

Dringhouses Scouts Annual Review 2019/2020



Scouts
dringhousescouts.org.uk

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Welcome

A Word From Our Chairperson

No one could deny that this has been a year unlike any other. The way our adult volunteers and young people have dealt with it has been outstanding and I need no excuse to praise them to the hilt.

The management of the group has gone through some changes and I firstly want to thank Zoe who stepped up to the plate by standing as Group Scout Leader (GSL), it is a huge task and we are very grateful she was willing to give it a try.

Secondly our thanks go to Kathryn who as District Commissioner until very recently supported us in lots of unseen ways and held ultimate responsibility for the Group as Acting Group Scout Leader for parts of last year. We wish her well in her next adventure in scouting.

We also welcome Nigel White to the post of District Commissioner and he has already established a connection to the Group and we look forward to working with him.

Dave has been appointed as Acting GSL and I am giving him support in that role in the areas of safety and safeguarding as well as from my position as Chair. Our Assistant GSL's and Leaders support is invaluable in getting the job done.

The Group continues to evolve making changes to better cope with expansion and to this end we have reviewed some major documents which are part of the Group Governance and you will have voted on the revised Constitution and our Development Plan. These two documents help us to focus on our responsibilities as Trustees of the charity and ultimately continue to improve the standard of the programme we offer our Young People.

The recent Group Camp at Home highlighted the amazing Group we have. The organisers did not compromise on the quality of the experience offered to our members. The Young people accepted the challenge that, in different ways to usual, pushed them on. It also highlighted the role played by supportive parents and family, many of whom are already putting in a huge effort to keep their young people engaged. I couldn't be prouder.

A nod to the future: In the next few months we will work hard to ensure that we are prepared for the return to face-to-face Scouting. We will consider the safety of the physical environment and of course prepare a programme which offers fun and achievement and gaining those important skills for life for all our members.

Yours in Scouting



Annie Bennett, **Group Chair**

Group Scout Leader's Report

A look back on the past year's fun, excitement and challenges.

So, this year has been outstanding for a number of reasons, but most important is that we've delivered on our primary objective which is to provide fun, adventure and #SkillsForLife for all our members.

As you will see from the section reports below the year started with some great activities, camps and other events. It is so positive to see our young people's confidence grow through being given these chances to challenge themselves and we are so grateful to our volunteer leaders and supporters. It is these adults freely giving up their time to plan and attend the regular section meetings, exciting camps and events, that make the Group the success it is. It's not just the uniformed leaders though, the team of behind the scenes volunteers, who enable everything we do, are just as important. Which is why it is brilliant to see so many of them recognised with national awards, check out the awards listed on page 11 below, these are awards for service to Scouting which are over and above what is normally expected. Well done to everyone!

It may sound odd, but the Group was starting to get too large, so this time last year we took steps to limit section size. Size isn't everything and while we're one of the largest Groups in the county further growth is limited by the capacity of our building and the number of days in the week; we have sections meeting every weekday. This decision has occasionally given us a small waiting list, but not for long and the benefits of improved quality of programme delivery and reduced stress for young people and adult volunteers has been very noticeable this year.

Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has put us all (the whole country) into a situation that we were not expecting and had no experience of. It has seen people's personal circumstances be subject to change and uncertainty. And it has resulted in personal tragedy for some, financial hardship for others and far reaching changes to the lives of everyone. It is against this backdrop of national crisis that we, as a Group of volunteers, had to decide what to do to support our members. When face-to-face Scouting was suspended we were not sure what to do next: Continue? Stop? How could we continue? Despite personal challenges, leaders volunteered to deliver online meetings and events, the recent Group Camp @ Home being a magnificent example. Feedback from many of our parents indicates how valuable what we have been doing is for some of our young people and their families. I am so proud of the way all our volunteers have risen to this challenge and I'm so grateful to the parents of our members for their continued support.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to the lifting of the current restrictions and the safe return of face-to face Scouting. In the meantime we carry on, well done everyone!

Dave

Group Scout Leader (Acting)

Meet the Team

The Executive Committee (core members)

Members of the Executive Committee are the Trustees of the Group who make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to all young people in the Group

Annie Bennett

Group Chair



Annie became involved with the Group as a parent and when asked if she would Chair the executive committee, decided it was a post she could bring her organisational skills to and help the Group without being a uniformed member.

