

# **Scouts**

## **Selby District**

2021 AGM Reports

## District Commissioner

I'm now three quarters of the way through my first year as District Commissioner, taking over from Julie who led the district through the previous decade. She's had many challenges during the years, but many, many more enjoyable times. I would like to thank Julie for all of her efforts.

I took over during one of the most difficult periods in Scouting's history, with no face to face meetings taking place, groups losing at least a quarter of their membership and no chance for any outdoor activity. As a district we had a number of vacant roles within there were a number of vacant positions which were unfilled for extended period, a lack of engagement with the district and minimal interactions between Scout groups. The 1<sup>st</sup> district survey sent out in January highlighted this with a 10% response from all adults in the district.

Those that completed the survey showed there was a demand for district events for all youth sections, a request for adult events and help with activity permits. It also indicated there was a need to market ourselves better, get more youth members and more adult members.

The pandemic took its toll on our scout group with membership in the district dropping by 25% on average. Most have recovered and now have waiting lists which is great to see, we unfortunately have had a few groups not make it through the pandemic. Kellington closed during the pandemic and weren't able to restart afterwards. Osgodby lost leaders over the course of the pandemic, but were able to restart once we were able to go back face to face. Unfortunately, their Scout leader was unable to continue to run the group on their own. Regrettably both groups have had to close. Our remaining groups are in a strong position and will continue to grow.

This spring saw the restart of sectional meetings for Beavers Cubs and Scouts. I feel that each meeting is an improvement on the previous one with better engagement and co-operation within groups. The sectional meetings resulted in three volunteers with new roles, Keith Cartwright has stepped up as the district scout Leader; Holly Wright and Heather Gibson have jointly decided to be district Cub leaders and are sharing the role between them. All three are supporting other district leaders and are planning a program of events over the next few years for the youth members to enjoy. Eileen is continuing until March next year when she's planning to focus on her group role. I'd welcome anyone (or group) who would like to work with her going forwards looking to take on the role. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Eileen in advance for all she has done and continues to do for the Beavers in the district.

We also have a new Local Training Manager in Katie McManaman, who is leading the TA's to support training within the district. Appointments committees have also restarted with new leaders being appointed. TA's and the new leaders are being mixed from different groups to welcome them district scouting as well as group scouting. This is to begin facilitating the mixing of adults within the district and increase working across scout groups.

I'd like to finish by thanking every Volunteer in the district. You've continued to keep scouting going through the pandemic and bounced back strongly. There is a leader's event planned on 11th June next year to celebrate your success and to show that all of your efforts within scouting are appreciated. Thank You.

## District Beaver Report

The beavers of the district suffered most during the Pandemic, with numbers falling to 50% of their pre-covid levels. However, since their restart beaver membership has returned to capacity and every group has a waiting list.

There have been a couple of beaver meetings which have been well attended.

At the end of September, the Beavers went on a trip to the forbidden corner which was well attended by most groups in the district.

## District Cub Leaders Report

Before we start, I would like to say how very proud we are of the Cubs leaders within Selby for all of their dedication, support and motivation to keep going in this last year! Without them we would not be standing here today.

October fun day has been postponed until next year and we hope to offer a range of activities to all cubs and allow a social for the leaders after the event.

Christmas party - we are planning for this to happen in December 4th to the 5th as long as covid restrictions allow. We have planned a variety of activities and are looking into the costs and budgeting.

County cub camp - plans for looking into this next year as a district event so far have had 1 group show interest in this.

We hope to plan further events in the future.

## Selby District Scout Report 2021

Since I took on the role of ADC Scouts in June we have had one face to face meeting with the Scout Leaders at the beginning of September at Olympia HQ. The meeting was pro-active with those present and enabled us to start and plan for the future. It was agreed:

- to hold meetings at least once a term
- meetings will be on a Monday evening and at the beginning of each term
- leaders to take an active part in enabling future District events

We are hoping to hold our first event, a PL/APL camp in April at Tamarak for all Groups and each Group was tasked to bring forward an idea/base to add to the weekend. I am hopeful that more details will follow our next meeting.

As a District we will also look at organising a joint trip to IGNITE – County Camp 16-18 September 2022 and the possibility of joining the Explorers with a trip to HAARLEM JAMBORETTE, Netherlands – International Camp, 29 July – 8 August 2023.

