



**4th Fulwood Scout Group**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

18th July 2016—18:00

Waddecar Scout Camp



## ***A message from the Executive Chairperson.***

It is with great pleasure that I am able to welcome you all to the AGM of the 4th Fulwood Scout Group. It is becoming a habit meeting here every year!!!

What a lot has happened since we was last here.

I would like to say what a group of fine people we have in 4th Fulwood, you are all very dedicated and it is truly appreciated.

I would like to say a big Thank You to our superb group of Leaders. Their dedication and effort, week in week out, is what makes 4th Fulwood the Group it is. For many of us we only see what happens on meeting nights. For our leaders this is a small part of the total time they give up. Several Leaders have District roles in addition to the work they do for us. Thank you Leaders.

Finally, we are always looking for more volunteers to join the Executive committee. If you do have any spare time that you could give up for the cause of Scouting please join us and help provide more support for our Leaders and our Young People.

We are always welcoming new ideas so please come forward.

Yours in Scouting

**Lindi Wallace**

*Executive Chairperson*

## ***Agenda***

1. Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes from the last AGM
3. Treasurers Report and agree accounts for 2015—2016
4. Annual Section Reports (1<sup>st</sup> July 2015– 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016)
  - Group Scout Leader
  - Beaver Scouts
  - Cub Scouts
  - Scouts
5. Presentations
6. Any Other Business

## **4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood Scout Group**

### **Minutes from Annual General Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

#### **Waddecar Scout Camp**

Lesley Thomas asked Ian Gaskill to Chair the Executive, IG accepted.

an Gaskill thanked Lesley Thomas for her effort throughout the year and today. Also thank to all the leaders

The Treasures report has been made available for all. Accounts approval proposed by Elaine Ridout and seconded by Sarah Stuttard. Mike Cushing is happy to continue in the Treasurers role but would like to handover at some point during the year.

Apologies from Mike Cushing, Malcolm Hickox and Gill McGill

Minutes from the 2014 AGM approved – proposed by Lesley Thomas, seconded by Alan Jackson.

#### Appointments

- a ) Secretary – Louise Parker proposed by Karen Smalley, seconded by Elaine Ridout.
- b) Treasurer – Mike Cushing proposed by Fiona Jackson, seconded by Louise Parker.
- c) Auditor – Ted Lowes proposed by Alex Dowling, seconded by Linzi Wallace.

Andrew Hobson – 4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood continually growing. The leadership of the group provides for excellent activities. Karen Smalley was acknowledged for her 5 years in Scouting. Andrew applauded the length of service of all the leaders. Also appeal for anyone who wants to help leading any of the groups. Well done to all the leaders.

#### A.O.B

Thanks to all the leaders from Lesley Thomas.

Thanks to the chefs...Dave Horton, Alex Dowling and Steve Williams.

Ian Gaskill reiterated Andrew Hobson's point regarding appealing for help with any section from leaders to the exec or any specialist activities....please make yourself known! Friends of Highgate Park have made themselves available to discuss activities which have already occurred and also future events.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood (Methodist) Scout Group – Financial Report year ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### Income:

Total income received: £15,416.30 (NB This is currently an “un-audited” figure)

Our main income continues to come from Subscriptions (£5,630). A high percentage of parents / guardians choose to pay by Standing Order which is the Group’s preferred method of receiving income in respect of Subscriptions. The subscription for all Scouts is currently £15 per quarter per Scout – this figure includes fees payable from the Group to the Scout Association, and which is calculated on the basis of membership numbers. Despite inflation, we are delighted to advise that this has been unchanged for more 5 years.

One of the main reasons that we have been able to maintain subscriptions at this level is due to the receipt of funds from HMRC as a result of our membership of Gift Aid, and this generated £1,220.38 for the benefit of the Group in 2015/216. A high percentage of parents have agreed to allow us to reclaim tax on the subscriptions they pay, and we are very grateful for their support. But, there is always room for more, and my annual (and regular!) plea is “if you are a UK taxpayer, and have not already given us a Gift Aid agreement, then please consider if this is something that you can now do”. In broad terms, if we achieved 100% of parents’ agreement to Gift Aid, we can generate around an estimated further £400 per annum for the benefit of all Scouts.

Other significant income recorded in our books is that in respect of funds received, from Scouts, for camp fees (£5,743.05). I’d like to record my gratitude for the astute budgeting of Leaders which continually ensures that camps are, generally, operated within budgets and without the need for further support from the Group. In 2015/16, we actually received just £390.48 more than was actually spent on camps.

Overall, our total income was very similar to the previous year (£15,426.40).