Debbie Paterson

Group Treasurer (Joint)



Debbie has never worn a uniform but has managed to be a member of Dringhouses Scout Group over 10 years now. She started volunteering at the 40th anniversary group camp when she and Wendy Hewitt ran the tea van; since then, she has been “promoted” to working in the kitchen - despite being the least competent cook there, but she can make a decent cup of tea!

Debbie took over treasurer duties just after that - it is an unfortunate side effect of being an accountant. Despite the grumbling, it is a real pleasure to work with all of the leaders and volunteers that make up Dringhouses Scout Group and to give a little back.

Jan Moor

Group Secretary



Jan was a Brownie and Guide when she was growing up and absolutely loved it. Jan was very keen her two children should have the same rewarding experiences and so both her children are in Scouting/Guiding and enjoying every moment. Jan has a daughter in the Group, who is now in Scouts, having started 6 years ago as a Beaver.

Jan joined the group as a Parent Rep on the Executive Committee (particularly helping with fundraising) and Active support in Summer 2017, as she wanted to contribute to the Group. She agreed to take on the Group Secretary role earlier this year, which gives her the ability to support the working of the Group a bit more, using her business skills, in between significant travelling for her job.

Wendy Hewitt

Group Treasurer (Joint)



Wendy started volunteering with the group at the 40th anniversary camp -with Debbie in the tea van. However, she has been involved since her eldest son was a Beaver Scout over 20 years ago. Wendy was the Group Secretary until last year when she agreed to start to take over the treasurer role. Wendy, who works in the church office, is also unofficial caretaker of the HQ (and washer of tea towels)!

Wendy enjoys the camaraderie of being part of a team and the ever expanding Group. She also enjoys the challenge of learning the new treasurer role and getting to grips with spreadsheets!

The Management Team

Members of the Management Team are normally also members of the Executive Committee. The management team coordinate all Scouting activities within the Group. The Group Chair is also a part of the Management Team.

David Thorne **Group Scout Leader (Acting)**



Dave started his Scouting career as a Cub Scout with the 1st Epping Ash and later 1st Holtspur Scout Groups, 'a few' years later he returned as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader with Dringhouses, transferring to be Cub Leader a year later. Since January Dave has been Acting Group Scout Leader responsible for leading the team managing the Group. Dave also holds two roles within York Ebor District (of which Dringhouses is a part): District Appointments Secretary, administering the appointment of all leaders in the District and District Executive Committee member where he makes the meetings last a bit longer than they used to.

Dave has two children in the Group, one in Scouts the other an Explorer Scout Young Leader, both of whom started in Beavers.

Katie Harvey **Assistant Group Scout Leader (Beavers)**



Katie joined Dringhouses Scout Group in 2011 when her son joined Beavers. He is now an Explorer and her daughter is a Scout. Katie started volunteering as an Assistant Beaver Leader and after a couple of years took up the role of Section Leader. Shortly after that Katie also became Assistant Group Scout Leader (Beavers).

Martin Eason **Group Scout Active Support Manager**



Martin has been with the Group since he joined from Bishopthorpe, as a Venture Scout, in 1991. He moved from Venture Scouts to Assistant Scout Leader and then Venture Scout leader (VSL), where he remained for over 10 years. As well as VSL, he also sat on the county activities and events team, organising annual competitions and events. After a short break he became a parent helper with Bardon Scout Group in Australia. On his return to the UK in 2014 he re-joined the Group as part of the Active Support Team. In June 2019 he agreed to take on the role of Active Support Manager.

A true scouting family, Martin has two boys who have come through the Group, with his youngest currently in Explorers. His wife Jude, whom he met at Dringhouses Venture Scouts, is also in Active Support, while also being part of the Group's training team.

Max Butler **Assistant Group Scout Leader (Explorer Scouts)**



Max is Dringhouses through and through, after joining the Group as a Scout in 2004 and has not looked back since! Max is a familiar face and his loud voice and social media skills means everyone's heard him! He is our Assistant Group Scout Leader, responsible for Explorer Sections, having previously run Wednesday Explorers and Tuesday Scouts. When he's not busy Scouting with Dringy, he's busy Scouting for North Yorkshire County, planning and delivering their large-scale camps and events; It's a wonder he ever gets home in time for tea!