I have recently visited the Osgodby Scout Group to experience their current situation. They have a keen group of scouts and are assisted by a Young Leader. Their challenge is getting Leaders to assist in running the section. Nathan and Jane (GSL) are managing to hold the section together, however, if circumstances change, they will have to cancel meetings. If anyone can offer any assistance or knows someone that could rise to the challenge to help I'm sure it would be greatly received. It would be a great shame to see a group with almost 60 years of history fold for the lack of volunteers!

Keith Cartwright ADC Scouts

## Explorer District report for the AGM - 25/10/21

We currently have 22 explorers on the register at the moment. We have had 5 turn 18yrs recently, but they have either taken out adult leader warrants or joined the Networkers. The Explorer executive committee is running smoothly and at the beginning of each term are have a planning meeting to arrange what events or weekly meeting ideas they would like to do. We have had a couple of joint meetings with the Networkers which lets the Explorers get to know the Networkers for when they move up to them. During lockdown we held weekly zoom meetings, which were well attended and we didn't loose any members.

## Young Leaders District report for the AGM - 25/10/21

We have 15 Young leaders on the books at this time. We have had 5 that have achieved their Young leader buckles, these young people are continuing helping out at groups, and the ones that have turned 18yrs old have either joined Networkers or taken out adult warrants. We have recently had 4 new starters, so the training starts again.

## Network Annual Report 2020 – 2021

**We currently have a total of five 18- to 25-year-olds who actively take part within the Scout Network programme and so far, we have run a total of 7 online events, 3 face-to-face events and 1 practice expedition.**

Our very first Scout Network online event was held on Wednesday 4th November 2020, with four 18- to 25-year-olds coming together for the very first time to learn more about the section.

From then onwards, we have met online once every month taking part in a murder mystery, quizzes (lead by different members), set the challenge to bake something using a range of random ingredients and took part in an online MI5 investigation (which took us 1 hour, 37 minutes and 4 seconds to solve the case).

In March 2021, we joined together online with the Selby & District Explorers for the very first-time, taking part in a four round quiz and a game of countdown.

Then on Saturday 19th June 2021, we held our very first face-to-face event, with four Scout Network members coming together at Olympia HQ. We ate our favourite foods, organised an expedition kit list, put together a weekend menu and planned a three day and two-night expedition route (oh and finished off with toasting marshmallows).

In July 2021, with the support from Carl, our District Commissioner, we took on our very first practice expedition, with four Scout Network members coming together, sleeping over at Snowball Plantation and completing a total of 29 miles throughout the whole weekend.

Other events that we have taken part in include attending a Water Sports Activity Day at Rother Valley Country Park, enjoying a 2-hour beginner cable session and a 50-minute session on the inflatables, and joining together with the Selby & District Explorers heading out after dark and navigating around a local area without the sunlight.

We are very much looking forward to taking part in the North Yorkshire Scouts Escape event in October 2021 and going ice skating with Selby & District Explorers in December 2021.

**Lewis Agar-Simms**

**District Scout Network Commissioner**

## Selby District LTM report

We currently have 11 active TAs in the Selby district. They are working with 37 leaders at various stages of their wood bead training at the moment.

2 further leaders have just been approved by the warrants committee and will be assigned new TAs within the week.

We have a lot of leaders in the district that are outstanding for their First Response qualification. Julie is currently offering several different opportunities to all the leaders who need to complete their first response training. We are urging as many leaders as possible to attend the courses that Julie is arranging.

We have had a focus to ensure that everyone has all their Mandatory On-Line training up to date and we are making good progress with Safety and Safeguarding.

We are working to establish specific training needs and required courses in the district and will be planning some on-line Zoom courses and a couple of Training in a Basket sessions for next year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the second Monday in the new term starting in January. Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm on Zoom.



## Olympia Scout HQ

Well, it's been another weird year for the Olympia site. 2020/21 saw us go a long time without rental income from the Groups but we have now returned to normal with most groups meeting weekly and the building being regularly used (4 days a week).

As we reported last year, we secured some funding for the purchase of the land which is very nearly complete and have been applying for grants for more renovation work. This has paid off with the roof being replaced with an insulated composite board (instead of asbestos) as I type this report and the windows and doors to be upgraded to UPVC Double Glazed units in the very near future. We've also received a small grant to replace the old "tube" lighting with LED lights. All in all this will both save us money on heating and lighting and will help to save the planet!

