

33rd Norwich Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Report 2023/2024

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Group Chair Report – Dawn Inger

I continue to be impressed by the dedication of all volunteers supporting the 33rd Norwich Scout group.

Mandy Brown now has all the accounts for the 33rd and is working with Andy for a smooth transition, all bank information and queries have now been dealt with. This process has been a tad slow due to bank paperwork!

Our groups are full the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are enjoying all that the organisation offers again supported by our wonderful enthusiastic volunteers at Jessopp road/Colman Road, St Annes Hall.

Our summer fayre was great and again we raised a lot of money towards our new building. We do have plans for a quiz and chip night at Colman Road Hall on Nov 19th, along with a bingo evening also at Colman Road on 8th December 2024.

A huge thank you to Diane and Jane who organise and support all our fundraising, and of course, the other members of the small but perfectly formed fund-raising group. All proceeds made at these events will go towards the new build, we need to raise money for soft furnishing. If you are interested in joining our fund-raising group please do make contact.

A huge BIG shout out to all who helped in the demolition of part of the 'old' Scout hut, it was a very busy weekend.

The new building has been a huge learning curve for all involved. It has taken up lots of volunteer's personal time and for that I thank them.

The site will soon be an action-packed area full of building equipment and people in hard hats.

The new building will bring new user groups and hopefully become embedded into the local community as well as being a wonderful home for the 33 rd.

I hope to continue to remain as chair for the coming year.

Dawn Inger, Chair.

Group Lead Volunteer Report – Andrew Parle

I'm delighted to report on the last year in the 33rd Norwich, there are so many good news stories to tell! I have been the Group Lead Volunteer for 6 years and I'm as excited now about the future as I was 6 years ago when I started.

There are lots of things to celebrate and here are just a few.

- We have started building our brand new £1million home and community centre due to open March 25!
- Beavers, Cubs & Scouts remain full with waiting lists. You may be surprised to know we have a 2-year wait in some sections hence why we need more volunteers and a bigger venue.
- Our newest section – Explorer (14-18years) goes from strength to strength with lots of great camps and events already happened! Plus, they have lots of great things planned for the coming year too.
- Increasing number of volunteers +25% more adults volunteering than last year and the biggest the group has been in decades. We do need more volunteers to be able to open more sections when the new hall opens.
- Our Group now has over 146 members which is an amazing achievement we should all be proud of.
- Over £100,000 of fundraising plus our profile increased in the community – well done! Do come along to our next event!
- We have a strong board of trustees and good bank balance but also importantly we are investing heavily in the group's future. Also training volunteers in new skills including archery, air rifles, climbing, axe throwing, and water-based skills (another reason to volunteer with us)

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 volunteers giving up their time week in week out for free, for the board of trustees who support and keep us focused on the right things and also the fundraising team who all do an incredible job – thank you.

Finally thank you to the Young People as you make volunteering the fun and rewarding!

Thank you, Andrew

Treasurer – Financial Statement & Scrutineer Report

Separate report

Beaver Section – Susan Flynn, Beaver Team Leader

At the moment we have 24 beavers and a waiting list. We've work hard over the last year it's not been easy for us all with the move and everything but hopefully it's now starting to get better, sorry for all the inconvenience to all the beavers and parents thank you for being understanding.

Few of the things we've done, harvest festival, Went to see Father Christmas at highways nursery, Went to the pantomime in January, in February I was lucky enough to go to Westminster Abbey to celebrate getting my silver Acorn a brilliant weekend.

Jenny Chrissie and Karen ran a cake stall at Violet Elvin Court and raised £85 for the new build, We

had a fun / Badge workshop day in June did lots of activity badges and three challenge badges.

The county organised a Beaver takeover BeWilderwood day 2,500 beavers attended 17 beavers were ours great day Hector Guardi was presented with the top bronze award the highest award you can get while in beavers well done Hector.

My thanks go to Jenny, Eve, Sharon, Chrissie, Lulu and Kieran for all their hard work. Last but not least me and the rest of the Beaver section would like to give a huge thank you to Andrew who I know has worked tirelessly hard to get funds and everything running for our new build and thank you to the team that's been helping him too thank you well done to you all.