### Expenditure

Much of the Income figure is “balanced” in the Expenditure column as moneys are received / spent in specific areas. Camp costs is an excellent example.

The Executive Committee agreed that some replacement of equipment was necessary this year, particularly in the costly areas of tentage. As a result, our overall spending for the year was much higher than usual (£16,393.44), but this figure includes the agreed spend which, under the combined banner of “Equipment”, totalled £2,811.36 versus a mere £347.75 from the previous year. Overall income / expenditure statement shows a negative position of £977.14

### Bank Position

I’m glad to report that we the books show that we hold a very acceptable cash position of just over £5,000. Whilst lower than in previous years, the Group’s bank balance remains in a healthy position.

The Executive Committee are keen to ensure that we retain a healthy position to provide comfort against unforeseen events whilst ensuring that funds received are always for the benefit of Scouts.



### **Day to day Cash Management**

Leaders use a common (ie across the Group) method of recording income and expenditure - this are simple spreadsheets that Leaders pass to Treasurer with details of relevant monies received "per Scout" and / or expenses requiring reimbursement.

Section Leaders are responsible for maintaining records of funds received from their Sections – thus, they can track if subscriptions are up-to-date etc. Treasurer maintains records to assist Leaders in this area – for example, our cashbook spreadsheet allows me to:

In the event of a request, advise Leaders who has paid / when funds were received / how much was paid. This is recorded from Section Leader returns on an individual "scout by scout" basis.

Maintain accurate records of income and expenditure and to "split" this detail into agreed categories.

Maintain accurate records of Gift Aid / none- Gift Aid receipts and thus to apply for Gift Aid support at an early stage each financial year

We operate a "Purchasing Card Scheme" which allows Section Leaders to use a Group Credit Card for small purchases. This has strict limits in terms of a) how much Leaders are allowed to spend without pre- authorisation and b) locations that the card can be used. This has proved very successful and has significantly helped remove the need for Leaders to use personal funds and then await reimbursement.

### **Auditing Process**

Records are audited on an annual basis. The figures reported above are currently "un-audited". Our most recent audit has signed off the books for 2012/13 and we are currently awaiting Auditors agreement to pass to him the books for 2013/14.

### **Finally...**

Last year, I advised my intention to hand over the Treasury role to a new Treasurer. In the event, I agreed to continue in this role and am happy to do so for the foreseeable future.

This year, I have to advise that our current Auditor, Ted Lowes, will stand down from that role once the books currently with him are signed off. I'd like to record my personal appreciation to Ted for his help and for the patient way in which he has dealt with my spreadsheets and records!

This does mean that the Group needs a new Auditor and we'd welcome any approach from interested parties. It isn't an onerous role, nor does it necessarily need a financial background – it simply needs someone willing, once a year, to check over the books and make sure there are no glaring errors and that matters have been properly recorded and balanced. Please contact Nick, our new GSL, if you think this is something you might be able to help us with!

Thank you

Mike Cushing



## ***Group Scout Leaders Report***

With 3 strong section leaders and their teams, who work well together, the activities for our young people are exciting and fun for all. I am sure you have heard from them how much fun they are having and we hope that we can continue to keep smiles on the faces of our young Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts. However good our team is, they are always happy to meet new volunteers.

This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beaver Scout section and they have been holding parties and activities as part of the celebrations.

The Cub Scout section has also been celebrating, but it is their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There are district and group events organised throughout the year which they are enjoying.

The Scout section has been as active as ever participating in district and county events as well as our own group camps.

Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) said: "You only get one chance at life and you have to grab it boldly". Hopefully we offer our young people opportunities to step outside their comfort zones every once in a while to take advantage of experiences that they will remember in many years to come. (Ask any adult who was once a Scout and I bet they will have a list of exciting stories they could tell you about their adventures in Scouting).

My Thanks goes to our Church for their support for everything we do in Scouting. We appreciate the safe environment we can use for our weekly meetings.

I would also like to Thank the Exec for all their work this year. Ian Gaskell is standing down as Chairperson and it is important to recognise that he has chaired the Executive Committee from its inception 5 years ago. It is pretty hard to start a team from scratch and he has achieved much in this time.

Thank you Ian for all you have done for the Group. Linds Wallace is going to be our new Exec Chairperson and I would like to thank her very much for taking on this role. As has been mentioned previously, Mike Cushing who has been our treasurer for over 15 years would like to step down so please speak with me if you know anyone who might be able to assist with this.

THANK YOU to all the amazing leaders at 4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood.