We're still raising money to wrap and re-render the building, sort out the toilets and to generally improve the appearance inside and out, but this has been a very productive year for the site and long may the improvements continue to this District asset!

## Tamarak Campsite Report

It has been a time of change at the campsite, starting with our warden Ken stepping down as warden after decades of dedicated service to the campsite. The pandemic then went on to see the campsite being closed for an extended period of time. The process of reopening of the site has given us cause to rethink some of our processes and plans going forward. We are currently trialling some new procedures at the site to make it easier for both visitors and staff to access and maintain the site.

We have invested in new cleaning resources and hygiene facilities for the campsite, we have had extensive work carried out by a tree surgeon to maintain our wooded areas and we are in the process of purchasing new signage for the site too.

Unfortunately, we have needed to keep Beaver lodge closed this season. Our second storey cabin has been damaged over the last 18 months and we have made the decision to have this removed and we will then review the state of the other cabins after the prolonged closure prior to the new season also, including having all the electrics checked and the kitchen professionally cleaned.

The volunteer team has also seen some changes over the last season with both our booking secretary and treasurer looking to step down and our warden team significantly depleted. This led us to look at what the District needed from the site and to look for new volunteers. A survey of the District was conducted and we have looked carefully at the results from this and contacted all those volunteers who offered to help.

We have had a busy few months towards the end of this season with campers up nearly every weekend, which has been a pleasure to see after so many months of closure and we have a number of bookings in already for next season. We are looking to make a long term plan for the site and recruit more volunteers for the site as we go into the 2022 camping season and will look to continue our improvement of the site and its provision for the young people of Selby District.

## 1st Monk Fryston & Hillam AGM Report

Scouting continued on Zoom throughout Autumn and Spring term returning to F2F from Summer Term 21. Throughout the program has been delivered by a core 4 adult leaders supported from time to time. Lessening CV19 restrictions allowed a Group Autumn camp to Bradley Wood and Beaver Colony to join a district trip to Forbidden Corner.

Tally as at 20 Oct 21

11 Chief Scout Awards presented, 2 Gold, 6 Silver and 3 Bronze.

9 Scouts - 55 activity, staged activity, joining in and challenge awards.

15 Cub Scouts - 188 activity, staged activity, joining in and challenge awards.

12 Beaver Scouts - 183 activity, staged activity, joining in and challenge awards.

Dave Mann

## 1st Staynor Hall Scout Group Report for District AGM Oct 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Staynor Hall Scout Group consists of a Beaver colony of 24, a Cub Pack of 30 and a new addition in April 2021 of a Scout Troop of 6. We have 6 regular leaders, along with parent helpers on a weekly basis.

As all Scouting was suspended in March 2020, we quickly set up our weekly Zoom meetings for both Beavers and Cubs. Our Leaders worked so hard to create a diverse and fulfilling programme which led to the stability of the group and the retention of the majority of our members. As part of the programme and to help with the mental health of our members our Cub group even ran every week throughout the summer holidays.

Once we were allowed to meet face to face, both Beavers and Cubs began to meet on a field on the estate and managed a full term before the dark and cold nights set in and we resorted back to zoom. In March this year, as our group camp had been cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we ran a Camp at Home weekend, in which our members took part in a scavenger hunt around the estate, cooking and craft activities and even a virtual camp fire with sing song. Approximately 29 members took part over the weekend.

In April, we started our Scout Troop with two members and have grown to 6 up to now.

In September, our Cub pack Sixers and Seconders went on a Narrowboat Trip which was a raging success and a trip in 2022 is now in planning. Nineteen of our Beavers also attended the District Trip to the Forbidden Corner which was a great day. Everyone is looking forward to our group camp which we hope will be early 2022.

The biggest challenge for 1<sup>st</sup> Staynor has been the lack of a venue and up until last week we remained meeting on the field every week. We now have a temporary home at Barlow Village Hall and we are looking forward to the next term inside.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Osgodby (Barlby Methodist)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Osgodby (Barlby Methodist) Scout Group. Group Report 2021.