Here's looking forward to a new year and building next year.

Many thanks, Sue (Chippy)

Cub Section – Heather Battigan Team Leader

We have had another very busy year with a pack of 28 Cubs beginning the new term. We finished the year with 26 Cubs, so have been consistent with the number of Cubs throughout the year.

The Cubs have completed many activities and earned a lot of badges doing those activities. We also did a lot of things that are not always 'badge related' but go together to give the Cubs a full range of experiences: making friends, having fun, learning new things, working as a team and much more.

Activity and Challenge badges we worked on throughout the year include: Scientist, Fire Lighting, Fire Safety, Artist, Teamwork, Personal, Communicator and Entertainer and other badges earned individually.

Learning how to light a fire and then the treat of making smores is always a firm favourite with the Cubs and we did that a few times during the year.

We celebrated the King's Coronation in April. We met for 4 weeks during the summer break culminating with a night of water games which is always great fun. We had a Halloween night with the Cubs and some Leaders turning up in some great costumes. This is always a fun night with Halloween biscuit decorating, puzzles and games. December is always a good time to have a go at some Christmas crafts and obviously ending the term with a party is a must. A Chinese New Year evening in February, with several activities included was another brilliant evening.

So, as you can see, a jam-packed year of a diverse range of all the Cubs do. Unfortunately, we didn't have a camp as we did lose some Sectional Assistants because of finishing university and moving away or because of other commitments.

None of the above couldn't be done without the help of the Leaders and Sectional Assistants, so I would like to thank Hathi, Kaa, Baloo, Bagheera, Bandalog and Rikki-Tikki

Akela

Scout Section – Tony Buttifant Team Leader

Since the last AGM the troop has remained full with a good retention rate.

We have camped at the North Norfolk Railway for their 1940s weekend, a good attendance with over 30 scouts attending.

This year Christmas camp was a trip to London visiting local museums and attractions.

We had a spring spruce up camp at Jessopp in March, with a camping/hiking trip led to Derbyshire in April.

There was a water activities camp in June, followed by a week's summer camp at Kibblestone near Stoke on Trent.

Attendance has been good at all camps. And a particular thanks has to go to Luke for organising both the Water Camp and Summer Camp. Jon for organising the Derbyshire trip and James for organising the London Trip.

As part of succession planning it's important to ensure all members of the leadership team are competent at organising all elements of the troop program.

We have less camps planned for next year due to Summer Camp being planned for Luxembourg for 10 days in the Summer which is being spearheaded by Luke.

In addition, we have had 9 scouts this year actively taking part in the allotments both growing things and undertaking service activities for the Association there.

It is with no small measure of pride that I can say whenever the scouts are out on camp, involved in community activities or even just travelling on trains, we get members of the public stop the leaders to say how polite and well-mannered the scouts are. They are to be congratulated.

Whilst we have a strong leadership team, we are always on the lookout 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. It's not as hard as it looks!

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

Tony Buttifant – Scout Leader

Explorer Section Jessopp Jackals – Andy Taylor Explorer Team Leader

Culture

Having trialled various approaches over its first two years to determine how best to optimise engagement and commitment from its members, Jessopp Jackals has found that activities based on core scouting skills with an emphasis on respectful behaviour produce the best results for our members and volunteers alike.

Members

Of the 44 members that have joined the group since its inception, we've seen seven members stay until turning 18. Unfortunately, we have seen 18 members leave due to various reasons. Wherever possible lessons have been learned along the way and we've done our best to improve things to improve retention rates in future.

We currently have 19 on the books and 10 Scouts expected to join us over the coming 12 months from 33rd and potentially another 4 from 29th.

We're also looking to current members to invite friends along if they wish, in order to grow steadily in readiness for needing to expand even further on completion of the new build, in accordance with the funding stipulation.

Volunteers

We've said goodbye to Stuart and welcomed Jane and Bee. We're keen to steadily recruit more leaders as the group grows in readiness for doubling the unit capacity over 2025/26.

Camps

A highlight of the past year was attending Isle of Wight Revolution 24 over the Easter Weekend with 18 of the unit joining the rest of the District.