The Section Leaders

Section Leaders are responsible for co-ordinating the programme for their night and liaising with the sections before and after as appropriate, Sections Leaders can be part of the Group Executive Committee if they wish to be.

Beavers

Beavers is for children aged five to eight years old. We have three Beaver Scout colonies in the Group.

Nicola Silke

Section Leader (Beaver Scouts)- Tuesday Beavers



Nicola joined Dringhouses Scouts in September 2018 as a Section Assistant, after being accosted on a "sunny" group camp to join Beavers. She quickly progressed to Assistant Leader in December 2018 and became Section Leader in September 2019.

Nicola has been involved with the group since 2012 when her eldest daughter joined Cubs.

"I joined on a trial basis and was surprised how much I enjoyed it. It's a great feeling seeing the Beavers take part and enjoy the activities and challenges set out for them. For me it's an amazing way to be able to give something back to the local community."

Olga Iwaszkiewicz-Bogdańska

Section Leader (Beaver Scouts)- Wednesday Beavers



Olga started with the Group in February 2019, initially to help her daughter's confidence when she joined. She became an Assistant Leader with Wednesday Beavers but, when the opportunity came, it took her about a minute to decide to move to the Section Leader role.

"The idea of teaching Beavers new skills during weekly meetings and camps. And seeing how proud they are when they succeed or when they receive a badge puts the biggest smile on my face and pride in my heart. Week to week I could see how the Beavers grow in confidence".

"Inspiration from other Scout Leaders motivates me every day and confirms to me that I want to stay in The Scouts for a long time."

Katie Harvey

Section Leader (Beaver Scouts)- Friday Beavers



See the Management Team section above

Cubs

The Cubs section is for children aged eight to ten and a half. We have three Cub Scout Packs in the Group.

Jane Wilson

Section Leader (Cub Scouts)- Tuesday “Romans” Cubs



Jane has been with the group since joining as a Venture Scout in 1985, in 1988 she was presented with a application form to be an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Jane had a few years break from the Group to assist at Bishopthorpe Cub Section and was then asked to help Lidgett Grove Cub Section get back up on their feet. Jane is married to Martin whom she met through Scouting as he was a Scout Leader at St Chad's and a member of St Chad's Greys Band, so they have attended many Scouting events along with experiences with the band.

Natasha Bayston

Section Leader (Cub Scouts)- Thursday “Saxons” Cubs



Natasha has been with the group since she joined as a scout in 2011. She stayed as a young leader for Cubs when she finished scouts in 2014. In 2018 she was given an application for assistant section leader and became the assistant section leader of Thursday Cubs. In 2019 she took over from Tina as the section leader for Thursday Cubs.

David Thorne

Section Leader (Cub Scouts)- Friday “Vikings” Cubs



See the Management Team section above

Scouts

The Scout Section is for young people aged ten and a half to fourteen years old. We have three Scout Troops in the Group.

Vacancy

Section Leader (Scouts)- Tuesday “Dringhosues PC” Scouts



Position vacant, we're currently searching for someone to take on this position

Tara Stephenson

Section Leader (Scouts)- Thursday “St Edward's” Scouts



“One Thursday in October 1986 I bumped into an old school friend in the pub, she was there for the quiz and wearing her uniform. We got chatting and the next Thursday I went to my first ever Cub meeting. They were making bird boxes and I didn't have a clue, I still remember the first Cub I ever spoke to and thanks to Johnny L. here I still am almost 30 years later!”

After six years of leading Cubs, where she welcomed the first girl into the Pack (possibly the first girl in Cubs in York!) Tara moved to become an assistant Venture Scout Leader, joining in with EuroVenture which took over an airfield in Paris and invaded EuroDisney, toured the Czech Republic and had many other fantastic adventures. But then we needed a female scout leader, because (guess what) the girl Cubs wanted to be Scouts! So, Tara became an Assistant Scout Leader and after a short break, she re-joined the Group.

Tara has been proud to see a great many of our Scouts attend World Scout Jamborees and was part of the Organising Team for the Centenary Jamboree in 2007. Especially lucky since that's how she met her partner Dean!

Tara has been a part of two Cub sections, a Venture Scout Unit, two Scout Troops and a Young Leader Unit and the very first Saturday morning session of Beavers - never again!... *grin*. And last year she went to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in America!

