

6th Beeston Scout Group



Annual Report 2020-2021

Presented at the Annual General Meeting, 31/08/21

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Please note that the 6th Beeston Scout Group Accounts 2020-21 are in a separate document.

The Team

Group Scout Leader: gsl@6thbeeston.co.uk	Colyn Kemp (Tigger)
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Taryn Donnelly (Taz)
Beaver Scout Leader: beavers@6thbeeston.co.uk	Carmel Gummett-Kemp (Paddington)
Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders:	Rachel Jerath (Polar Bear) Helen French (Honey Bear) Adele Stewart (Foxy) Sarah Danaford-Knight (Cookie Bear) Jennifer Nelson (Panda Bear) Rufus Adams-Mitchell (Yogi Bear) Robert Marlow (Bob Bear) Ioan Espley (Swti Bear)
Beaver Young Leaders:	Lily Oates-Harrison (Cucum Bear)
Cub Scout Leader: cubs@6thbeeston.co.uk	Richard Needham (Rama)
Assistant Cub Scout Leaders:	Nuttavee Needham (Kim) Drew Allen (Kaa) Rachel Richardson Susan Beer (Raksha) Christopher Kingsnorth (Rikki Tikki Tavi) Christiane Kopf (Hathi)
Pack Assistants:	Terry Morroll (Bagheera) Martin Walton
Young Leaders:	Issie McElhone (Chil) Alex Wickens (Grey Wolf) Harry Walton
Scout Leader: scouts@6thbeeston.co.uk	VACANT
Assistant Scout Leaders:	Trevor Pierce Lucy Kemp Helen Donnelly Paul Gibson
Troop Assistants:	Cliff Bone Cyrus Gandhi Jamie Drummond
Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders:	Amy Whitney

Group Chairman: chair@6thbeeston.co.uk	Alexander Tarr
Group Secretary:	Richard Hill
Group Treasurer:	Katharina Meyer-Ohle
Maintenance Officer:	VACANT
Webmaster:	Alexander Tarr
Parent Engagement Secretary:	Stella Tarr
Quarter Master:	Ian Oldershaw
Fundraising Secretary :	VACANT
Executive Committee members:	Jo Simmonds Dean Skrabania
Holding Trustees:	The Scout Association Trust Corporation
Holding Trustees:	Jill Barnes Colyn Kemp Stewart Robinson
Group President:	
Group Life Members:	

Group Scout Leader's Report

We started this year having just gone into a national pandemic lockdown, with no real understanding of what this would mean for us, or how long it would last. As it turned out the whole Scouting year has been dominated by the Covid restrictions, and we have had very few opportunities to meet face -to-face "in real life". Despite this, I have been in awe of our volunteer leadership team of amazing leaders who have done a fabulous job in delivering the programme. I'm also very pleased that the Executive Committee have continued to manage the "business" side of the group admirably and have made some significant improvements to the HQ during the year.

Without much training or experience of delivering our programme on-line, our leaders have ensured that all sections have been able to take part in activities over Zoom. Online games, challenges and cookery featured among many other innovative sessions. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in delivering this, and to all the families and young people who have stuck with us throughout.

Whilst it has been a godsend to be able to communicate over Zoom when we couldn't get together in person, many of us - leaders and young people alike - are now thoroughly "zoomed out" and really looking forward to "getting back together safely".

A lot of work has gone into preparing to restart face-to-face Scouting, and I will be forever grateful to Taz who took an active lead on this. As we all hope that the Government's roadmap to lifting the lockdown goes smoothly over the next few months, the leaders are starting to plan for meetings in the park!

We have seen a number of changes in the leadership team during the pandemic. A couple of new volunteers have joined the team - thank you! - but we have also unfortunately seen several more leaders decide to step down. Coupled with social distancing restrictions, that leaves us currently with too few leaders to deliver the same number of sessions when we get back together as we did before the pandemic, so we will be asking for help from parents and appealing for more people to join the team. I'm sure that if we all pull together, we'll soon be back to full strength.

Finally, a big "thank you" to all our members, young and old, for being so flexible and committed during a very strange year. Let's hope that in 2021-22 we can figure out what the 'new normal' looks like, and work together to rebuild the Group.