This has been a very difficult year for our Group. We started back in May without a Cub leader, Angie had been with us for a long time and she has been sadly missed. Due to lack of leaders for all sections it was decided to close Beavers and keep the Cubs and Scouts going, up until the end of Summer term we were meeting outside, and had plans for the September start back.

Things did not go to plan as one of our Scout leaders did not return. Badge work has continued with Nathan (Scout leader) and Myself .

The Cubs I have kept going so that those old enough have now moved up to Scouts. We have been lucky enough to have one of the Cub parents step up and take on Uniform (in the process of clearance at present).but this has put a strain on all concerned and although we have tried all the different ways to encourage new leaders it has not happened.

It has become necessary for us to look to other Groups to see if they can help as our Scout leader Nathan is finishing at the end of October.

Sadly it has become necessary to close the Group and find alternative places for those remaining, Cubs and Scouts. I hope they continue in Scouting.

Jane Cowdy GSL

# 1<sup>st</sup> Riccall

## Group Report

April 2020 to March 2021

Thanks to a good response from an article on Face Book, our threatened closure didn't happen and we started our meetings in September with 5 new leaders.

All sections started meeting on zoom in September.

Beavers started with 2 new leaders, and 8 Beavers, since then 4 have left and didn't want to go up to cubs and 1 went up to cubs and we have had 2 new beavers start, who were invested on Zoom

Cubs started with 4 leaders 3 of them new and 5 cubs, since then 1 has left and 1 beaver moved up, he was invested on Zoom

Scouts started with 3 leaders and 7 scouts, since then 1 has left

We had 5 young leaders but 2 of them left due to other activities.

There were some members who did not start in September as they did not want to take part in zoom meetings but they have come back now we are face to face.

During the time on zoom we managed to achieve quite a few badge

### **Beavers**

Personal Challenge 2

Book Reader 6

Communicator 7

Disability Awareness 7

Experiment 4

Global Issues 9

Photographer 8

Moving on 1

Joining in 3 representing 3 years of scouting

### **Cubs**

Book Reader 5

Environmental 3

Global Issues 5

Personal Safety 4

World Faiths 5

Musician Stage 1 3

Navigator 1

Joining in 4 representing 10 years of scouting

## Scouts

Gold Chief Scout 1  
Adventure Challenge 2  
Chef 7  
Entertainer 1  
Global Issues 9  
Model Maker 1  
Digital Maker Stage 1 7  
Musician Stage 1 1  
Navigator Stage 2 6  
Joining In 6 representing 21 years of scouting

We have also been presented with

As well as working toward badges, all sections have done other activities on zoom including Bingo. Making armpit fudge, Christmas wreaths, escape room, quizzes, cakes and pizzas in mugs in a microwave, making friendship bracelets.

I would like to express my thanks to all leaders and young leaders for their enthusiasm, patience and ingenuity in what has been a difficult time for everyone and also a big thank you to the young people for their perseverance while we were meeting on Zoom, especially as they were also doing school work the same way.

I am looking forward to normal times and more fun when we start meeting properly as I am sure all the leaders are.

Update. Since return in September, (not last year but to put a brighter picture) we welcomed new members when we started face to face so we now have 14 Beavers, 12 cubs and 10 scouts plus another new leader. We have enquiries for new members in Beavers and Cubs but as leaders are new, I am holding back on numbers for the time being. On a brighter note, we have been awarded over 80 years membership for our leaders!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Selby (Abbey)

2020/21 was a rollercoaster year for the group with the lows of the pandemic really hitting engagement by the youth members and numbers dwindled. Zoom meetings were attended by some members but usually the same members each week with some not engaging at all. It was a real challenge for all involved and we were extremely grateful when we were able to get back to face to face Scouting.

From a financial perspective, this also had an impact on the finances of the group with several months where we did not collect subscriptions as we could not warrant it with the programme we could provide online. However, we saved with rent and equipment / activity expenses so have maintained our financial reserve.

When we returned to face to face Scouting we made a determined effort to recruit both in terms of youth membership and leadership and it paid off for us. We have been able to bring both the Beavers and Cubs to capacity and have a thriving Scout Group, now with 20 youth members, the most we have seen for a long time. We have also had a number of new volunteers join us and each section is now really well geared in terms of member to leader ratios meaning that more interesting activities can be undertaken.