Scott Franklin

Section Leader (Scouts)- Friday “St Helen's” Scouts



Scott has been at Dringhouses since 2014, having previously been Scout Leader at Heslington whilst completing his studies, and having grown-up in a Group in Swindon. He is a cliché in Scouting - his grandparents met through Scouting, his parents met through Scouting, and he went on his first camp when he was merely weeks old. Having taken up his first young-leader role at 11 with cubs, and then at 16 with Scouts, he's a keen believer in putting young people into positions of responsibility, and teaching Patrol and Assistant Patrol Leaders how to be good leaders themselves.

After a week busy teaching at All Saints School, Scott then spends his Friday nights with the 30 young people of St Helen's Troop. He enjoys seeing his wife (Anna) and two children (Marie and Esther) on the other evenings and at weekends and looks forward to taking the girls on camp with him when they're older.

Explorer Scouts

The Explorer Scout section is for young people aged fourteen to seventeen. We are partnered with two District Explorer Scout Units (ESU). Young Leaders are also Explorer Scouts, they assist other sections within the Group. Young Leaders need not be a member of an Explorer Scout Unit and they may also be volunteering with the Group as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mike Laing

District Section Leader (Explorer Scouts)- Tuesday "Nordic" ESU



Mike joined Scouting as a Cub in 1989 as a member of 1st Shenfield Scout Group in Essex where he went on to be a Scout and Venture Scout before becoming a member of Essex Scouts water activities team. Mike had a 15 year break from the formalities of Scouting but continued to holiday around the world with friends made through scouting like they were on an "Explorer Belt Expedition" each time, often with a kayak or set of Skis for Luggage!

Mike returned to Scouting at the wonderful "Dringy" as assistant Cub Scout Leader in April 2018 and most recently in February 2020 moved to be Nordic Explorer Unit Leader on Monday's. Mike is looking forward to planning future adventures with the Explorers.

Andy Elliott

District Section Leader (Explorer Scouts)- Wednesday "Yorvik" ESU



Andy was a youth member of the Yorvik Explorer Unit and after returning from University decided to become part of the volunteer team at Dringhouses Scouts. You probably won't see many photographs of Andy at events as he is usually the one taking them all! Having a young family Andy hopes that they will become members of the Group when they are old enough, his 2 year old daughter always asks if she can come on camp with him while he's packing his bags!

Iain McIntyre

District Section Leader (Explorer Scout Young Leaders)



Iain's Scouting journey began in Cumbria where he was a Cub, a Scout and then a Venture Scout circa the mid-90's. He only returned to Scouting 5 years ago as a Section Assistant with St Edwards Troop at Dringhouses. In January 2019 Iain was asked to help with the running the Young Leaders part of Dringhouses Explorer Scout section, and coordinate their volunteering with the other sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) and to manage to their training needs.

Iain also holds the York Ebor District role of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator. His eldest child is at present in Beavers with Dringhouses.

Roll of Honour

Congratulations to all the adult volunteers that have been recognised for their service to Scouting this year:

 	<p>Award for Merit</p> <p>The Award for Merit is given for outstanding service of not less than 12 years and 10 years exceptionally. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Alan Furby – Group Training Adviser ✦ Anne Fry - Group Scout Active Support Member ✦ Ken Brill - Group Scout Active Support Member ✦ Phil Bennett – Group Transport Manager ✦ Tara Stephenson – Section Leader (Thursday Scouts)
	<p>Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service</p> <p>The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service is given in respect of not less than 5 years good service, which stands out. It should be regarded as the Chief Scout's recognition of the very real contribution made to the Association by the individual concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Debbie Paterson – Group Treasurer (Joint) ✦ Liz Atkin – Asst. Section Leader (Tuesday Scouts) ✦ Max Butler – Asst. Group Scout Leader (Explorers) ✦ Mike Hewitt – Group Scout Active Support Member ✦ Wendy Hewitt – Group Treasurer (Joint)
	<p>District Commissioner's Commendation</p> <p>The District Commissioner's Commendation is a local award that recognises adult and youth members and non-members for their contribution to the Scouts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Annie Bennett – Group Chair ✦ David Thorne – Acting Group Scout Leader ✦ Martin Eason – Group Scout Active Support Manager
<p>Length of service awards are available to Members and Associate Members of the Association with eligible roles that accrue service, uniformed or not (with the exception of occasional helpers):</p>	
	<p>Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award</p> <p>Georgina Langford – Asst. Section Leader (Thursday Cubs)</p>
	<p>Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award</p> <p>Debbie Paterson – Group Treasurer (Joint)</p>

Training is an important part of the Group's activities which often goes unseen. All adult members of the Group (except occasional helpers) are required to complete the adult training scheme, with Group Managers, Section Leaders and Assistant Leaders being awarded a wood badge after successfully completing all the required training modules. Because of its importance we also like to recognise training success in this part of the report. Leaders have three years from when they start to complete their training.