Colyn Kemp – Group Scout Leader

Taz Donnelly – Assistant Group Scout Leader

Chairman's Report

This year has been a year like no other for 6th Beeston. The emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the UK in March 2020 arose at a time when the group was thriving, after continued success and exciting growth of the Group over the past three years. Like all other scout groups, COVID-19 put a stop to all face-to-face scouting activities for our sections. I have been very proud to see how the group leaders have responded to this change in circumstances, the innovative approaches they have used to keep out young people engaged in scouting and their commitment to the Group. As many of our members were confined to their homes for a large part of 2020, the provision of scouting in online formats has been a lifeline for young people and parents alike. This year, more than ever, I would like to thank Colyn, Taz, and their teams for all their efforts ensuring that the Group continued to operate successfully. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all parents and young people in the 6th Beeston community congratulating all those involved in running the sections on successfully adapting to the unprecedented circumstances.

While we have not been able to run the normal programme of scouting events this year, the continuation of a new form of scouting has been supported by the families of all our young people. I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the group this year, supporting the online activities. It was great to see that despite the restrictions on delivering scouting in person, families remained committed to the group and continued to take part in online sessions. The maintained subscription fees have ensured the future success of the group.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and temporary cessation of face-to-face scouting activities, we have continued our successful relationship with the 345 Preschool Nursery. I am proud that we have been able to support 345 during challenging times, providing some relief for rental fees during periods of lockdown and working together to fulfil the health and safety requirements of operating the building. The sustained excellent relationship between 6th Beeston and 345 provides direct benefits for everyone associated with the Group and delivers on our commitment to providing a community space in the Group HQ.

As always, I am extremely grateful to the members of the Executive Committee, who devote a significant amount of time to supporting the Group and its activities. This year I would especially like to thank all the members of the Executive who have contributed to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing invaluable support and decision making to ensure we were resilient to the changing conditions. Adapting to Zoom meetings is a challenge, and I look forward to a time when we can return to face-to-face meetings. I'm also looking forward to inviting all members of the 6th Beeston family to HQ for an event when Covid-19 social distancing rules allow.

Finally, I would like to again thank David Meatcher for his continuing support of the Group. David has audited our annual accounts for many years and his contribution is highly valued.

Alexander Tarr
Group Chair

Treasurer's Report (Financial year 2020/21)

Income

Subscriptions: Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on Scouting Activities parents and carers were advised that subscription payments were now voluntary. A total of £12,840 in subscriptions was collected this financial year. This income to the Group was offset by the payment of our membership fees of £7,062 to the South West Notts District Scout Association.

Fundraising: The Group raised £179 for Group Funds during the year - £18 from Easyfundraising and £162 from glass and paper recycling at the West End recycling centre which we look after on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council. Please support the group by using Easyfundraising and the recycling centre.

Donations: The Group reclaimed £2,747 in Gift Aid relating to 2019/2020 so please make sure you complete the Gift Aid declaration on the standing order form. We received a donation of £270 as a thank you for the use of Scout HQ for meetings from South West Nottinghamshire District Scout Council.

Legacy: Richard Moorhouse, the Group's former President sadly passed away in January 2019. He left a legacy of £22,169.74 to the Group which will be held in trust by solicitors RotheraSharp and invested for the Group for 20 years. 5% will be paid yearly. He stipulated that the funds should be used for the maintenance of Scout HQ, so are shown as restricted funds in the accounts.

COVID Grants: The group received a total of 21,784.69 of Local Authority COVID related grants based on Scout HQ being registered for business rates.

Rental Income: We have continued to hire out Scout Headquarters to help with the running costs and received £15,229 in rental income for the year. Our hirers included 6th Beeston Brownies, 3rd Beeston Rainbows, Pre-school 345 and the Tram and Light Railway Society.

Expenditure

Premises: The cost of ownership of land and buildings continues to be the major source of expenditure for the Group. The total premises cost came to £12,658 for the year which included: £1,284 for insurance, £4,542 for electricity, £1,405 for the water supply, £480 for waste removal, £1,523 on cleaning, £1,750 on general repairs, £1,100 on the installation of LED lights and £574 for Performing Rights licences. The payment for electricity included £1,100 of arrears from the previous financial year.

Activities: Due to COVID-19 restrictions scouting activities were restricted to online meetings. Activity expenses came to £13.

Equipment: Equipment purchases for headquarters came to £631. This included new shelving for the garage and a changing table for HQ.

Neckers/Badges etc.: £426 was spent on neckers, woggles, badges and handbooks.

