



Macclesfield Parish  
Scout and Guide Group



# Annual Report 2015 to 2016

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- Rainbows report
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- Cubs report
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- Explorers report

[enquiries@mpcsg.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mpcsg.co.uk)

# **Macclesfield Parish Church Scout and Guide Group**

## **AGM**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Approval of GSL appointments
  - Chairperson
  - Auditor
3. Approval of 2015 minutes
  - Matters Arising
4. Acceptance of Executive Reports
  - Chairperson
  - Treasurer
  - GSL & Leaders
  - Fundraising & Hut Improvements
5. Election of officers
  - Treasurer
  - Vice Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Chairperson of Fundraising Committee
  - Gift Aid Secretary
  - Hut manager
  - Quartermaster
  - Parent reps – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Seniors
  - General Members
6. Any Other Business
7. Closing remarks

From loved, cold, aging  
To building site and challenges  
Now Refreshed, warm,  
Still loved...



Hut Transformation: 2015/16

# What a task

## Where do you start?

- With little funds, take a cold, leaking, aging building with little storage and a barely functional kitchen and "just make it better"
- Give back a space that Inspires the leader to lead and the children to engage

## We made it together...

- Building a vision  
Challenging schedule  
Realistic budget  
Commitment from all
- Funds - CEC grant; £7,500, personal donations, fundraising, strong GEC leadership
- Community support: Macclesfield businesses, national and international corporations, fundraising,
- Volunteers: adult and children, trade and

## We made it together...

- Operational in 3 weeks
- Significant structural repairs
- Crisp, new and inspiring
- Changing the programme.....
- Immediate benefits - warmth and lower energy bills
- Within budget
- A real team effort

# In Numbers

## £19,000 Project

### £8,000 in grants + Fund raising

- Cheshire East Council
- Rotary Club
- Bag Pack
- Personal donations

£2,300 unexpected repairs

### £4,300 refurb delayed

- Small toilet refit £1,800
- Bulk external storage £2,500

£1,200 still scheduled

- Kitchen roller-shutter
- Gas cage

£3,000 in free materials & discounts

c. 600hrs voluntary labour (and counting)

Value (if tradesman) £7,000

# In pictures.....





Group Scout Leader Report 2016

It's great to have been asked to take on the role of Group Scout Leader at Macc Parish last July... it doesn't seem a year ago since I took on the role.

Firstly, I'd like to thank Diana Stafford for all the hard work she put into the GSL role, and for all the work she continues to do as assistant GSL; she's delivered some great group-wide activities (yes that was me on roller skates at M.A.C.) and continues to keep our group admin on track and keep us all grounded.

So why Macc Parish? In my previous scouting roles, I worked with the scout section at Macc Parish, and could see some really strong foundations in the group, as well as some areas that I thought we could build and improve. In my first year, the following things struck me:

- We have a really strong exec committee. This is essential to making sure the group runs smoothly, has the finance we need and the correct structure in place for supporting our programmes
- Scout sections and Guide sections have good leaders; it's been great visiting each section to see the activities we offer, the smiles on young people's faces when they achieve something, and the amount of energy and enthusiasm in the room on a meeting night
- The group has lost its identity as a combined scout and guide group. They are two different organisations, with slightly different aims and policies; but they also share many similarities and we can do more collectively as a group.
- There are many people on the edges of the group that if we can enthuse and engage more, we can do more.

I'm hoping that I'm bringing some energy and enthusiasm to the group. We have already made some changes to our communication styles, increased our visibility in the community (multiple comments to say how great it is to see uniforms out in force at church parade) and run some group wide challenges across the sections. I'm looking forward to finding out who "grew a tenner" the most over the last 2 terms, and also finding out which of our two logo designs the young people vote for. We also have an awesome building to meet in now (Thank you James and everyone who helped).

Inside this booklet you will see a copy of our "2020 vision". Our leaders collectively worked on what they thought an awesome Scout and Guide group should look like, and put this into a "vision" of what we want to be like by year 2020. Please do take a read through and let us know where you can help make the vision a reality. To quote the lego movie; "Everything is awesome when you are part of a team".