Wood Badge

Since September 1919 adult volunteers in the Scouts have been awarded the Wood Badge on the completion of their leader training. The basic badge is made up of two wooden beads worn at the end of a leather lace.

- ☛ Andy Elliott – Section Leader (Explorer Scouts)
 - ☛ David Thorne – Asst. Group Scout Leader (Cubs)
 - ☛ James Kitchen – Asst. Section Leader (Beavers)
 - ☛ Katie Harvey – Section Leader (Beavers)
 - ☛ Nicola Silke – Section Leader (Beavers)
-

Group Awards

Congratulations to all of our young people receiving awards this year, all recipients will also receive a £10 voucher to spend in Go Outdoors:

 Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Beaver of the year: Lily Van Der Arend Megan Roberts Samuel Walton
 Romans Saxons Vikings	Cub of the year: Lewis Hayler Kelsey Jacobs Georgia McCarthy
 Dringhouses PC Troop St Edward's Troop St Helen's Troop	Scout of the year: Leo Van der Arend Noah Cooper Charlie Selby
 Jorvik Explorers Nordic Explorers Young Leaders	Explorer Scout of the year: Oliver Furby Oliver How Harry Murray

The Chairman's Cup

The Chairman's Cups are awarded every year to an adult and a youth member of the Group who have made significant effort over and above what is normally expected. Recipients will also receive a £20 voucher from Go Outdoors

Chairman's Cup – Adult Volunteers: Martin Eason

Chairman's Cup – Youth Members: Janey Thorne

Section Reports

BEAVERS

Continuing at maximum capacity, our three Beaver groups (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) have provided an exciting programme for around 70 children across our youngest section.



Our wonderful Leaders and Young Leaders deliver fun and meaningful experiences, through a programme that accesses a wide variety of badges for the Beavers to achieve. Across all three nights we have 11 adult volunteer leaders supporting our Beavers. Parent helpers are also invaluable when we need a bit of extra support.

This past year we have had lots of fun. At our indoor camping sleepover at Elvington Scout Hut, we built dens, made fire, toasted marshmallows, made masks, played games and watched a movie with popcorn!! In December, we joined the District for a huge Christmas party and celebrated our own at Energi Trampoline Park.

Our badge work took us on a journey creating great opportunities for the Beavers which included, a visit to the University's Astrocampus, a visit through the history of our local Church, celebrating the Chinese New Year, a Polish Evening which included dancing. We also enjoyed experimenting, cycling, hiking, taking part in the District Record Breakers Challenge, keeping fit and healthy, tracking, reading, building, crafting, raising money and problem solving and so much more....

For many years at Christmas time, Wednesday Beavers have visited a local Care Home Abbeyfield, to sing carols and take cards and gifts. We have now created a stronger link with the residents and visit them once a month to share our programme with them. The Beavers and residents share stories and join in activities together.

Lockdown has meant that our face-to-face meetings have been suspended. But, we have continued to meet our groups



online, which has been most successful and a fantastic way to see each other and keep in touch. Leaders have planned sessions with the aim of keeping the Beavers entertained and engaged. Our Badges at Home portal has been accessed with many Beavers posting and uploading photographs of what they have been doing towards many different badges.



We are incredibly proud of the Scouting values and commitment that they are showing. Of course, we absolutely cannot wait to get back to 'normal' and meet together again.

cubs



The 2019/20 year for Cubs started really well with all sections joining in with Kayaking on the River Ouse, the weather was kind everyone was really grateful to all the instructors who gave their time, even those Cubs who were really nervous about going into the water enjoyed it and everyone is now more confident about having another go!