We put some of the member recruitment in the Scout section down to the new way in which we have been delivering the Scout programme which has involved three "normal" length sessions and then once a month a half-day or full day session during which we have done fire lighting, cooking, tent building etc. This has really engaged the youth membership and we hope to keep those long sessions going well into the future. We even managed our first overnight session with the Scouts which was great.

The Cubs and Beavers have been actively engaging in a lot of badge work and a number are on track for the Chief Scouts Awards at the relevant levels which is great to see and the programme and those delivering it are really stretching themselves to make sure every session is as enjoyable as it can be. The programmes have been heavily outdoor led and have included everything from building bug hotels and pitching tents to making crash test (egg) dummies and seeing how we could protect them from getting smashed!

We're really proud of being able to come back fighting and to grow the group to capacity and are really looking forward to 2021/22.



# 6th Selby (Brayton) Scout Group



## GSL's Report 18 May 2021

ADDRESS OF GROUP:	SCOUT & GUIDE HEADQUARTERS, DONCASTER ROAD, BRAYTON, SELBY, N. YORKS	
<p>THE PURPOSE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SELBY (BRAYTON) SCOUT GROUP is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The Scout Method provides an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, which is guided by adult leadership.</p>		
<b>TRUSTEES</b>		
Group Scout Leader:	<b>Mrs Katie McManaman</b>	21 Orchard Way, Selby, YO8 9NB
Assistant Group Scout Leader:	<b>Mrs Carole Underwood</b>	
Group Chair:	<b>Mr Keith Edmondson</b>	1 Greenacres Close, Brayton, Selby, YO8 9HA
Group Secretary:	<b>Mrs Elaine Mawer</b>	
Group Treasurer:	<b>Mrs Kathleen Hodge</b>	20 The Poplars, Brayton, Selby, YO8 9HF
<b>GROUP ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>MR JOHN HODGE</b>	20 The Poplars, Brayton, Selby, YO8 9HF

### OVERVIEW

Another busy year which has had interested challenges recently with COVID19. I cannot express how proud I have been of our leader team this year and how they have embraced a new virtual world to ensure that our Group remained an active force for scouting with all our young people.

I was delighted to be able to present badges to the Group for all our young people to celebrate a 'Year on Zoom'.

### ACTIVITIES

This year all the sections have enjoyed full and varied programmes. Although Beavers have only been holding virtual meetings in more recent months, they are now preparing for their return to face to face scouting as the COVID restrictions are eased.

Gold Pack's year didn't involve any of the things that had been in the pipeline, but instead became an adventure like one they'd never experienced before. There were party tricks, hobbies and skills, teddy bear zip lines, toy adventure films, camp at home and the bake off challenge which resulted in publication of a recipe book. Then there was the Price is Right, Generation Game, Family Fortunes, Crystal Maze and probably a few other game show adaptations you can think of - there was even one based on You Bet!

Everyone is really excited about the transition back to face to face Cub Scouting which is being done in stages, having progressed from 3 bubbles to 2, with the safety and well-being of Cubs and Leaders always being paramount. The feedback and support from Gold Pack parents over this extremely challenging year has been humbling for the Leadership Team and really has made the effort worth it.

Scarlet pack have been active on Zoom through out the year and have held craft nights , worked on their challenge badges and enjoyed a variety of crafts and games on line. They have particularly enjoyed working on secret codes and actively participated in the indoor challenges run by the Scout Association. One of the highlights was making Mug cakes which were very successful and tasty , the chocolate cookies were not quite such a success.

They are particularly enjoying a return of face to face scouting and have also seen their numbers grow throughout the year, however as they are now around 20 strong they are all able to meet together. They are eagerly looking forward to a weekend camp before the end of the year

Despite one of the most challenging years they have ever encountered ; meetings being held on Zoom; lockdowns and local spikes which seemed to coincide with them planning their f2f returns! The scouts have come out the other end with a healthy Troop and numbers in the mid-thirties. They began the zoom meetings last April having to adapt as they went along & think more creatively. they must have done something right because as confidence grew, attendances grew, ending up with a consistent 25+ coming online. The online engagement and support was truly amazing, and we cannot thank our Scouts and parents enough – without them we would not have thrived. We asked our Scouts to ‘Carry on Scouting’ and they certainly did with much vigour! The troupe made a return to f2f Scouting after the Easter holidays, in two groups for now, and it is a delight to see everyone in person again and all those smiling, happy faces. The leaders delivered a varied and challenging virtual programme allowing our Scouts to continue to earn numerous badges and awards. Many also joined in the ‘at home’ weekend camps, the ‘Zoombarees’ and certainly put 6th Selby Brayton on the County map with recognition from our County Commissioner. We awarded three Gold Awards a few weeks ago with another two almost there. One of the most inspiring memories of the year was the acts of kindness. In the true spirit of Scouting, our young people have helped in their local communities in many various ways. We are so immensely proud of them all.

