

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Norwich Scout Group



# Scouts

## Annual General Meeting

## Report 2021/2022

## **33<sup>rd</sup> Norwich Scout Group**

### **AGM ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**

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## **Group Chair Report – Dawn Inger**

I continue to be hugely impressed on how dedicated the volunteers are. I'm overwhelmed by their enthusiasm, and I hope to continue working alongside the team for a while as chair.

It's great to see to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at Jessopp road and hear about their exciting activities and camps.

I was impressed at how great the summer fair was, seeing the families enjoying themselves and we are all looking forward to the Christmas fair too.

There is plenty of great plans ahead including new building but importantly lots and lots of great plans for the children to continue having fun and develop.

Its also exciting that we are now working in partnership and supporting another local Scout Group – 29<sup>th</sup> Norwich who are now our sister group. We wish Chris and there volunteers the best of lucky getting back to full strength.

Dawn Inger, Chair.

## **Group Scout Leader Report – Andrew Parle**

Now in my fourth year as Group Scout Leader I'm delighted to say the Group is in great shape!! The children, volunteers and families should be proud of what we have achieved in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Norwich and continue to do so.

How do I know we are successful, well let's look at some of the facts over the last year:

- After reopening from the pandemic, we continue to be full in all sections with considerable waiting lists
- We are regularly camping, doing outdoor activities and the young people are achieving badges and awards
- We have the most volunteers we have ever had and recently taken on 4 more volunteers. We have plans to expand further.
- We are next week opening a new section for 14-18year olds called Explorers. We also have plans for another new section for 4-5 years olds soon.
- Our community events have raised record breaking amounts particularly to mention the Christmas Tree Recycling, Christmas, and Summer fairs.
- We have a strong bank balance but also importantly we are investing heavily in the group's future with 12 brand new tents, a huge new

marquee, training volunteers in new skills including 5 air rifle shooting qualifications.

- We are also excited and delighted to be able to welcome and support our new sister group the 29<sup>th</sup> Norwich based in Chantry Hall. We know working together both our futures are secured.

So, as you can see, we are doing incredibly well. None of this would be possible without the volunteers. I'm incredibly grateful for all the leaders giving up their time week in week out for free, for the executive committee who support and keep us focused on the right things and the fundraising and supporter who have done an incredible job – thank you.

Finally thank you to the Young People as you make volunteering the fun and reward experience it is!

Thank you, Andrew

### **Treasurer – Financial Statement & Scrutineer Report**

Separate report

### **Beaver Section – Susan Flynn, Beaver Scout Leader**

At the moment we have 24 Beavers and a waiting list the first year after the pandemic has been quite good, we have done lots of proficiency badges and worked hard to gain the challenge badges which 10 Beavers have achieved.

7th of January we took 18 Beavers to the pantomime it was enjoyed by all.

At Easter time we had an Easter egg hunt and did lots of Easter crafts.

28th of May we had a badge workshop we managed to get 11 badges completed including some challenge badges.

In June we had a queen Jubilee party Beavers came dressed as kings and queens.

The last night of Beavers in July we have a treasure hunt around the city ending up having a McDonald's after we completed the trail. Hope they learnt some things about Norwich walking round a small part of the city.

Many thanks go to Jenny, Suzanne, Eve, Amber, and Ethan for all their hard work and time over the last year it's been a difficult year but in all I think we've done very getting back to normal life.

Thank you to all of the Beavers, and congratulations to all the Beavers who gained the bronze award for the rest that didn't get the bronze award all is not lost you still have time to complete yours in the next year which we will endeavour to do so.

Last of all thank you to all the parents and grandparents who bring the beavers every week as without you we wouldn't have a beaver Conley.

Many thanks

Sue (Chippy)

### **Cubs Section – Heather Battigan, Cub Scout Leader**

We started back full-time at Jessopp Road, with the hope that there would be no more lockdowns. Still following Covid-19 procedures as required we embarked upon another full year of Cubs.

We started the year working towards the Communicator Badge. As soon as the weather improved and we could get outside, obviously, the first thing to do was to practice fire lighting.

After the end of May Bank Holiday, a Pack Forum, more fire lighting and working on achieving the Disability Awareness Badge. Ending the Summer term with, of course, fire lighting but also including a sausage sizzle.

We met for three weeks during August.

The weather was still kind to us when we started back in September so made the most of being outside. We started on the Money Skills Badge.

In October we were finally able to have a camp, yay! As this would be the first time for many and a while for others, we kept the camp without a specific theme but following the Outdoor Challenge Award. We were blessed with great weather for the most part and was able to have a more relaxed timetable. Great fun was had by all.

For the rest of the term, we covered firework safety, a couple of interesting evenings covering issues raised by COP26, finishing Money Skills and ending with a games evening.

In the New Year we started on the Navigator then Road Safety badges. We met for a couple of Mondays over the Easter holidays and worked on using a compass.

The Cubs were able to gain other badges that could be achieved in their own time, and we do have evenings that are not necessarily 'badge' related but are still a fun and informative.

So, another very busy year, but made so much better by being able to meet in person every week. You don't always realise how important that is, young people and adults alike.

