



Our year. 2019-20 Annual review.



Scouts

5th New Forest North
(Testwood)

Welcome

It's been a year like no other, but still we taught young people skills for life, gave back to our community and got stuck in. So what can you find inside?

3. **What's coming up?**
AGM Agenda
4. **GSL's report.**
Message from our Group Scout Leader
6. **Beaver Scouts report**
10. **Cub Scouts report**
14. **Scouts report**
18. **Explorer Scouts report**
22. **Fundraising reports**
Santa Run and Antler Club reports
24. **Our finances in summary**
for the 2019 calendar year
26. **What happened last time?**
Minutes of the AGM, September 2019

2020 Annual General Meeting Agenda

19th November 7pm via Zoom

1. Welcome all present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last AGM meeting to be approved
4. Approval of the Executive Committee Chairman
5. Election of Executive Committee Officers – Treasurer, Secretary
6. List of Ex-Officio Members
7. Election of members (Co-opted)
8. Group Scout Leader's Report
9. Treasures Report – 2019
10. Section Reports for 2019-2020
11. Fundraising and Santa Run reports



GSL's report

I would like to welcome to you all to our first on-line AGM, it is great to see so many parents taking a keen interest in their children's Scouting.

I would like to begin by asking you all to take a moment to remember our former Chairman, Mike Szymanski, who sadly passed away earlier this year. I could say many things about Mike, but as most of you knew him, and have your own special memories of Mike I will leave you to remember him at this time.

The Group has continued to grow in most sections, including a few new faces on the leadership team but I think that you all agree it has been a very strange year, both in and out of Scouting and I would just like to thank all the leaders for everything they have been doing to keep the group Scouting during this most difficult of years.

They have all been doing a fabulous job, first with online content during lockdown, then with face to face under very unusual and difficult conditions, and now back once again to online activities. I am sure you will all agree that they have been doing a great job.

I would also like you to join me in thanking the Group Executive Committee and all the other Group helpers and supporters who help to keep the Group running in the background.

All these people have had to put up with me and others nagging them to complete the new training and mandatory ongoing learning this year, and I am pleased to say that everyone is now up to date.

I would particularly like to thank Debbie St John for stepping up as Group Chairman, a role that she has been acting in for some time.

I would like to thank Tara for her work as Treasurer for the past year, at times under very difficult conditions. Although she is leaving the role, she has offered to stay on as a Parent Rep.

Thank you to Lynne and Mel who are replacing Tara and Debbie as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, I am sure they will be very welcome in their new roles.

As I mentioned earlier, it has been a very strange and challenging year for the Group, Not only from a leaders point of view, with meetings and most of the usual camps and activities cancelled, but also from a financial point of view as all of the out goings associated with the Group still very much need to be paid.

I would like to thank all the parents for their continued support as we endeavour to continue to provide quality Scouting during these difficult times. As always, we are open to any offers of help. Perhaps you have seen how much fun the leaders have and would like to get involved, or maybe you are a dab hand at DIY and would like to join in on our maintenance days or would like to join our exec or fundraising committees.

If you feel that you would like to help, please do not be shy and have a chat with any one of us, I am sure you will be made to feel most welcome.

I would just like to finish by thanking Steven, for once again lending his technical skills to this meeting.

Barry Stride
Group Scout Leader



I am sure you are going to hear certain words a lot in this AGM and in this booklet so I am going to try my best to avoid saying the same things again and again.

Last September we planned to stride confidently into a year of growth, new activities and adventures and although how we got there changed, I am very proud to say we have done just this.

So time travel back to when we took on some new activities with evenings looking at digital skills, navigating, pond dipping at Testwood Lakes and tackling plastic pollution with a litter pick in Eling.

We also returned to some old favourites by dusting off our go-carts for a race round our training ground, protecting an egg with some home-made parachutes and an ever popular cooking evening.

In October we held our annual autumn sleepover at our HQ, enjoying supper in the evening and watching a film from our beds and tackling a morning of activities after waking as well. It was a first for so many and a great night that kept coming up when asking about what they wanted—more sleepovers!

