

1st Hoveton and Wroxham Sea Scouts



AGM 2024 Handout Pack

Group Lead Volunteer report 2023/2024

Wow what a year!

In my last report we were sorting out the grant application and crossing our fingers that things go our way. Because of the success of the application, we made a few changes to the way we did our Scouting, the biggest one being our move to Barton Turf Adventure Centre. How lucky we are to be there, with all sections meeting in the same place makes management of the Group much easier. We did amalgamate the two Cub packs that now run on a Wednesday night.

Having all sections using the centre means we were able to park the tow a van trailer there with a lot of the everyday kit needed to run the meetings without having to keep moving stuff around. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the help and support, we have been receiving from Di and her family at the centre.

All sections have made very good use of this temporary home from pond dipping, bat watching to hiking around our new location, albeit some of the hikes were more of a wade with the water on the roads at levels never seen before. We have had a few additions to the adult team in the past year, Bonnie joined the Beaver Leader team with her youth and enthusiasm she has been a great asset. Gareth has joined the skills instructor team with a lot of experience in a number of adventures activities, we will be making good use of him in the future. And Luke with his current role as helper (never has a role title been more appropriate). Ella has joined us as a young Leader in the Beaver section, it's been a very long time since we had a young Leader that is so enthusiastic and capable and we all hope she will be with us for a number of years.

Way back in June we had a well attended wet Group camp at the Mike Thurston Water Activity Centre, with members from all sections attending. Thank you, Andy and Steven, for planning, shopping and doing all the paper work for it. At the camp Andy was awarded his wood badge in recognition of completing his Leader Training. Personally, I have enjoyed the opportunity to take the Scouts out kayaking on Barton Broad, the second largest Broad and trips up the river Ant to Hunsett Mill, a very nice change from Wroxham Broad and the river Bure. Cubs and Beavers were also given the chance to kayak at Barton Broad Staithe.

Other awards throughout the year included long service awards that went to:

Sam 5 years, Jody 10 years, Steven 15 years, Dean 15 years, Carol H 25 years Mina 30 years and Terry H 30 years. That's a lot of Scouting years!.

There are other members of the Group who have in fact been Scouting longer than those mentioned above, just their service years don't end with a 0 or a 5 this time around.

I know there will be a lot of sad faces in the Group when the time comes to leave Barton as it has worked so well for us, but with the friendships made there we hope to make use of the centre for camps and trips up the river in the future.

I also know the sad faces won't be seen once back to our NEW HQ what a transformation! Gone are the days when I tell people "You can't miss the Scout hut, its that typical white block building at the end of the road", now it will be "it's that very modern building at the end of the road".

However, it has to be mentioned that if it wasn't for the hard work by Scouts, Leaders and the then committee over 30 years ago, we wouldn't have had the land and foundations for the new building we have today.

Of course, we wouldn't be in this fantastic position if it wasn't for the huge amount of time and effort that Nigel has put into the endless paperwork and meetings after meetings, I know this has been his life for the past year.

Thank you, Nigel, from everyone involved in the Group.

Thanks, must also go to Di and her family that have put up with us at Barton, unlocking, turning on heaters, lights and locking up after us.

And thanks Ash for your skill pushing our boats to and from the Barton slipway.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Leader team who have managed to continue a very high standard of Scouting throughout our time away from Wroxham.

Terry

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Nigel)

What a difference a year makes. At the last AGM I reported that we were still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, Cath and I were preparing for a trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea, and we had applied for a grant to improve our HQ building but did not know the outcome of the application.

Well, we know the outcome of the application now. On the 8th of August last year we were given a grant of £1,048,000. We appointed a builder, Phil Drake, and after a 3 month period of something called “due diligence” which mainly consisted of filling in hundreds of pages of forms, work started in November on a complete refurbishment of our HQ building. Our meetings moved to the Barton Turf Adventure Centre and our old building was partly demolished, but enough has been retained for it to still be same familiar place, but a lot bigger.

This was my second year as Chairman, and I have spent it working nearly full time on Scouting. It has been tough and sometimes quite stressful and I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and practical help in just so many ways. Without them the building project would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the Leaders and all the young people and their parents for putting up with the move to Barton Turf while our HQ was a pile of rubble. However difficult it has been, it has certainly been worth it because the new HQ is looking absolutely fantastic and in a few weeks we will be moving back to Wroxham into a new building which will take the Group forward into the future just as the old one did back in the 1980s. It will provide great facilities for the next generations of young people in the area and carry the Group down the river of time into the new and uncharted waters of the future.

Cath and I had an interesting time at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea. You will, no doubt, recall news stories of problems at the camp. The weather was the main issue. It started wet and then was so hot that it did not drop below 35 degrees with 90% humidity in the middle of the night. Then finally, Typhoon Khanun swept the camp and put the emergency evacuation plan into action. Despite this, the event was a lot of fun and we worked with some amazing young people from across the World. We had to improvise quite a lot but that’s the skill set you learn in Scouting. Our own Group Camp in Norfolk was a bit wet too but that was also fun and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. Baden-Powell said “Any ass can be a Scout on a nice day”.