Admin Expenses: Admin expenses came to £998 covering telephone provision, broadband, stationery and web hosting.

Net receipts for the year

The accounts for the Group show an operating surplus for the year of £ 28,484.57. £21,784.69 of this surplus is related to the COVID related grants.

Assets

The Group's Assets stated in the accounts at the end of the financial year 2020/2021 are £97,406.77. This includes funds for medium term and long term building maintenance, cover in case of loss of a major hirer, camping equipment maintenance and replacement and subsidies for scouting activities. Planned work includes £1,000 to replace the remaining lights at HQ with more energy efficient LED lights and £1,680.00 on roof repairs that could not be carried out during the last year.

COVID-19 Crisis Statement

The Group's main risks during the COVID-19 crisis are the loss of subscriptions if Scouting had to be paused for a significant time and the loss of our major hirer (Pre-school 345). The Committee has been working with Preschool-345 to ensure that both groups survive this crisis. In addition most parents have felt able to continue paying subscriptions for which we are very grateful. We do appreciate that circumstances are different for every family.

The Group were able to claim £21,784.69 of small business grants which has allowed us to be able to mitigate the impact of the lower level of subscriptions and the reduced amount of rent received from our major hirer. The Group is increasing the frequency of professional cleaning of Scout HQ for the foreseeable future at an estimated cost of £5,700 per year.

The Group's reserves are sufficient to allow us to operate for at least the next 2 years.

Katharina Meyer-Ohle, Group Treasurer
Group Treasurer

Beaver Section Report

This year has presented many challenges to everyone. COVID-19 restrictions meant we could not meet up. This was a shock to us all, but all of 6th Beeston's Brilliant Beavers were invited to come together through Zoom meetings. In acknowledging that it was very hard for some Beavers and Leaders to engage in this method, we should also thank those Leaders, Beavers and their Fabulous Families who joined in and made it happen. Special thanks to CucumBear, Becca from Scouts, Chil from Cubs and of course, Taz for stepping in whenever possible.

While this was an unusual and different method of Scouting, looking back, we can see that we did cover quite a lot during this time. Our Zoom sessions covered such skills as FirstAid, Code breaking, Map making and reading, Lego building, Food preparation, including the delightfully named armpit fudge and bum sandwiches (if you would like the recipes please see Honey or Polar Bears). We thought about our promises by making promise hands. We learned how to sew on a button. We practised listening very carefully so that we could draw what was described. We combined practising making phone calls by playing Chinese Whispers, with the usual hilarious results! We learned how to make and flew different styles of paper aeroplanes. We played many games and we even paid a virtual visit to an alpaca farm thanks to CucumBear.

Away from Zoom, the Beavers and their families were invited to walk one mile as part of a National Challenge to Walk to the Moon (and back). They took part in the Camp at Home Challenge and helped the Scouts to break a World Record - one of our Beavers even managed to gain 30 nights away badges!! (Last we heard he was still sleeping in his tent!). The Beavers have been invited to take part in various challenges as a way of achieving the Great Indoors Challenge Badges including den building, knotting, pioneering, hiking, counting birds, making bird feeders, counting butterflies, they have even taken part in an amazing online Christmas extravaganza!

In addition to all of this we were also able to award 10 Bronze Awards which is a fantastic achievement! We have waved quite a few of our Beavers off to their new adventures in Cubs and have sadly said farewell to Cookie and Care Bear who have moved on to new adventures and CucumBear who started University. We wish them all the best and look forward to a new exciting year ahead.

Paddington, Polar, Honey, Swti, Fozzy, Foxy Bears

On behalf of the Brilliant Beaver Leader Team beavers@6thbeeston.co.uk



The word "BEAVERS" is written in a large, bold, blue, stylized font with a white outline. The letters are slightly irregular and have a jagged, hand-drawn appearance.

Cub Section Report

Well we can certainly say that this has been a year for the Cubs like no other before it!

In March '20, when this report should have been telling of bird watching trips and games in the park, we were plunged into the first national COVID-19 lockdown. Cubs as we know it was cancelled overnight but Issie gamely took up the challenge of creating regular newsletters, 3C (Cool Cubs Compilation!) to keep everyone involved and hopefully having a go at some badge work at home. Some people also took part in some remarkable national events, including 'Hike to the Moon' which saw Scouts and their families walk over 240,000 miles and raise over £300,000 towards the COVID-19 charities. There was also the Guinness World Record attempt for the world's biggest virtual camp, seeing 84,000 campers from 67 countries smash the record.

