

# SECTION REPORTS 2022 AGM

## GSL's report 2021/22



A lot has happened since my last written report. Most noticeable is the number of adult members in the Group. All sections have lost Leaders and support staff, our committee has also shrunk in size. However, thanks to the hard work of those that been able to continue in Scouting the Group is growing its young members every week.

I am pleased to welcome a new Assistant Scout Leader, Chris; Chris will help Sam with the running of the Troop supported by Steven (Friday Cubs) and myself. Rob from Beavers has moved to Friday Cubs to help Steven and Andy, Andy is helping at Beavers with the admin and program planning as Nigel has left Beavers. Nigel has agreed to be Group Chair as Richard has moved further away and can no longer commit the necessary time. Wednesday Cubs are being led by Mina and Carole and are in need of additional help.

Francis James, our Treasurer for over ten years, decided to turn off his calculator to spend more time at home with his wife Norma. Norma herself was in fact a Cub Leader and then a Beaver Leader when Beavers first started many years ago. Francis has not just been the treasurer but adopted quite a few none related odd jobs (too many for me to remember them all), but they included things like monitoring the recycling banks, advertising Group events, setting up our jumble sales, opening the HQ for electricians, fire equipment inspections, meter readings. He undertook odd decorating jobs including re varnishing the hall floor. His local knowledge and contacts will be missed for a very long time. (Although he has said he is on the end of the phone should we need him and will probably be at our jumble sale in a few weeks' time). Thank you Francis, for all you have done for the Group.

Hazel took over the role of treasurer but her situation changed and has reluctantly had to give up the position. Although she has been keeping things afloat while our new treasure Steve Petch gets all the banking clearances sorted.

Another long-term member Angela Stevenson has left the Group. Angela is one of the few people that approached us while we were fund raising. I remember Angela coming to our stand at the back of Roys department store saying she would like to help in the Group and do anything but admin. It wasn't long before Angela was helping every week at Beavers becoming an assistant Beaver Leader. After many years in uniform Angela became a very active member of our executive committee helping at our Jumble, Book and bric a brac sales and lots more besides more often than not with her husband Tom helping also. Angela took on the role of coordinator and booking organiser of hundreds of cars at our annual car shows and developed a very easy system of quickly getting classic cars parked in the right places. This was of course the start of Angela taking on other admin roles on our committee making meticulous records of all that was said. Angela like Francis also said she would help occasionally when available.

I would like to thank Steven Gedge who keeps our grass activity area neat and tidy.

A special thanks goes to Chris Lancaster who looks after our HQ maintenance which involves things like strimming the rough grass, wood persevering the boat shed, weeding the car park and fixing things that need fixing.

Going forward we have plans to upgrade our heating, improve our loft insulation and hopefully change the layout and update the toilets.

If anyone feels they can spare some time to help your local Scout Group in any way please talk to a member of the Leader team, or myself.

Terry Hughes Group Scout Leader

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## **BEAVERS**

The Beavers have had a very interesting and rewarding year. It seems a long time ago when we engaged on Project Restart after lockdown, with all meetings outdoors. Thankfully those days seem to be a thing of the past and we are getting back to normal delivery. We have earned our navigator badge by learning about the points of a compass and then following a map on a treasure hunt. We completed the Adventurer badge by doing some indoor archery and then taking turns on a zip wire. We also took the opportunity to go kayaking for our Time on the Water Badge. We ended the summer term with a huge water fight at HQ! For the coming term, we have planned some sessions about my world, global issues and faith. It's a mark of how much the Beavers get for these sessions that so many of them are settling into Cubs once they leave us – and we have an ever-growing waiting list, so we know we are doing a good job.

A huge thank you to our helpers – Maria Marsh, Elle Green, Cath Howes, Rob Watton and Esme Redding. We couldn't do what we do without you.

## **CUBS**

Here are a few highlights of our return to Scouting:

Our activities range from fire-lighting, making smores, tent pitching, compass work, bugs in boxes, learning Braille, Sign language, sandwich making one handed and Apple day. Also, fencing by a team from Suffolk, family picnic, ten-pin bowling, visiting Willow Farm in Hickling, kayaking at Cean meadow and litter picking in Hoveton village with support from the Lions.

Badge work is also going on behind the scenes like Road Safety 1-4, Home Safety 1-3, Astronomy and much much more, growing and learning new skills along the way.

A big thank you to our Group and their families as without their support we would not have a great Scouting family.

Romina and Carole (Akela's computer genius)

## **NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Nigel)**

Retirement in Scouting takes many forms and I am certain that I have retired in 1971, 1980, 2001, 2018 and, most recently, in 2021 after 20 years with the Beavers. However, it never really happens, so now I am your Chairman and I am off to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea next year as well.

The shortage of adult volunteers remains a top priority for the Group Executive. Also, our HQ building is in need to some upgrading to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I am sure you will all be pleased to hear that a new heating system is being installed next week. In addition a feasibility study is under way to provide new toilets and showers. In the slightly longer term, we need to extend the building so we can accommodate the expanding demand for places in the Group. Watch this space.

If you can help in any way, please contact me at [nigel@hovetonandwroxhamscoouts.org.uk](mailto:nigel@hovetonandwroxhamscoouts.org.uk)  
The young people need your support and helping with Scouting is just so rewarding.

## **Friday Night Cubs Annual Report 2021/22**

Coming back to Scouting after lock-down was almost like starting from scratch, we had a completely new set of Cubs, Cubs who all had to learn Grand Howl, flag break and other Cub ceremonies without any older children to guide them. On top of this they hadn't been used to meeting face-to-face in Scouting for a couple of years. Due to the unbelievable support I have had from Baloo, Andy, and Bagheera, Rob, we really did hit the ground running and have had a very full programme. The support we have received from the rest of the leader team has also been a massive contribution towards what we have been able to achieve. Cub numbers have been a little under pre-pandemic numbers but we have had a very committed pack with regular attendance from all members which really does help with the programme. Although numbers have fallen a little recently we really do feel we are growing as a Cub Pack.

Through the year we have been able to work on Personal Safety and Road Safety badges, spent time looking at the heavens for our Astronomer badge, working with our physical fitness for our Athletics badge, our physical wellbeing with the Emergency Aid badge and our stomachs with the Chefs badge.

All year we also spend a lot of time working on our Scouting skills, working with ropes in knotting and pioneering. Maps and compass work is always on the agenda and no Cub life would be complete without the occasional fire and we've built them, lit them and cooked with them on a regular basis.

As is usual I would like to finish my report by thanking all those that have helped us get to where we are. I strongly believe that we have a great future ahead for Friday Cubs and look forward to the next year with great anticipation.

Steven Kinsley - Akela, Friday Night Cubs