Leadership Team



SCOUTS

Swallow Scouts

An interesting year, one which I think none of us will forget. Virtual meetings continued with great attendance and with the support of patrol leaders we even managed a virtual camp!

With the odds stacked against us five scouts completed their Chief Scout Gold award. Congratulations to Elliot Miles, Bailey Drew, Samuel Stevens, Morgan Williams and Jamie Viriyani. We wish them all an enjoyable journey through Explorers. We even managed to arrange a sailing session in which ADC Dave Prior presented their awards before we went back into lockdown!



Cooking has always been popular with Scouts from pud in a mug, pancakes, cakes to a bake off! All met by enthusiasm, tasting seemed very popular as well.

We experienced some great virtual escape rooms and guest speakers, one of which was that we made models of ourselves. These proved to be very popular. Along with learning about the dangers of smoking, alcohol and plastics in the ocean. Winter proved to be the perfect time to look up into the sky to cover astronomer and astronautics badges. Taskmaster challenges and science experiments took over many homes. When we were able to meet face to face, map skills and compasses came out of the cupboard again! Thank you, Ric Miles and Lucy Schofield for your commitment to the scouts by running many of these sessions.

Sadly, Ric decided to leave our leadership Team as we returned to Bowmoor in the summer, we wish all the best and thank you for the years of support and time within Scouts.

Where are we now! Well thank you Gavin Cox, Andy Ralph, James Relph, Mike Godwin, Ben Gough, Jackie Stevens, Catharine Smith for working through risk assessments to enable our return to the lake. Without your time, knowledge and commitment to the group this would not be possible. We have enjoyed sailing, kayaking and even managed some paddle boarding. Thanks to the support from Terry King, Tom Lawrence, Evie Lawrence, Alex Odell, Lucy Schofield and Ted Usher we have managed to get all the scouts on the water!

With so many Scouts who joined us over lockdown it was great to be able to officially invest them at our summer home of Bowmoor sailing club.

We are very proud of the Scouts who have shown perseverance, commitment and resilience during this time. So, I finish with a thank you to all the parents for the support you have given the Scouts at home and the support you have shown the leaders.

Paul Stevens

Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

I have to say that Poseidon ESU is a mix of the very best young people. They have learnt a whole new system of working through Teams. They are thoughtful and inclusive, adapting planning to suit all members of the group. Their programme has been varied and interesting, resulting in enjoyment for all. We have had awesome quizzes, great bake offs, Everest challenge, cube challenges, virtual escape rooms and murder mysteries to name but a few.

The Explorers have explored geography, culture, languages, and international cooking, it has been a learning curve for us all.

Explorers achieved the impossible last summer, to get out on the water following in-depth risk assessments. This year they have managed it again. To be re-united with friends is so important in these difficult times. When forced to go back onto virtual sessions, the Explorers engaged in a virtual regatta which is something I never thought was possible. This year we are again back on the water, sailing our way to a better future!

The Explorers have continued to support other sections as young leaders, their commitment has been great. Managing to balance home learning and virtual groups.

Thank you to Catharine who has been the group leader for many years and given them all so many experiences. Thank you to Evie Lawrence, Tom Lawrence and Sally Franklin to your dedication and support of the Unit. Of course, thank you to all the parents who have supported the Explorers during this past year, without you, the Explorers would not be where they are now.

Poseidon continues to be a strong and positive group. I look forward to seeing what they can achieve over this coming year!

Jackie Stevens

Poseidon ESU leader