June saw us take the leap onto Zoom, never thinking we'd be there for over 9 months!! We started small, with quizzes, scavenger hunts and a good dose of the 'Guess Who' game. In July we did our first bake, 'Cake in a Mug' and ate them around a virtual campfire with stories to celebrate the summer camp we should have been doing.

Hopes were high for a return to Face to Face scouting in the autumn and we started our planning with lots of hard work behind the scenes by Taz on risk assessments. In the meantime, the Cubs worked on their Chef badge online, cooking pasta sauce and chocolate lollipops, and learning about food safety, hygiene and a balanced diet. They also did some fun home science experiments towards their Scientist badges. At the end of September it was wonderful to see the Cubs properly again, and in carefully planned groups we had a lovely dark walk around King George's Park and Hemlock camp and spotted some bats along the way. They also had a fun session playing games in the (dusky!) park and lighting fires in the HQ garden. Sadly October brought a return to Red alert and more Zoom, but we all took on the challenge once again. The Cubs discovered that online Escape rooms make very fun sessions and a great opportunity for team work and team leading. 'Escape from Hogwarts' was a particular favourite. We were also incredibly lucky that our very own Rikki designed a fabulous Trapdoor game which we enjoyed digitally. The term ended with a fun virtual Christmas party (complete with dodgy jumpers).

Back on Zoom for the start of the new year and entering Tier 4 put paid to our hopes of going face to face. We defaulted to more escape rooms and a 'visit' to San Diego zoo, plus working towards Navigator and Communicator badges. Secret codes written in lemon juice were particularly popular. One of the greatest successes of our digital year was our first Virtual Camp. It was held on the first weekend in February and was attended by over 50 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. The children took part in various activities during the day, including making pastry neckers, and were encouraged to go for a hike with their family. In the evening we held a virtual campfire with a beautiful reading of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' with blankets and hot chocolate before children slept in their own dens or tents. Feedback from families was brilliant and we all felt very proud of our achievement.

The second half of the term saw more science experiments, a celebration of St Patrick's Day complete with soda bread baking, and some pack forums to decide what the Cubs wanted to do going forward. Baking came out a strong favourite, so we finished the term with an Easter party, dressing up as the superheroes we all felt they had been, and cooking chocolate crispy cakes. Each cub received a certificate for their valiant participation over the year along with lots of badges they'd earned and a little chocolate treat.

6th Beeston Scout Group



We have had a great number of new recruits join us since we've been on Zoom and I'm pleased to report that we've continued with investitures online, with the legendary Wolf appearing on screen. We will renew all these promises when we get back together.

The Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award cubs can achieve, requires all 7 challenge awards are past. Congratulations to Samuel, Remi, Millie, Matthew and Jacob for achieving this even in lockdown.

At the time of writing things look hopeful for a full return to F2F, with all the appropriate checks in place, for the Summer term. All the leaders have done a magnificent job this year; Rich (Rama), Nuttavee (Kim), Issie (Chil), Chris (Rikki), Hannah (Baloo), Jo (Hathi), Rob (Bagheera). Sadly we lost 2 of our amazing young leaders Alex (Grey Wolf) and Ted to university and we thank them hugely for their contributions. We also gained a great new assistant leader, Emma (Ikki).

Rich Needham (Rama)

Cub Scout Leader



Scout Section Report

Needless to say it has been a strange scouting year. However, the troop reverted to virtual meetings with imagination and a sense of fun. This was to no small part thanks to the regular 15 or so scouts who chipped in with their own ideas for Kahoot quizzes and ideas for activities.

We continued working towards the Creative Challenge award, and within this, we incorporated the Chef's Activity Badge where the scouts were able to show off their baking skills.



The Creative Challenge Award was rounded off with a project to complete a "Trade Union" style banner to commemorate how the 6th Beeston Scouts coped with the pandemic. This included contributions from 15 scouts with artistic flare and sewing skills to create this art work that we can keep, and hopefully look back in wonderment at this difficult time! Thanks to Dorothee Bechtloff for pulling all the contributions together.