Next summer the majority of our unit hope to join the Scouts trip to Wiltz, with a small number instead/also attending Norjam joining the Python ESU/Earlham Scouts contingent.

Fundraising activities over the intervening period, providing personal development opportunities, will help with camp costs.

DofE

We're also now taking the first steps to put the infrastructure and activities in place to enable a small District wide contingent complete their Bronze DofE over the coming year, whilst helping them and everyone else involved in DofE elsewhere to achieve their Platinum Award with Scouts.

The plan for next year is to expand the offering of the Bronze DofE and begin to enable the completion of the Silver DofE and Diamond Award.

Exposs

Thanks to the unwavering commitment from Jane and Martin, and two of our Jackals, the allotment scheme has produced a great crop of tomatoes, strawberries and root vegetables.

Plans are afoot to encourage more interest in food growing with linked activities through the winter months with the hope of welcoming more committed members to the plot next Spring..

Kind regards, Andy Taylor

Building Committee

As you will well know that last year has been exciting highs and some lows too. I real rollercoaster! But overall, we are still delighted that secured that grant of £900,000 from the Youth Investment Fund.

This massive grant to replace our dilapidated buildings with a brand-new facility, a purpose-built sustainable Scout and community hub.

The building will be fully accessible, carbon neutral, and open to outside community groups. Construction will be complete by March 2025. It will give us the chance to double the number of young people who can join in Scouting and also open the venue to more community groups.

Whilst this amazing fund will build a new facility it doesn't include fixtures like tables, chairs etc so we have been fundraising towards our target of £10,000.

Building has now started and will continue right through to March 2025. We temporarily moved back to our old hall at Colman Road till the work is completed. At that point the old hall we revert to the church.

Please do watch progress of the hall build on our social media as we will be posting progress updates throughout. Also, by this time next year we hope to be reporting on our opening party and asking you to join our volunteer site team, keeping Jessopp looking good for many years to come.

Thank you to everyone who has helped, supported, donated to make this dream of a new venue a reality! We cant wait to welcome you!



Fundraising

2024 has seen the fundraising team build on the success of the previous few years, with well-established events and some new ideas tried. Our focus has remained keeping money coming in and spreading awareness of both the work of 33rd, and the quest for the new centre at Jessop Road. Our events also play a valuable role in providing a focus for families to come together and have fun. This year has seen more events than ever, with the closing of Jessopp road helping us to think creatively.

Dreadful weather resulted in the postponement of the July summer fayre – and this was held on Sept 23rd (raising £1200) Hot on its heels came the second Quiz and chips on 11th November at Colman Hall. Another full house with about 60 people and we raised £455 -even better than the first one (£324), £350 of match funding from Aviva boosted it even further.

Our Christmas Fayre on December 2023 once again brought the community together. Father Christmas and his grotto was popular, as were the cakes and stalls. The rain and wind were against us, meaning we couldn't put up the marquee, but we still managed to raise £680, somewhat less than last year – thanks to the weather, and thanks to volunteer David Thrower we were donated £804 match funding. Followed quickly after Christmas is our annual Christmas Tree Recycling scheme. As ever hugely popular, raising £1130 for the site.

Without access to Jessopp Road we weren't able to host the easter Fayre. But we ran another quiz and chips in April – once again well attended and raising £600. Also, Jayne and other volunteers including John Higgins ran stalls at both Heigham Park and Cloverhill School Fetes, adding £148 and £110 respectfully. Thanks to Dawn and Mandy for facilitating the latter.

Back packing at Tesco's was a new venture. Good attendance from scouts and parents not only raised £475 but gave our young people a valuable opportunity to build their confidence and customer service skills!

Diana has assisted with press releases and media coverage of the ongoing efforts for our new centre. As part of this a crowd fund was used to boost funding, along with donations. Planned for October 19th is another quiz and chips, plus Christmas Bingo and fun at St Frances of Assisi on Dec 8th.

As with last year a small core of volunteers plan all the events and whilst we usually have enough helpers on the day we'd love more people to get involved.

Jayne. Diana and the fundraising team