## **LEADERSHIP**

I would like to express my very sincere thanks to all the Brayton leader team for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year.

**President:** Sadly our president Brian “Stubby” Hirst passed away this year. He will be missed by all.

**AGSL:** Carole Underwood for all her support and friendship through an unusual scouting year.

**Beaver Colonies:** Sheila Sands continues to do an amazing job as BSL for Shanto Colony assisted by Sue Caine as ABSL and Pam Lobleby as Section helper. Jonathan Fewster continues as BSL for Sorian Colony , assisted by George Sands and Sarah Hennigan as ABSL and young leader Nat Mosey

**Scarlet Pack:** Paula Hyland is Scarlet pack Akela. She is supported by Assistant Cub Scout Leaders: Michael Kane, Freddie Smith and Louise McGinty and Young Leaders Hattie Leethams, Tom Dean, Cameron Clayton and James Curry.

**Gold Pack:** Neil Underwood runs Gold Pack and has assistant leaders Lloyd Latibeaudiere, Stephen Sedman, Steve Powell and Sam Easthill. Debbie Latibeaudiere is currently a section helper. Two of our young leaders with the pack are in the process of becoming Assistant leaders with the pack as they have reached 18 this

year, Luke Martin and Dan Shipstone. Neil is also assisted by young leaders Jack Feeney and Oliver Feeney, who will be joined by Lewis Andrews after half term..

**Scout Troop:** Keith and Linda Cartwright are joint Scout Leaders and Andrew Cook continues as Assistant Scout leader, recently joined by Carly Lewis and Nikki Hedderwick . Young Leaders with the scouts at the moment are George Evans, Heath Waters and I would like to thank Kaitlin Lewis-Kirby for her support as a young leader until she turned 18 in January.

### **Group Executive:**

I record my thanks to Keith Edmondson, as always, who has effectively chaired the Group Executive since his appointment and has been a great help recently when my work commitments have been very high this year.

Elaine Mawer has fulfilled the role of Group Secretary this year and has done an excellent job, so many thanks to Elaine.

Thanks also go to Kath Hodge our Treasurer who continues to manage our accounts after many years of superb support and to the support we receive from the other members of the Executive.

And finally, I would like to express my thanks to John Hodge. His efficient administration of the group is appreciated by one and all, not to mention his active support as a member of the HQ committee , where he has been vital in providing all the additional measures required for COVID protection.

## **Group Membership**

The Beaver Scout waiting list is still active with numbers for the Beavers being currently on the low side.

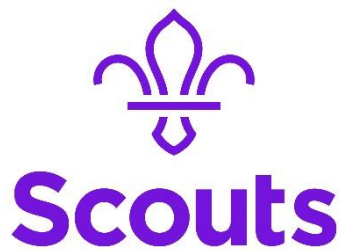
## **FINANCE**

The Group's finances continue to be well managed and our balance remains relatively healthy. We continue to run with reduced subscriptions for young people until we are out of the pandemic crisis.

## **Headquarters**

The Group is particularly grateful to the Brayton Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee for its continued stewardship of the property and extra efforts made to keep the property functioning during the lock down periods. We would like to thank the HQ Committee for all there support by requesting no levies from the units during the past year and a half, since the pandemic hit. HQ costs are normally financed mainly by a levy on all young Scout and Guide users and regular bookings for Yoga and Football Tots. This year local government grants have been a major support.

*Katie McManaman, G.S.L.*



## 14<sup>th</sup> Selby (St Francis) Thorpe Willoughby Scout Group – 2020-2021 Group Report

### 1. GSL Overview

Prior to the lockdown in March 2020 due to Covid-19 the group was in a strong position regarding youth numbers in our Beaver and Cubs sections, now we are back to holding face to face meetings we will have to review the effect of such a long break on youth and leadership numbers.