We also managed to complete the Global Issues Badge, before moving on to our current Outdoor Challenge Award. This indeed is a challenge when done virtually, but we covered the Countryside Code and a couple of navigation and route planning exercises. Hopefully we can finish this off when back face to face.

Prior to Christmas, the troop was glad to welcome some new leaders, (all from the University of Nottingham). Matthew, Samir, and Luke have contributed massively, brought energy and enthusiasm, and actually got us back face-to-face with wide games and pioneering activities.

We look forward to a more traditional scouting format from the middle of September, but thanks to all the scouts who got involved in all those zoom meetings keeping our momentum going.

Trev Pierce,
Scout Leader

SCOUTS

Magellan Explorer Scout Section Report

The year: As with all sections, the past 18 months been a very challenging time for leaders and Explorers alike. Nonetheless the Unit has grown in numbers and continues to provide a programme of activities to challenge and engage the Explorers. The enthusiasm and resilience the Explorers have shown throughout this whole period is to be congratulated and we hope to build on this enthusiasm as we look to grow and develop the unit in the future.

When we had the freedom to meet in person, we undertook a wide variety of activities including chip shop surveys, crazy golf, pioneering, volleyball, wide games and backwoods cooking all topped of with a trip caving and hiking in the Peak District (see pictures below).

When times were less good the unit still managed to run an interesting weekly programme over zoom with activities including escape rooms, bake-a-longs, taskmaster challenges, quizzes and more

Leaders: Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to Amy and Nick who have moved away following the completion of their University studies. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done for the Unit over their time here and wish them all the best for the future.

We have however gained a new leader in Huma who joined us this year and has already been welcomed into the unit by all the Explorers

The future: This year we are looking forward to getting back to normality, but still enjoying being away from the HQ when the weather is good, and the evenings are light. The unit will be growing substantially as we welcome a good number of scouts, and hopefully we can add a leader or two as well! The District Duke of Edinburgh provision will be starting up again in October and we will be encouraging all our Explorers to begin their journey to the top awards in Scouting Further ahead, we already have some more adventurous caving already booked in for next year and we are looking to run a summer camp



David Preece,
Explorer Scout Leader

EXPLORERS

Annual General Meeting, 31st August 2021

18:00

Agenda

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes of Last Meeting
3. Any Matters Arising
4. Presentation of Reports
5. Appointment of Group Chair
6. Election of Officers 2021-2022
 - a. Group Secretary
 - b. Group Treasurer
 - c. Social Secretary
 - d. Group Webmaster
 - e. Ordinary Executive Members
7. Presentations
8. District Commissioner's Address
9. Close of meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 11 November 2020 18:30

Attendees Alex Tarr (Group Chair), Richard Hill (Group Secretary), Katharina Meyer-Ohle (Treasurer), Jo Simmonds, Ian Oldershaw (QM), Stella Tarr, Richard Needham (CSL), Colyn Kemp (GSL), Carmel Gummett-Kemp (BSL), Lucy Kemp, Issie MeElhone, Taryn Donnelly (AGSL).

Apologies Dean Skrabania, Amy Whitney, Simon Clarke.

1 Previous Minutes Minutes of 2019 AGM approved (1st July 2019).

2 Reports

The AGM report and the annual accounts for the year 2019/20 (year up to 31st March 2020) were accepted.

Both reports are available on the 6th Beeston Website:

<http://www.6thbeeston.co.uk/group/reports-and-accounts/>

It was noted that the Group had a surplus over the year of @£19k.

Future maintenance costs will be supported by the Richard Moorhouse legacy.

The group thanked Katharina for her diligence as Group Treasurer.

3 2020-21 Executive Committee

2020 Committee was confirmed as follows:

Group Chair - Alex Tarr

Group Treasurer - Katherina Meyer-Ohle

Group Secretary - Richard Hill

Quartermaster - Ian Oldershaw

Social Secretary - Stella Tarr

Webmaster - Issie Elhone

Fundraising - Vacant

Maintenance Officer - Vacant

Exec Committee Members

Jo Simmonds

Helen Donneley

Dean Skrabania

(All Leaders - Ex officio)

Any willing parents to be co opted as required.

4 AOB

The group thanked all of the leaders for their support in the current circumstances, particularly Colin and Taz for restarting Scouting post lock down.

5.0 Next Meeting

- 2020 Exec mtg schedule TBC (subject to Covid restrictions).
- Next AGM will be undertaken in Summer 2021.