WHY do leaders give up their time? Well – seeing young people having fun, succeed when they first failed, master new skills, take the lead with activities and grow not only in size, but in confidence – makes it all worthwhile.





This year each section has made the move to a new national programme which means new badges, new challenges and new ideas. It is aimed at giving the young people the best experience of 21<sup>st</sup> century Scouting and our leaders have risen to the challenge and produced some fantastic activities to marry up with the new programme, proving that Scouting is a 'movement' and can move with the times.

I am very grateful to all the leaders for their dedication and commitment to Scouting at 4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood – Cheers guys

Finally, THANK YOU to our young members. You are GREAT too. You get stuck in, accept the challenges set and work together as a team to reach your goals (whatever they may be). We hope that in years to come you will realise the confidences you gained whilst in the Group.

\*\*Remember: If you want to take part in the Big Adventure – just ask, we can point you in the right direction. Life isn't a rehearsal – just say "I want to do that".

Nick Penrith is now taking over the reins as the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and I know the group will be in safe hands. He has been through the sections himself and was one of our Scout leaders a few years ago. Please give Nick all the support he needs as you have given to me.

**Lesley Thomas**

*Group Scout leader*



## **Beavers Section Review**

Beaver Scouting is all about giving boys and girls opportunities to have fun, face challenges and enjoy everyday adventures – our Beaver Scouts have certainly done that and more over the last twelve months! Monday nights based at the church have seen us exploring our local surroundings and learning a little about navigation and natural habitats in the process, undertaken activities linking with staying healthy and looking after ourselves, learning about global issues and the small things we can do to help make the world we live in a little better for all of us. Part of these activities included a visit by Dogs for Good, (including a puppy in training which went down very well with the Beaver Scouts!), a visit by a Fairtrade representative and having a go at some games / tasks with simulated impairments.

Other Monday evenings have seen us out and about – we visited Preston's College for an evening of science experiments, at Alston Observatory we explored further afield in our solar system and also stayed a little closer to home by climbing at West View, exploring the city centre taking "interesting" photos to complete the new photographer badge! There is no doubt we are an active Colony and we try to provide a variety of activities that will appeal to



all our members, to that end our Beaver Scouts complete lots of badges – for that I apologise to whoever does the sewing in each household, but, I think you'll agree it's all worth it! There's an opportunity there, as a personal challenge for Beaver Scouts, for you to teach your Beaver Scout to sew so they can then do them themselves – good luck!

Last year I wrote about how we'd had some of our best sleepovers – I think in the past year we have more than matched those events. We've had Group Camp at Waddecarr and a Peter Pan themed weekend camp at Bowley, East Lancs. Those that attended each event had a fantastic time trying new things, having fun with their friends on exciting adventures and meeting the challenges head on. I appreciate that for many parents there is also the challenge of your Beaver Scout being away for the first time on a Scouting residential experience and I hope we go some way to allaying any doubts or fears when we return your Beaver Scout with a beaming smile for what they have achieved over the course of the event.

As well as what we do as a Colony we also take full advantage of what both the District and County have to offer by way of fun activity days and events. Most notably recently have been the Living Library and Nature Detective fun days at Waddecarr, the celebration of 30 years of Beaver Scouts, the district camping skills activity day and the splash day where we all had great fun sailing, having a go in kayaks, and playing games in bell boats.

All these activities, over the course of 18 – 24 months contribute to the Chief Scout Bronze Award, the greatest achievement for a Beaver Scout. Not all Beaver Scouts achieve the award so I am really pleased that the majority of our Beaver Scouts do achieve it, even those who are not with us for the full two years and put additional effort in during their own time. Very well done to them all, it's very well deserved for all the hard work they put in.



Lots of our explorations and activities just would not happen without the fabulous support we have from the parents of our young people. So, I thank each and every one of you for your contribution, large or small, from simply bringing your Beaver Scout to activities, through sharing your interests and hobbies, teaching us to "make a photo not take a photo"(!) and sparing your time to accompany us on trips to Highgate Woods or further afield, it is very much appreciated.

Members of the leadership team don't go unnoticed for their efforts either – Beth, our Young Leader has completed all her Young Leader training modules and missions to achieve the prestigious Young Leader belt and award. All this whilst still at school herself, studying for GCSEs and A Levels. She has been an invaluable member of the team and we wish her well as she is soon set to head off to university. Many of you know that, as well as being an active Colony within an active Group, a large proportion of our leaders hold other Scouting roles outside of the Group. One of these is Keeo (aka Allen Jackson) who has been awarded the well-deserved Award for Merit in recognition of his services the district over and above the routine week in week out of our Colony meetings. We are all proud of his achievement and glad to have him as part of our leadership team!