As always, we do however need leaders and assistant leaders for the Beaver and Scout sections, as you will see later in the section report that there are changes in our Scout section.

### 2. Reports from Sections

#### Beavers

During the last year we have only had 2 beavers regularly taking part in the activities that we have emailed out, and have been taking part with county zoom meetings.

We started back to face to face outdoor meeting on Tuesday 28th April with eight beavers attending, after half term we took on 14 new beavers.

We had six beavers that have now gone to cubs and seven still waiting to go. We have four on the waiting list that are old enough to start in September.

#### Cubs

Our Cub Scout Pack currently has a total of 18 young members with a further 8 more due to move up from the Beaver Scout section.

For the very first time we continued #TheGreatIndoors programme throughout the summer holidays, taking part in a range of surprise activities - from celebrating Back to Hogwarts day to working out Where's Wally.

While all face-to-face sessions were still cancelled until further notice, we continued #TheGreatIndoors from September onwards taking part in a range of activities online together, including making our very own microwave mug cake, inviting our friends to one of our digital meetings to see what Cubs is all about, as well as sharing our pets with the rest of the Cub Pack.

Overall, throughout #TheGreatIndoors, we did a total 46 digital meetings, 8 virtual investitures, 5 inspiring activities, 4 digital events and 3 digital camps.

In November 2020, The Cub Scout Pack Leadership Team joined together live on YouTube and took part in The Scouts #RaceRoundTheWorld! We walked a mile each on the spot and dressed up in any way we could, raising a total of £89 for 500+ Scout Groups at risk of closure.

We also had the pleasure of Tim Kidd, the UK Chief Commissioner join us online in April 2021 to celebrate 1 year on Zoom, taking part in similar activities to what we took part in a year ago, by renewing our promise and taking part in a scavenger hunt, as well as playing a few party games.

Mary-Jane, from the North Yorkshire Moors also joined us online to lead a session in May 2021, taking part in a recycling scavenger hunt, saw how big the North Yorkshire Moors is and learnt about some wildflowers and edible berries.

It was also released in May 2021 that we could restart running outdoor face-to-face activities at Cubs from Tuesday 25th May 2021. Since being back to face-to-face meetings, we have played some exciting face-to-face games, learnt how to tie three different knots and learnt how to safely use a hammer.

We've had 100% attendance from all members returning to our face-to-face meetings.

I would first like to take this opportunity to welcome Abigail, our new Young Leader, and our parent helpers to the Cub Scout Pack Leadership Team. We are very much looking forward to you continuing volunteering with us.

Secondly, I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who have supported the Cub Scout Pack throughout the #TheGreatIndoors and returning to face-to-face meetings. Holly, Carol, Charlotte, you have all been superstars – I couldn't have done it without you.

Lewis also played a video sent by the UK Chief Commissioner Tim Kidd and shared a power point presentation of badges awarded etc., these are available on request for use in Scout activities.

## **Scouts**

When the year started in September, we asked what would be the best approach for the Group, there was no real appetite for Virtual Meetings so we started sharing weekly activities via Facebook and email. There was a small response to this and badges will be awarded for the activities completed during the unique circumstances of the past 18 months.

As we have only one Scout Leader there was no rush to return to Face-to-Face meetings outside or indoors as it would have called upon other Leaders to attend more than one group which would increase the risk of cross contamination, especially during the initial stages of lockdown easing when the risks were still high. There were also low numbers of Scouts as some have dropped off during various audits done throughout the year, so it would have been a lot of organisation for a small reward, which is a shame for the few Scouts that are still part of the Scout Group.

There were 3-4 Scouts left in the Scout section and potentially 3 Cubs due to move up come September 2021, this does not create a sustainable number of Young People to try and restart meetings without having to have other Leaders from other groups assisting in the section running, therefore it is with deep regret that unfortunately Thorpe Willoughby Scout Section cannot continue come September and any Young People which wish to continue will be supported into joining alternative Scout Groups, we have strong links with Selby Abbey Scouts where one of our Scouts has started after a request from their Parents and they are thoroughly enjoying it and Abbey are happy for more to join them if they wish.