When we move into the new building there will be lots of opportunities for extra Scouting activities and new Sections. This can only happen if we have enough volunteers and there remains a significant need for more people to come forward to fill vital roles within the Group. Watch out for our recruitment campaigns which have already started and take a look at our new Volunteer section of our website. Some people have already come forward, but we need more. If you can help in any way, or if you know of anyone who can, then we need to hear from you. It’s not for me, it’s for the young people of Hoveton and Wroxham. They are the future.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this a fun and memorable year of Scouting. Thank you to the Trustees who manage the finances and the buildings to keep the Group running smoothly. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the HQ project. Thank you to all our leaders and supporters for your help. Finally, I would like to thank our Lead Volunteer, Terry, for all his support over the past year.

I look forward to another exciting and fun year of Scouting. Come along with us and enjoy the ride.

BEAVER SECTION REPORT (Andy)

It’s been another busy and exciting year for our beavers. Last Autumn saw us celebrating the traditional calendar events – we had a Halloween Party at the end of October, a bonfire and some sparklers. As we approached Christmas we made some decorations to take home, had a Glow Stick disco and enjoyed a wonderful Christingle at Wroxham Church. We also worked through our Communicator, International and Money Badge. The Spring term saw us complete our personal challenge, and work on our teamwork – helping each other out in tricky situations. We worked through some great science projects including magnets and digital spinners, as well as completing our cookery badge. Easter saw us complete some craft projects and an Easter egg hunt – always a personal favourite! We also enjoyed a spring hike to the boardwalk at Irstead. We took full advantage of the summer weather to enjoy plenty of outdoor activities. We completed a nature walk at Salhouse Broad, as well as visit to Wroxham Fire station and a chance to use their cool toys! My favourite trip of the year was to Happisburgh lighthouse, where the Beavers managed to climb all the way to the top! We also gave the Beavers the opportunity to sample Kayaking. We ended the term with our annual water fight! No leader was spared....

I'd like to offer a couple of thank yous. Firstly to Di, Ash, and all of the team at Barton Turf for the kindness and support. The relationships we have developed there have gone far beyond those of tenant and Landlord. They've been incredibly helpful in helping us offer our usual programme of activities whilst we've been meeting here. Secondly, a big thank you to all of the leaders who have assisted this year in the delivery of the programme. I must highlight one person here – Ella. She joined us as a volunteer to as part of her DoE award, and quickly showed us how excellently she worked with both young people and adults alike. She's been invaluable to the Beaver Team this year, and I feel indebted to her.

CUB SECTION REPORT (Mina)

First of all I would like to thank our lead volunteers for all their support through this transition time between locations hopefully not long now until we are back at HQ.

Here is a small rundown of what we have done as a merged pack. Some of the badges we have worked on- Astronomers, Emergency Aid, DIY, Digital Citizen, Photography, Athletics, Road Safety, Personal Safety and back to basics like doing a good turn, being helpful on meeting night as we are tight for space

Along side these badges we also had trips out such as Salhouse hike, Happisburgh Lighthouse, Sailing with Horning Sailing Club, Hickling Farm, Wroxham Library, Bure Valley Walk, Branding, Smores etc., Kayaking and a lot in-between. Many thanks to our families for all the support that they give us with the odd moan not "Scouts Again!!"

Thanks to Barton Turf Outdoor Centre for the use of their facilities

Akela (Mina)

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

The Scout section has seen great growth this year, around 20 Scouts have been attending meetings regularly. A great deal of the growth has come as a result of children moving up from Cubs. We have seen an increase in children trying out Scouts after Cubs and those staying after this transition. This improvement is not only a reflection of what is happening within our Scout Troop but also a great advert for what the leaders are achieving within our Cub Pack.

Although quite a lot smaller than our old HQ the Activity Centre at Barton Turf has worked well for Scouts and we have undertaken a lot of varied badge work. Amongst some of the highlights have been work on Model Maker, Farming and Craft badges. Many thanks to Robin for running our Farming Badges. Most Scouts would tell you, though, that the standout badge work was undertaken when they spent an evening at Norwich City College completing their Mechanics Badge – many thanks to Glen, one of our volunteers, for organising and running this.

As good as the Activity Centre was for our Scouting work it really came into its own for our summer boating activities. Having the boats onsite, not having to trailer them back and forth to the river every meeting night, has meant a lot more time on the water for the Scouts. We have managed a full programme of kayaking and sailing during the summer months. Due to the increased time on the water, the Scouts have achieved a much greater level of competency this year.

As happy as we have been at Barton Turf we are now greatly anticipating the return to our new HQ. The new opportunities that this will offer the Scout Troop is truly staggering and we cannot wait. I would like to finish off by thanking our Scouting Volunteer Team without whom none of this would be possible. We said hello and goodbye to Chris who was a superb addition whilst he was with us. We also welcome Luke and look forward to tapping into all the experience he can offer. Thanks to Glen, as always, for helping us run our summer boating programme. Sam, Terry and Steve continue to play their part and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Scout Lead Team.