I'd like to round off this report by saying a huge thank you to all of our leaders who give so much of their free time to deliver great programmes. Everyone in our group is an unpaid volunteer, and every "Thank you" goes a long way to being appreciated. It's a great team, and I'm honoured to be able to guide them over the next few years so together we can be truly "Awesome"

Regards,

Mike Brown  
Group Scout Leader

## Chairman's report 2016



Hello!

So this is the end of my first year as Chairman of the Macclesfield Parish Church Scout & Guide Group. So I thought I would put down some of the reflections from the past 12 months.

What a journey we have been on over the last year, our new GSL Mike Brown bedding himself into the group and really pulling the whole leadership team together. He has been instrumental in the creation of our vision of the future, creation of a group logo (which the young people had 100% of the say) and many other initiatives that are helping to strengthen our group. So thank you Mike.

Diana continues to support Mike as assistant GSL, and spends many hours behind the scenes with admin, organising and general bits and pieces that no-one else can do. Thank you Diana too!

Our Hut refurbishment... some major work has been done to improve the space we use, both structural and cosmetic, making our meeting place both safer and more comfortable. The hard work that has gone into this is clearly visible and resorting a feeling of pride in the place we call our HQ.

I have to also reflect on the many people that make this group (in my mind) the greatest group ever. Julian our treasurer who is keeping our financial position a strong one even after the major work done this year. Jonathan Graves, who most people won't even be aware of but does an amazing job of keeping the meeting minutes and making sure we complete our actions as well as communicating out to the exec, leaders etc. A special mention is needed for one of our parent reps who very kindly volunteered to project manage the hut refurbishment, and what a job he has done, the hut looks amazing and yes that attention to detail has really paid off, so a million thanks to James Radmall. Just so people are aware this is not the level of involvement we expect from all of our parent reps! The parent reps that give us feedback on what is going well and what they think needs improvement, their feedback is vital to ensuring that we are always improving and are doing the right things for our young people.

Then let's move on to the leaders who are the backbone of this group; their dedication to scouting and guiding is humbling. They put in hours and hours of their time to ensure that the young people get the most out of scouting and guiding and get the chance to do activities and learn skills that would otherwise just pass them by. A reflection of the amazing work you all put in can be seen by the number of young leaders that this group produces. This shows that you have not just taught these people, but inspired them, you are shaping the next generation of scouting.

I know I have missed thanking a thousand people as every person that makes the smallest contribution to the group is contributing to its success, turning up at bag packing, buying bedding plants, filling in a gift aid form, making sandwiches on group camp; every little thing helps us take this amazing group to a higher level.

I am proud to be a small part Macclesfield Parish Church Scout and Guide Group and know with the leaders, exec and parents we have in this group the future is going to be exciting. We do need more people to help, there are lots of roles that only require a small amount of your time but have a huge impact, please get involved and help shape the group for future generations.

Thanks

Neil Owens (Chairman)

**2nd Macclesfield (St Michael's) Guide Group and 6th Macclesfield (Parish Church) Scout Group**

**Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016**

**PRESIDENT** Roy Stubbs

**VICE PRESIDENT** Garrod Halliwell

**TRUSTEES - Ex-Officio:** Diana Stafford Former Group Scout Leader  
Neil Owens Chairman  
Mike Brown Group Scout Leader (from July 2016)

**TRUSTEES - Elected:** Jonathan Graves Secretary  
Julian Amey Treasurer  
Phil Mason Fund Raising Officer (resigned)

**BANKERS** Royal Bank of Scotland, 56 Chestergate,  
Macclesfield, SK11 6BA

**SCRUTINEER** Andy Lea

**Group Registration Number with The Scout Association:** 23726

**Charity Registration Number:** 520226

## MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

### Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2016

The objectives of the Group are to provide a varied programme that is attractive and challenging for our young people, based on the principles of the Scouting and Guiding movements -

"Duty to God, duty to others and duty to self".

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Groups.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association.

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. They have reviewed these and established systems to mitigate them.

The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis which is consistent with previous years.

### MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

The Group has continued to support the various sections as they organise events and activities for their members. Total membership remained steady when compared with the close of last year at around 80, although a decline against the higher numbers at the start of 2014-15 of 90. The numbers of paying members at the close were 38 in the Scouting sections (2015: 40) and 42 in the Guiding sections (2015: 39).