As usual, Cubs took part in two hikes this year, a summer hike of about 8 miles around Wharram Percy and Thixendale and a Winter hike of about 6 miles around Bramham Park. The hikes are a great chance for leaders, parents and children from all nights to get to know each other.

Other activities included District events such as the Boccia competition; the annual Hergrath challenge, which this January Dringhouses Scouts hosted and at which Cubs had to design and make a stained glass window style piece of art;

The District badge workshop (where we completed the Digital Citizen level 1 badge in a day)

was well attended; Unfortunately lockdown meant that the remaining activities planned for the year had to be cancelled.

In February 25 Cubs went on a pack holiday to Thornthwaite Scout Activity Centre and had lots of fun making shelters in the grounds, playing board games and making model boats for an indoor boat race. During our regular meetings we started on the Gardener badge learning how to use different tools and grow plants. And making pottery animals was a big success the amazing creations that Cubs made from a block of clay were brilliant!



In September Natasha Bayston took over from Tina Brill as Thursday Cubs Section leader and Niamh Clark also joined Thursday's as assistant leader. In March we were sad to see Mike Laing transfer to Monday Explorers (from Tuesday Cubs), our loss is definitely their gain and we're sure both the Explorers and Mike will do well, we wish him all the best in his new role.



Lockdown has presented new challenges to the Cubs. We started online meetings after Easter and it has been a steep learning curve for all of us, but also very rewarding. Themed activities have led to some great opportunities for light-hearted escape from the situation we find ourselves in. And of course we all loved the Group Camp @ Home.

Next year we're really pleased to be able to offer a camp in France for Cubs and are really looking forward to getting the ball rolling. Fingers crossed that we'll all be back to normal circumstance by then.



SCOUTS

The Scout section is often seen as the age range where young people take the skills they have learned through Beavers and Cubs and advance them to the next level. This year has definitely shown us that this is true!

We have seen our Scouts display incredible resilience and determination throughout all of our activities. A favourite event amongst our Scouts and our volunteers was Junior Warrior. The tough-mudder style assault course was certainly a challenge, and saw our Scouts caked in mud! Our Scouts competed against 600



other Scouts from across the County on a sunny June evening and had a great time.

Other highlights included a very windy February camp at Silverstone, near Penistone. Thankfully we were staying indoors but we made sure the Scouts didn't miss out on the British weather by going on a lovely hike in the rain! All joking aside, we were very impressed with our Scouts' ability to keep plodding and they all really enjoyed themselves. Another fantastic camp took the Scouts on a trip to Hull, to experience The Deep, amongst other amazing activities. We also must mention the Survival Camp, which took place in May.



Our Scouts spent a weekend in a remote edge of the Dalby Forest; under self-made shelters; cooking on open fires and building bivvys.

Our troop nights have also been packed full of exciting activities and lots of useful skills for life, including navigation, first aid, and cooking.

EXPLORERS



We have now had a full Scouting year with two Explorer Units here at Dringhouses, and what an eventful year it has been! Both of our Units are now running at full capacity, meaning we are now offering more Skills For Life to more Young People than ever before - wow!

Our Explorer Scouts have taken part in many activities, both at the Scout Hut and in the great outdoors. From geocaching and cooking, to structural engineering and financial management - there is a skill to be

learned by everyone through a whole range of activities.

As always, our year has been jam-packed with camps too. First it was Group Camp, where our Explorer Scouts stepped up and helped our Adult Volunteers to deliver an amazing experience for our younger sections. Later that summer, a group of our Explorers headed to Ilkley Moor for the August Bank Holiday and took part in hill walking and canoeing - they even cooked every meal on an open fire! In the Autumn, it was time to take part in the County's annual 'Escape' activity weekend - one of our teams battled against the odds and won the year's prestigious Escape trophy!



At Christmas, our Explorers took part in a chilled weekend in the North York Moors - and yes, of



course they cooked a full Christmas dinner for 20 people! In Spring, it was time for one more camp before the end of the Scouting year, this time near Whitby and with other Explorer Scout Units from across York!

Next, our Explorer Scouts are looking forward to their bi-annual trip to the Scouts' National WinterCamp in Northumberland, as well as all of the other exciting activities they are yet to plan!

For some reason, Active Support has been quiet this year. Firstly, with our April Fair being postponed until April 2021 and then the postponement of Group Camp. We have our place booked at Bradley Wood in June 2021, so we will be ready to go, bigger and better next year!