It would be remiss of me not to thank the wonderful team of people who run the Colony with me. Without their assistance, support and enthusiasm we would not be able to provide the breadth of programme activities for the Beaver Scouts to enjoy. It is a true pleasure to work with you all. As leaders we enjoy watching the development of the Beaver Scouts during their time with us and seeing their amazement as they make new discoveries about themselves and the world around them.

So, who knows what the next year holds for us? One thing I am sure of, it is bound to be full of more fun, challenges and adventures for the Beaver Scouts and adults alike. If you fancy experiencing some of it first hand, you'll be very welcome, just let me know!!

Fiona Jackson (aka Badger)  
Beaver Scout Leader



## ***Cubs Section Review***

Wow what a way to start the Cubs 100th Birthday Centenary Year....

In January the cubs went skiing at Rossendale, they went tubing, luge, and tried their legs, bums etc. on the ski slope during a lesson.

February saw us participate in the Biggest Beach Party ever at Blackpool Pleasure Beach where thousands of cubs from all over the country gathered for a day of FUN, THRILLS and RIDES...as well as beating a World Record too.

Along the way we have attended the annual Chess and Pack of the Year Competitions.

Some of the Children enjoyed doing the Naturalist Badge day at Waddecar, where they discovered mini beast lurking under every stone. In the long grasses, learnt to recognise native trees and Birds, and all in all enjoyed getting back to nature.

We've been planting seedlings in Highgate Woods, finding out about bats with the BATLADY.

Had a visit from Dogs for Good

County Cub Camp at Waddecar, was held in June – with over 1200 children and adults from all over the North West attending.. Carrying on our 100 Cubs Theme, children visited bases from different time periods over the last 100yrs .The weather was very kind to us, although it was a very busy, tiring weekend; everyone thoroughly enjoyed it!

The list is endless....Trampolining, swimming, Yoga, code breaking, Spanish bingo, Making delicious smoothies on the smoothie bike..

It's been a busy year already and we are only just over half way through..

Karen Smalley

AKELA



## ***Scouts Section Review***

The Troop has enjoyed many great adventures over the last 12 months as part of our regular Tuesday night meetings and all the extra activities we have taken part in.

We have been running our regular Troop meetings on a Tuesday night and as usual have been out and about more than being in the church. The Scouts are now getting used to jumping straight into a couple of minibuses and heading out for the Troop night. Activities we have taken part in include ghyll scrambling, climbing, raft building, canoeing, ice skating, laser quest, fire building, archery; the list just goes on and I could fill this page up with everything. All this just on a Tuesday evening, it's pretty impressive.

Over the last year the national scout core programme has changed to what now is the current programme. The main difference being the shift to 50% of all activities in scouting should now be aimed at outdoors and adventure. I think we easily cover this one! You may have also seen new types of badges being sent home as a new awards scheme has come in. We have therefore worked relentlessly behind the scenes to try and ensure all Scouts do not miss out on badges they deserve and especially on their Chief Scout Gold Award, which has had a major overhaul. In fact over the last year we have awarded 178 badges, not bad!! Well done to all the Scouts.

As ever we have prioritised camps ensuring that all the Scouts get as many opportunities to go away camping as possible. In the last 12 months we have offered 10 camping opportunities to the Scouts, almost one a month! The best camp, although it seems a long time ago, was where we joined over 150 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders last summer on a 12 day trip to Guemsey. What an experience this was for all involved where we got to take part in so many new activities and make so many new friends, it was amazing. If you've never been coasteering, paddle boarding and scuba diving then you weren't on Guemsey with us!





The Troop membership is going strong; we currently have 37 Scouts who regularly attend our meetings, events and camps. This means we are maxed out and with new membership requests coming in every week we are having to direct new potential members to other Scout Troops in the area. However these high numbers gives us an issue where we really are desperate for another Assistant Scout Leader and a female leader would be a bonus due to the increasing number of girls in the Troop. Any interested parties would be

welcomed, please just get in touch if you think this is maybe something for you.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the supporters of the Troop, including parents and a special thank you to CJ, Dave, Alex and Callum for all their massive efforts in making this Troop so successful.

Finally this is the last AGM report I am going to write as I have decided to stand down as Scout Leader of 4<sup>th</sup> Fulwood at the end of July this year. Last October I took on the role of Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts) and it's now time I put all of my efforts into this new role. CJ has stepped up and is going to take over from me as Scout Leader and I will step down to an assistant ready to help when required. I wish CJ all the best in his new role and leading the Troop to even further success.

Yours in Scouting  
Steve