December also saw us host the district's Beaver Scouts at St. Anne's Church in Calmore for a Christingle service that got us into the festive mood and welcomed everyone for every background. My thanks to the team that pulled it off, including Rev. Sally.

Beaver Scouts are our youngest section for 6 and 7 year old boys and girls. They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

beavers@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

With Spring saw the return of a favourite event, the Fawn Trophy with our teams coming very close to winning this competition that tests teamwork and resilience. With activities including scouting skills, cooking pan cakes on tin cans and team games, we can't wait to do it again.

We always teach life skills and resilience is certainly one that got tested this year. While many of our plans have been delayed we have not given up and instead delivered a programme of events through Facebook with our Beaver Scouts achieving them in their own time at home. Lots of our Beavers earned badges and even the Chief Scout's Bronze award in this time—bravo to them!

The colony got behind a number of events, such as celebrating VE day on their doorsteps or hiking to the moon in their back gardens for Children in Need and Comic Relief.

The absolute high point was our two-day camp at home when our Beavers camped in their gardens, under tables or wherever they can around their house. With activities delivered by Elk (at home in his tent) on video, our Beavers had a go at mug cakes, toasting marshmallows, wrapping their parents up in bandages, making robotic hands and cup puppets, making catapults, explored endangered animals and played games from other countries. To say it was a hit would be an understatement and is something we're looking into doing in the future.

In more recent months we've tackled some fire-lighting, toasting marshmallows and pioneering when we have met at our HQ with some home-made ice cream experiments, the photography and safety badges and craft for Halloween and remembrance at home. These have continued to be a real hit, proving that we can still be just as effective at developing skills for life even when we're apart.

This couldn't happen if it weren't for my fellow leaders, Scott, Vicky, Faye (joining us new this year) and Jayne, who moved on to help another Beaver colony very recently. And of course to our amazing parents who have supported us every step along the way.

Steven Osborn

Beaver Scout Leader

Beaver Scouts are our youngest section for 6 and 7 year old boys and girls. They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

beavers@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk





At the AGM last year we spoke of the great plans we had for this year. However not all of this was realised as we met with the challenges of the current pandemic faced by the world over. For us this meant face to face meetings ceased, however as a section we rose to these challenges; more on this later!

First let's go back to September. Shortly after AGM, Testwood hosted another alternative Cub District sleepover, this time we went to Chessington World of Adventures to enjoy two action packed days at the theme park and zoo.

We stayed in what was essentially one of the over flow car park fields within the park grounds and we were treated to all the park had to offer including some exclusive access to the zoological areas of the park outside of the normal hours.

On the Saturday we went to the park's pizza restaurant where we stuffed ourselves silly at the all you can eat buffet. I think it safe to say the Cubs who attended had a great time.

A big thank you to Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre for lending us pop up tents for the camp which proved to make setting up and taking down camp a dream, we look forward to repeating this one in the future.

Cub Scouts are our section for 8 to 10 ½ year old boys and girls.
They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

cubs@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

The end of last year saw the cubs debate some great topics such as the use of plastics in supermarkets, the use of mobile phones in school and Cub uniforms among other things, for UK Parliament week.

The Cubs cooked up a storm for our Master chef week with chicken curry, pasta bolognese and apple crumble on the menu and of course the washing up.

We took part in the district swimming gala where all the competing Cubs swam amazingly and it was clear they all did their best.

Christmas saw us go to Panto to see Peter Pan at The Mayflower and once again members of our group found themselves on stage - this time it was the Cubs and not Redwolf.

We finished 2019 with a bring a buddy Christmas party where we played games and stuffed down hotdogs. The parties proved a great success and we obviously made a good impression as some of these friends came back and have since been invested.

The beginning of 2020 was ticking along nicely at the beginning and we had started to look at the disability awareness badge among other things. Our young leaders ran two very different evenings for Chinese new year; year of the rat.

We had a warm up quiz night to prepare ourselves for the district brainbox competition, in which we entered a team from each pack.

The call came to stop face to face scouting and the Cubs immediately took to Facebook to run virtual meetings. This was different and the Cubs took part in all manner of activities and 2 virtual camps. They have earned arms full of badges and raised money for the NHS by taking part in the national Hike to the Moon initiative.