Not wishing to be beaten we set up the Group Camp @ Home 2020 event, where we devised a series of activities for young people to undertake with their families at home over the planned Group Camp weekend. Over 120 people participated in activities including: Pioneering, Shooting, Knots & Lashings, Scavenger Hunt, Paper Crafts, Camp Out, Fitness Frenzy & Woggle Making.

Completion of all activities resulted in a Group Camp @ Home 2020 commemorative badge, as well as a new woggle, coaster and wristband and hopefully happy memories for those that took part.

Quartermasters Report

The group owns a large amount of equipment and through continued fundraising we have been fortunate to be able to continue to replenish and build on what we have year on year, enabling us to cope with our continued growth in membership, and this past year has been no different.

Much of the current tent stock was nearing end of life, or required a large amount of repair work to be carried out. We were also lacking in lightweight adventure tents, to allow the Scouts and Explorers to undertake expedition camping.

Following a very generous donation from the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward, we have been able to purchase ten three person Coyote hike tents and four Vango 8 person Air tents.

To make room for these, we have donated our old jamboree tents to 2nd Acomb Scouts and our old 4 person Vangos to York Mosque Scouts.



Statutory Reports

For year ending **March** 2020



Trustees' Annual Report

From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Reference and administration details

Registered charity number	1064151
Registered number with Scout Association	37243
Charity's contact address	57 Dringthorpe Road, York, YO24 1LF

Trustees

Group executive committee

President	Ian Everard	Acting Group Scout Leader	Kathryn Dunn (to 1 August 2019) David Thorne (from 1 st January 2020)
Chairman	Ann Bennett	Assistant GSL (Scouts)	Max Butler
Secretary	Jan Moor	Assistant GSL (Cubs)	David Thorne
Treasurer	Deborah Paterson / Wendy Hewitt	Assistant GSL (Beavers)	Katie Harvey
Group Scout Leader	Zoe Platt-Scarce (from 1 August 2019 to 31 December 2019)		

Scout Section leaders - unless otherwise stated scout leaders are not members of the executive committee

Nordic Explorers	Rob Drysdale (to 21 st July 2019) Max Butler (acting, 1 st September 2019 to 24 th February 2020) Mike Laing (from 24 th February 2020)	St Edwards (Thursday) Scouts	Tara Stephenson (also on group executive committee)
Tuesday Beavers	Sarah Ibbotson (to 10 th September 2019) Nicola Silke (from 11 th September 2019)	Saxons (Thursday) Cubs	Tina Brill (to July 2019) Natasha Bayston (July 2019 onwards)

Romans (Tuesday) Cubs	Jane Wilson	Friday Beavers	Katie Harvey (also on group executive committee)
Dringhouses (Tuesday) Scouts	Julie Howard (to 2 nd February 2020, position vacant from that time)	Vikings (Friday) Cubs	David Thorne (also on group executive committee)
Wednesday Beavers	Rob Leatham (to 1 st September 2019) Olga Iwaszkiewicz-Bogdańska (from 1 st September 2019)	St Helens (Friday) Scouts	Scott Franklin
Yorvik Explorers	Andy Elliott		

Structure, governance and management

The Group is set up under The Scout Association's governing documents which are common to all Scout Groups. These are a Royal Charter which gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the POR. The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, which supports the Group Scout Leader. The Group Executive Committee:

- ✚ Maintains Group property
- ✚ Administers the Group's finances, including fundraising
- ✚ Is responsible for risk assessments and insurance
- ✚ Runs Group public occasions
- ✚ Assists with the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- ✚ Appoints any sub-groups that may be required.

Risk and internal control

There are, of course, risks associated with running a scout group. The Group Executive Committee has identified the following major risks:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would ask neighbouring organisations such as the church and other scout groups for the use of buildings, property and equipment. The Group also comprehensively insures our buildings and their contents.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy through capitation fees paid annually and takes out insurance to cover occasional helpers. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. In the absence of fund-raising income, the Committee would raise the level of subscriptions to increase income and would also institute cost cutting measures.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant on volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. We are constantly seeking and recruiting new leaders. However, if there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level and recruitment was unsuccessful then there the number of sections would have to be reduced.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objectives of the group are as a unit of The Scout Association.

