

Group Scout Leaders Report.

Starting with Scouting

With regard to Scouting, we have had some mixed results this year,

Unfortunately with regard to Thursday Beavers, due to ill health, Alison has left the Group and is now only working with the Swillington Group and Claire her assistant has taken this opportunity to leave at the same time. We are actively seeking a new leader for Thursday Beavers and will endeavour to get the section back up and running for after the Summer Break. Any Volunteers?

Monday Beavers is still as strong as ever and I could not move on without proudly telling everyone that Sarah recently invested my Grandson Liam putting 3 generations of Hansborough in uniform at 1st Garforth Scout Group, this may be the first time that such an event has occurred.

Cubs, after many years Nikkela Kemp left us at Christmas, luckily for us two new leaders, Kay and Janette have joined forces with Stuart to keep open Tuesday Cubs, I am sure the report from Kay will show this. Kay has also taken over the running of the website and I hope that we can get this working over the next year and more people contribute to it.

Richard and his Team as usual are setting a very high standard and continue to produce great results, I would also like to welcome to their new leader **xx**.

Scouts have also had mixed results with Delta Troop reducing considerably in numbers and Burma Troop hitting record highs, we hope to see this balance itself out over the coming year as new scouts move up from the cub packs. I know from personal experience that both troops continue to put on a great programme with plenty of outside activities.

As a Group we have held our Group Camp that was our 100 year celebrations, and been to Remembrance Sunday service, we held our own Carols by Candlelight; however we would have needed the Hubble Space Telescope to read the words on the song sheets produced by Kevin. We also attended St Georges Day Parade, although you may have noticed that for a 150 member group only a handful turned up, we will shortly have this years Group Camp at Walesby Forrest and expect it to be great fun for all.

With regard to this report, I would like to say on behalf of the myself the exec and the boys and girls from 1ST Garforth Scout Group a very Big Thank you to All the Leaders for the hard work they have put in over the past year, not forgetting all the helpers, scouts and explorers that turn up for the sections on a weekly basis and help to keep them running smoothly.

The Exec

I would personally like to thank the executive committee for the fabulous job they have done over the past year, it has been a difficult time due to problems with the building and surrounding area and they have worked tirelessly in endeavouring to

make sure that we have continued to be able to meet and run our scouting programmes.

I would like to point out a few people for a special mention.

Our Treasurer Kevin who has ensured that the funds were properly accounted for and that money was available when needed especially when working on some very large projects all at the same time.

Our Secretary Mandy Hill, who since she took over the roll of administration of subs has had a tremendous effect on the income of the group. Sadly Mandy is also taking this opportunity to leave the Group and we will be looking for a replacement today.

Sarah, Kevin Leanne and Phil. (and Mrs Foster) for their work on the Race Night, that is now a steady income of over £2000.00.

Anne Doughty who alone sorted out our Gift Aid applications.

I hope that all the current exec will stay in place for the next year and that others will join us to help keep the Group running.

Building and Property Report

There is a lot going on with the building and surrounding area and I don't want to take up too much time going through everything, and will publish a detailed report on our website with the minutes of this meeting.

First of all, let me tell you what we have done.

We have had to repair the drains that were damaged by Magellans, this cost over £4700 and was mostly funded from a grant originally made available to the Guides but the considerately let us use it to repair the drains.

We have also with the aid of a grant from Leeds City Council and the support of Mark Dobson and Tom Murray at last replaced the roof at a cost of almost £6000.

We have plastered and repaired the damage ceiling in the Leaders Room, blocked up some windows for security reasons, replaced a vandalised door on the electric cupboard, set up a waste collection system, so that we can have our rubbish removed from the site and arranged for someone to clean the building once a week. We have also had the grass cut and bushes and grass cleared from behind the HQ, this has cost over £700.

Ongoing Jobs

In addition to what we have completed we have also partially laid ours and the Guides water pipes to allow connection on Barley Hill Crescent, and after been given permission to dig the trench for the Gas pipes on Magellans land Dug the trench to allow the gas for us and the Guides to be reconnected. We have also started work building the retaining wall and re-instating the disabled ramp and fire exit. The cost of

this work will be in excess of £3000, it is hoped that some of this cost towards the gas installation will be donated to the Guides from Mark Dobson.

I would like to personally and on behalf of the whole group thank Mark Kemp for all the work he has undertaken in digging these trenches and other items he has been involved in. Without Marks efforts this would not have been done.

Thank you also to Simon Fletcher for agreeing to build our retaining wall and to do some further work for us entirely free of charge.

Work we will undertake before the End of June.

We will shortly have the outside of the building rendered at a cost of just over £2000. With a little bit of luck we hope to have the inside and outside of the building painted courtesy of British Gas, also it is hoped that they will at least supply a boiler for the Guide Building; they may even supply and fit the whole system. Depending on some further discussion we may be able to get further help from British Gas and have the rubble cleared from behind our HQ, dig some soak away drains and may even get some grass to make the area look better. A big thank you to Phil for helping to get this issue raised as a project that British Gas is looking at providing substantial support for.

Other Work

We have some other projects to complete subject to funding, including security fencing around both the Scout and Guide buildings, a new kitchen, relaying the tiled floor in the main hall, this is currently subject to an insurance claim.

Last but Not Least Pathways and Leasing.

It should be noted that we have not agreed a lease for us or the Guides and are unlikely to until the area is a safer place for young people to attend. It is hoped that when the lease is finalised it will be a joint lease for us and the Guides and that a suitable grant is in place to assist with the payments.

With regard to entrance and other pathways within the site. Several weeks ago we held a meeting at the Civic Hall, with Mark Dobson, Tom Murray, and people from Land and Property that are in charge of the land that we intend to lease. We agreed at the meeting that the Pathways, Landscaping and some adequate Lighting was a matter of urgency, however to date I have not had an update on what is to happen and When. To this end and due to complaints regarding the dangerous state of the pathways Mark Dobson has agreed to come along to our AGM and update us.