Sarah and Craig Challis

Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Scouts are our section for 8 to 10 ½ year old boys and girls.

They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

cubs@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk





Well I would love to be able to write this report and it be like all the previous reports of camps and nights away under the stars and full of stories of our usually epic summer camp, but unfortunately I can't. However, what I can say is as different as this year has been, it has been a great year for the Garland Troop.

Before the end of face to face Scouting, we managed to squeeze in a few camps and great activities. As always we attended a very wet, muddy and boggy county winter camp which rivalled the scenes you would see at Glastonbury. On this camp, the Scouts took part in multiple activities including giant inflatables, laser mission and much, much more.

In January, we took the Scouts on our annual polar expedition, where they hiked to and from Ferny Crofts pulling the trek cart full of gear. Once at camp, they got to eat true expedition food with boil in the bag rice and curries for dinner and feasting on tinned bacon cooked on hike stoves for breakfast.

We then ran our first and very popular navigation training day. This was a full day and night crash course in navigation training. The Scouts were dropped at base camp at Ferny Crofts where they learnt all the basics for night time navigation for the up and coming Eagle Trophy.

Scouts are our section for 10 ½ to 14 year old boys and girls. They meet on Monday evenings.

scouts@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

They were treated in the evening to a big stew cooked over an open fire before they left for a night hike similar to the trophy walk.

We entered 2 teams into the Eagle Trophy - one being our older Scouts and one very new team. The event is a night incident hike where the Scouts are pitted against the other scouts in the district. During this, they take part in a night hike which they plotted on maps themselves from grid references.

During the hike, they are met by leaders on bases with a selection of problems and team building activities which they are awarded points for effort and achievement. We came 5th and 9th out of 10 teams, in this very challenging competition, with only a few points in it between the winners and runner ups.

That was, unfortunately, the end of our weekend Scouting and camping. However, our Monday nights have stayed jam packed with skills for life with cooking and axe works being some of what we focused on.

When lockdown hit, Scouting didn't stop. We provided what we could by creating a virtual program, where the team worked hard to deliver the Scouts fun activities with a focus on skills for life.

These included pioneering, cooking, making all sorts of wonderful and sometimes fire related items, including hobo stoves and popcorn makers as well as learning great basic scouting skills like knots and navigation.

On return to face to face Scouting, we split the troop in to two groups with the older scouts focusing on their expedition challenge whilst still having fun with pumpkin carving and the light bulb drop challenge.

The younger half of the section focused on the skills they missed out on due to the weekend and summer camps being cancelled. We began by teaching them some skills for their saw, knife & axe permits, before we had to stop again and just the other week we held our first ever virtual parliament week, which went really well.

Although it had been the strangest year with these unprecedented times, the troop has had a really good year and we have grown in numbers. We now have 21 members with more still to come up from Cubs in the next few months.

Going forward, the leadership team look forward to returning to a face to face program as soon as we are allowed and would like to get camping again too!

(Big) **Joe Simes**

Scout Leader

Lord of Stuff and Things.

Scouts are our section for 10 ½ to 14 year old boys and girls. They meet on Monday evenings.

scouts@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



A fairly quiet year for Cerberus Explorer Unit, with the first five months having only two members, but this was boosted to seven in September, and now we are up to eight. These extra members have also brought in two new Leaders, Mike Jones and Harry Cotton.

Even with the low numbers the Unit has taken part in all the usual activities; open fire cooking, gas stove cooking, crazy golf at Ferny Crofts including some conservation work, rifle shooting, map reading and a night hike, cycle ride, first aid, physical activity and skills for their Chief Scouts Awards and Duke of Edinburgh's, joint meetings with 5th Testwood Scouts to foster good links and encourage Scouts to move to Explorers, and much more. Christmas of course saw the usual joint activities with the other three Units in the District; International Cooking, Ice Skating, Christmas Quiz, film night and Christmas Crafts.

In November five of the Unit joined the District Expedition to the Lake District, a week's stay at Great Tower, the National Scout Campsite, to experience walking, caving and climbing, in what proved to be the sunniest stay you could wish for.