As always, I wouldn't manage any of this without all the other Leaders. So, my grateful thanks to Hathi, Kaa, Bagheera, Bandarlog, Chil, Nag, Rikki-Tikki and Baloo.

Akela

So since the last AGM we have been slowly returning to normal starting with going back to the North Norfolk Railway for their 1940s weekend, a good attendance with over 30 scouts attending.

We again went to camp in London just before Christmas staying at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chiswick and taking in the sights.

Obviously last year we were still under some restrictions so were meeting outside and it was luckily quite a mild winter.

After returning in the new year we had a spring spruce up camp at Jessopp.

A 4<sup>th</sup> camp appeared in June with Luke organising the Water activities weekend at the Mike Thurston Centre.

Shortly after that there was the week long Summer Camp in West Runton. This was very last minute as we had planned to go to London on the Canal boats. It became very clear as that planned camp came nearer that the narrowboat provider had some significant issues so it was all change.

It was a much more chilled laid back camp than usual. But the Scouts enjoyed it.

We already have 4 camps lined up for the next year and I hope to fit some more in.

We have had a couple of changes in the leadership team. Luke has stepped down on Friday night meetings as he out of the area now but will continue to support on Camps. I shall miss his support on a Friday, but I am glad he will continue to be involved with the camps.

We welcomed a new leader Jon who works well with the scouts and is developing nicely and we are due to have another new leader start with us shortly as well.

We are always on the look out for new leaders as we have a very large active troop. Several of the leaders work for the NHS and it is very draining work wise at this time. So if any parent would like to have a try or know of anyone who would like to try, get them to get in touch with me. Its not as hard as it looks!

And finally a big thanks to my partner Abhirup for supporting me in all that I do.

Kind Regards

Tony Buttifant

It has been a busy time on the fundraising front.

Thanks to Malene Bloomfield who stepped down as chair of the fundraising committee in January. Malene set the pace for our events and helped set up the Christmas Fair 2021 before she handed over to us - Diana and Jane. We are now sharing the responsibility of chairing.

Our focus has been to raise much needed funds for the development of the new buildings at Jessop Road. At the same time, we want to spread awareness of what a fantastic community site we have at Jessopp Road. Our Christmas Fair on 28 November 2021 was a great event, raising £1172. Parents and others helped to put up the new marquee for the event, providing a much-needed central refreshment area.

The popular annual Christmas tree recycling went ahead over the new year period, raising a further £900

A new event we tried this year was an Easter egg hunt, held on 10 April 2022, which included refreshments and tombola. Unsure of what the take up would be (and out of fear of running out of eggs...!) we started small. Over 40 children did the hunt and the feedback was very positive. £455 was raised overall. With more advertising this could become a larger annual fundraising event.

The annual Summer Fair took place on 25 June 2022 and was really fun and vibrant, with a good turnout. The weather was kind to us and families spent a relaxing afternoon enjoying the many stalls, games and refreshments on offer. £900 was raised.

Andrew Parle conducted a small survey to get feedback. The key points were - hugely enjoyed particularly the food and drink. Suggestions for next time included adjusting the times and more events for the older children, and increasing the pool of volunteers.

Whilst we have enough people coming forward to help on the day at our events, there is just a tiny core of 4 max who help with the planning. We would love to get more active support so that we can spread the work and put on even better events, and raise more money. We are holding planning meetings regularly at the York pub, and asking for support through email but take up is very limited.

As a way of increasing awareness of the site we had planned to participate in the NR2 yard sale inviting private stall holders, and providing refreshments and toilet facilities, but there was insufficient take up from stall holders. In addition to these events, we had a lovely write up in the June/July issue of local magazine "The Golden Guide", letting people know about the history of the Jessopp Road site, its features and current uses. The next event will be the Christmas Fair, to be held on 27 November.

## Jessopp Road Development

We continue to work hard on incremental developments at Jessopp. Making it better now for everyone who uses it but also we are working towards the new headquarters too.

Some highlights of work achieved in this year are:

- Three brand new picnic benches
- All the buildings now have been re-wired and brought up to modern safety standards
- Mains connected fire alarms are now in every building including emergency light too
- Taking delivery of new gardening/maintenance kit from a grant which included an industrial shredder, gloves, shears, loopers and a brand new mower
- Newly fitted and kindly donated electric roller shutters which will also us to refurbish the garage into a usable space
- New “quite nature area” kind completed by the Princes Trust
- A huge volume of green maintenance like cutting the grass, cutting back nettles etc
- Many various smaller jobs for example replacing lights that continue all throughout the year.

As you know we gained planning permission for the new HQ and sadly progress over the last year has been slow in this area. We are continuing the work on surveys, planning requirements but we hope we soon move into a phase of aggressive fundraising and starting some groundwork but without more help and support we worry progress we continue to be slow. So we need your help!

All work done on site is by volunteers, the leaders, parents and children. Also all funding comes from the users or grants. So we really appreciate all donations of time or money to Jessopp Road and a big thank you to those people.

But we need more help please – Do you have a skill/trade, or just an hour to lend a pair of hands or can supply needed materials or would like to make a donation. Please get in touch with Tony (Scout Leader) or Andrew (Group Scout Leader)