The aim of The Scout Association 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 method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership. In planning our activities to meet the Scout Association's objectives, we also keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

We continue to run 11 full groups each week during term time.

As well as the weekly meetings, our members attended 24 camps or outings in the year and also enjoyed other activities. This included our annual group camp attended by over 200 children and adults. All of our members continue to work towards their bronze, silver and gold Chief Scout awards.

The success of the weekly sessions as well as the camps is down to our leaders and we are very grateful for the time that they give and enthusiasm that they bring to the group.

Financial review

This year, we spent less than we received in unrestricted income. We did not have any large items of expenditure during the year so we were able to increase our cash balances accordingly.

We continued to fundraise through bucket collections at York station, but we had to stop our monthly paper collection as the company that bought the paper from us found that it was no longer financially viable. We had planned to run a spring fair in April 2020 but this was cancelled due to Covid-19. Our main source of income is the subs paid by members of the group. We have successfully applied for grants from the Co-op and City of York Council to purchase tents and camping equipment.

The Covid-19 pandemic was declared on 23 March 2020 so it had no effect on our 2019/20 financial position. However, it will impact on our 2020/21 finances. The executive has forecast the impact to the end of the 2020 calendar year

Reserves policy

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 of £1,000 in reserve as well as the two sinking funds described below.

At the end of March 2019, the minibus fund was £8,130 (2018; £6,130) and the premises fund was £200 (2018; nil). We also have grant funding of £3,201 which is to be spent on tents, camping equipment and computers which is unspent at the year-end – it is held in restricted funds.

Our year-end cash balance is £15,571 (2018; £8,409) which is £4,040 more than the unspent grants plus the sinking funds – the group is operating within its reserves.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Annie Bennett, **Group Chair**

Debbie Paterson, **Group Treasurer**

Financial Summary

For the Period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Receipts and payments

All amounts shown in GBP	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	25,852		25,852	22,530
less: membership subscriptions paid to National/County/Area and District	-10,440		-10,440	-10,922
Net membership subscriptions retained	15,412	0	15,412	11,608
Gift aid	0		0	
Sub total	15,412	0	15,412	11,608
Grants and donations				
Grants received		3,488	3,488	3,597
Sub total	0	3,488	3,488	3,597
Fundraising (gross)				
Paper collection and other activities	3,908		3,908	6,507
Sub total	3,908		3,908	6,507
Activities				
Camps and activities	20,145		20,145	18,600
Minibus hirings	560		560	3,117
Badges and neckers			0	
Sub total	20,705	0	20,705	21,717
Interest	0		0	
Property rent income	852		852	988
Sub total	852	0	852	988
Miscellaneous	602		602	29
Total receipts	41,479	3,488	44,967	44,446

Payments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last Year
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2018/19
Camps	-18,225		-18,225	-18,465
Section activities	-1,520		-1,520	-1,604
Ground rent, fuel, insurance, repairs and renewals	-6,447		-6,447	-9,118
Equipment	-251	-3,173	-3,424	-188
Minibus expenses	-4,522	0	-4,522	-26,993
Badges, neckers and uniform	-1,347		-1,347	-2,073
Administration	-1,941		-1,941	-2,204
Sub total	-34,253	-3,173	-37,426	-60,645
Fundraising expenses	-244	0	-244	-793
Sub total	-244	0	-244	-793
Miscellaneous	-135		-135	-183
Total payments	-34,632	-3,173	-37,805	-61,621
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,847	315	7,162	-17,175
Transfers between funds	-126	126		
Cash funds last year end	5,649	2,760	8,409	25,584
Cash funds this year end	12,370	3,201	15,571	8,409

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	31/03/2020	31/03/2020	31/03/2020	31/03/2019
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Current account	12,370	3,201	15,571	8,409
Virgin Money			0	0
Total	12,370	3,201	15,571	8,409
Other assets	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	
	31/03/2020	31/03/2020	31/03/2020	31/03/2019
	£	£		£
Motor vehicles		-	-	-
Equipment etc	-	-	-	-

The above receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Annie Bennett, **Group Chair**

Debbie Paterson, **Group Treasurer**



Scouts

Dringhouses York

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Group Scout Leader: David Thorne

Group Chair: Annie Bennett

Group President: Ian Everard

Registered Charity Number: 1064151 (England & Wales)