January started the year with full plans for hiking/overnight expeditions, a fantastic trip for some of the Unit going to Kandersteg, the International Scout Campsite in Switzerland, and so much more.

Explorers are for everyone aged 14 to 18 years old. Cerberus Explorers meet at our HQ on Monday evenings.

cyclingscout@gmail.com

But as we know, something has got in our way, and the best laid plans of mice & men have been laid bare and have been put on the shelf for better times.

Our last Face to Face Meeting was however great, with us investing all our Explorers in to the Unit on top of Farley Mount, after a great hike in the stars.

We have kept Explorers going through these strange times, with Zoom Meetings, some sort of magical technology that allows people to see each other on a computer screen! I have somehow managed to make it work, with full attendance by all Leaders and Explorers most weeks.

Andy Austin, long-time Leader with Cerberus, has taken a back seat to concentrate on his civic duties as a local councillor, and is now an Explorer Occasional Helper, we thank Andy for all the hard work he has put into Explorer Scouting.

Harry Cotton has decided, quite rightly, that he needs to concentrate on his fledgling career as a paramedic, so is giving Explorer Scouting a rest for a while, we wish him all the best and hope to see him back soon (although not in a professional capacity).

Thanks also to Alexis Jones and Mike Jones for their leadership duties throughout the year, especially when having to cover for my absence due to other Scouting duties.

Kerie Wallace
Explorer Scout Leader.



Explorers are for everyone aged 14 to 18 years old. Cerberus Explorers meet at our HQ on Monday evenings.
cyclingscout@gmail.com





Thanks to Mark Perry Photography

Santa Run

Last year's run was again a great success. We saw over 300 runners dressed as Santa take on the new route we established the previous year starting and finishing at the Empire Hall which seemed to be quite a hit with our runners.

Sponsorship for this year's run was harder fought for and was very much down on previous runs, however with some tweaks to the planned activities on the day, the run made a decent profit. A big thank you goes to Ferny Crofts for their help on the day with equipment, setting up and running tomahawk throwing at our finish line based Christmas Fayre. This again was extremely busy for most of the morning and once again we received great feedback from our stall holders.

We were treated to music from the Roverang Alumini Choir and was entertained by the mince pie eating competition. We changed things

up outside too as we had no reindeer but brought on board birds of prey and expanded the fayre offer outside to try a Christmas village feel. A massive thanks again to everyone who helped make it the success it was.

This year's run unfortunately had to be cancelled with a decision made in September giving the current situation with Covid-19. At the time of writing, with the country in a second lockdown, this decision was clearly the right one.

We look forward to Santa Run 2021 and look forward to making it our best ever. As always, if anyone has ideas or wants to get involved, get in touch: tottonsantarun@gmail.com

Craig Challis

Santa Run Co-ordinator

Antler Club Bingo

Between September 2019 and March when we had to stop we were doing well with numbers attending increasing. The high point was our Christmas bingo which was well attended and had a number of excellent prizes awarded.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit we were badly affected and due to the age and health of many of our regulars, we were not able to return in a safe or practical way. We will have to see what the new year brings but many challenges lie ahead.

Tracy Hogan

Antler Club organiser

Our finances in summary for the 2019 calendar year.

Income

2019 has seen a further rise in income. A small increase in section numbers resulted in a small increase of £191 in membership subscriptions (£11,571 2019) however due to increases in the fee taken by the higher levels of the association the amount retained by the group was reduced by £801 (£6557 retained 2019).

We were able to claim Gift Aid from recent donations this year, which raised an additional £3,123 for the group this calendar year which was returned to the sections.

Focused fundraising continued to supplement the monies raised to help with the costs of activities, maintenance of the hall and allowing more of the membership fee to be kept by the sections by covering the groups costs as much as possible. Events included the Santa Run and Christmas Fayre (£4,772), Bag Packing at ASDA in December (£840), ongoing fundraising such as book sales (£192), recycling of clothing, milk bottle tops, ink cartridges and easy fundraising. We were also able to secure grants totalling £19,111 for the purposes of hall maintenance.

The Group also continues to benefit from the funds received for the use of the hall by other groups (£1,370) enabling our facilities to be used by the wide community and linking us to our wider purpose.

In total, the group's gross income for the year was £50,854 (£33,260 2018).

Expenses

With regards to the group's running expenses, many of our normal operational expenses remain in line with previous years with a notable increase in repairs and renewals as we had need to repair parts of the roof and replace the life-expired external cladding (£11,209 2019, an increase of £9705).

With a more moderately scaled Santa Run and Christmas Fayre this year led to a similar reduction in the costs for the event which, along with other fundraising expenses, cost £3,278 in 2019 (£2,885 less than 2018). Combined expenses for sectional activities, equipment and transport stands at £15,653 (£4,094 less than 2018).

Total gross expenditure for 2019 was £35,783 which is line with the previous year meaning income exceeded expenditure this year by £15,071 leaving the group with combined cash funds of £43,282.

A more detailed version of the group accounts is available from the Group on request and on the Charity Commission website.

As noted last year, the Cub section were unable to reimburse the Group for their 2017 capitation and reached an agreement with the Executive Committee to clear the outstanding over the next 2 years. The Cub section followed this payment plan in 2019 and continues to do so. This has no financial impact on the overall Group accounts as the transfer is an internal one to contribute towards the Capitation paid to District plus hall running expenses including insurance and is currently represented as an overspend in the Cub account.

What happened last time?

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Monday 2nd September 2019

1. Welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

- Kerie Wallace (KW)
- Debbie St John (DSJ)
- Tracey Hogan (HG) apologies
- Tara Dunton (TD) running late

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th June 2018 to be approved

Minutes approved by the AGM

4. Chairman's Report

Mike Szymanski gave his report of the last 12 months

Awards and Competitions won by the sections.

Money raised and donated to provide new amenities.

5. Approval of the Executive Committee Chairman

Mike Szymanski (MS) nominated as Chairman by Barry Stride (BS). Seconded by Lisa Szymanski (LS)

6. Election of Exec Committee Officers

Hayley Simes (HS) stepping down as Secretary. Debbie St John (DSJ) nominated by BS, seconded by MS – Approved

Tara Dunton (TD) to continue as Treasurer. Nominated by BS, seconded by MS – Approved

7. List Of Ex – Officio Members

All members approved.

- Sarah Challis – AGSL (Assistant Group Scout Leader)
- Craig Challis – Cub Leader
- Steven Osborn – Beaver Leader
- Andy Austin – Explorer Leader (Not Present)

8. Election of members (Co-opted)

BS to co-opt the following on to the committee:

- Mike Jones (MJ) for the scout section
- Harry Cotton (HC) - youth representative

- Joe Simes (JS) quartermaster
- Grace Angove – Beaver Parent Representative
- Holly Maidment – Beaver Parent Representative

No objections therefore all approved.

9. Group Scout Leader's Report

BS delivered the group Scout Leader's report which can be found on our website.

10. Treasurers Report

TD provided a short report on the group accounts. Group remains to be solvent. TD happy to take questions about the accounts.

11. Section Reports – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers

11.1 Beavers

Steven Osborn (SO) read through the Beaver's report – available on our website.

11.2 Cubs

Craig Challis (CC) read through the Cub's report – available on our website.

11.3 Scouts

Mike Jones (MJ) read through the Scout's report – available on our website.

12. Fundraising Report and Santa Run Presentation

12.1 Fundraising report

The Antler Club Report is available on our website.

12.2 Santa Run

CC read out the Santa run report – available on our website.

13. District Commissioner

BS introduced new District Commissioners Lynn and Robin. Robin will be the main District Commissioner for the group.

14. Investitures, Awards and Badge Presentation

Young Leader Buckle – Harry Cotton

Leader Investitures – Harry Cotton and Max Simes

Assistant District Commissioner – Simon Down.



Scouts

**5th New Forest North
(Testwood)**

We are a charity, No. 302291.

Garland Lodge, Blackwater Drive, Calmore, Totton, SO40 2QJ

www.5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

 /5thNFNScouts

 @5thNFNScouts