Collection of subscriptions has continued to be good due to efforts by the Leaders. Subscriptions collection is consistent with our numbers reported for Census purposes. Significant success has been achieved using payment by BACS transfer through internet banking. This has significantly reduced cash and cheque handling. Thorough collection of subscriptions combined with fund raising has continued to be important in maintaining the financial health of the Group.

There were a number of successful fundraising activities during the year. A Whisky Tasting evening including Burns' Night Supper raised £860 (2014-15: £771). The sale of bedding plants in May generated overall income of £468 (2014-15: £412). Sponsored Swims raised £240 and Bag Packing £647 (2014-15: £0). Although Bag Packing tends to attract support from across the Group, other fund raising activities receive sparse support and are largely reliant on parents of former members of the group. This is unsustainable in the longer term and is also failing to achieve the purpose of gaining member and parent engagement from across the Group. Whilst it is recognised that there are many demands on time, unless fund raising activities are better supported, they will become unviable necessitating an increase in subscriptions of roughly £3 per term.

Two areas where parents could make additional contribution to the Group without needing to expend significant time nor effort are Gift Aid and EasyFundRaising.

The Group completed its registration for Gift Aid (started in 2012-13) in 2015-16. The first claim was submitted to HMRC for the Tax Year 2011-12, the last year that we were eligible to claim. HMRC refunded £582 to the Group. Before making further claims, efforts need to be made to get as many parents to return signed Gift Aid Declaration forms.

In order to facilitate current and future Gift Aid collection, it would be of great help if all subscriptions from taxpayers were given with a Gift Aid designation. The required tracking of Gift Aid claims against Subscriptions payment date would be easier if made by Standing Order or Internet Banking (besides improving timeliness of subscription receipts).

The Group is registered with EasyFund Raising. This enables internet purchases made via EasyFundRaising to contribute a small percentage of the value to the Group. EasyFundRaising operates with many major vendors like Tesco, John Lewis, Virgin etc. So far only 7 members are making purchases via EasyFundRaising. Even with this small number of users, the Group still received £34 from EasyFundRaising in the year (2014-15: £0). We need more members to make use of the EasyFundRaising as a simple means of raising additional funds for the Group.

It would be helpful if Scouting had an induction pack similar to Guiding that includes a Gift Aid registration form that could be completed when new members join. In addition this should include details about registering with EasyFundRaising and a form indicating which events (including both section meetings, trips, fund raising, and Hut tidy) that parents would be willing to support.

Our Hut provides both an important resource for the Group but is also a cause of significant expense in running costs, insurance and rent. Major improvement work was carried out in 2015-16 to provide a high quality, modern facility suitable for the 21st century. The project would not have occurred without the very active project management, skills and time commitment of James Radmall. James was instrumental in both the design

the new facility with enlarged and upgraded kitchen, and insulated main hall, and in obtaining a grant of £7,500 from Cheshire East. We were also fortunate to receive donations of £500 for the refurbishment from the Rotary Club and £75 from Mr. Wright. Even with these donations (£8,075), the Group still needed to contribute £8,375 to meet the overall cost of the Project of £16,450. The refurbishment has not only provided a much improved facility but also the correction of major deficiencies: rotten flooring, corroded girders, and a breached damp course.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold an amount sufficient to enable it to meet its liabilities and 'be able to have some contingency cover. The Group's cash reserves now stand at £12,183 despite the major expenditure on the Hut Project. This is a decline on 2015 (£14,760) but still represents a healthy position and consistent with the improvement path since 2012 (2014: £12,210, 2013: £8,628, 2012: £5,037). This funding will enable the Group to undertake improvement work to the small toilet in 2016-17.

Thanks go to our team of Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Young Leaders, Parent Helpers, Parents of former members and many others. All of these people have given freely of their time, and effort, to ensure that the activities are well planned and well received by the section membership.

*J C Amey*

J C Amey

Date: 16 May 2016

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the**

### **MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st March 2016 which are set out on pages 4 to 7.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name: A Lea

Qualification: Chartered Accountant

Address: 14 Tytherington Park Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2EL

Date: 29 MAR 2016

# MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

## Statement of Financial Activities Summary for the year ended 31st March 2015

2017 Budget £		2015-16 Actual £	2014-15 Actual £	2015-16 Budget £
13,657	Total Incoming Resources (page 5)	23,058	12,149	12,077
<u>13,316</u>	Total Resources Expended (page 6)	<u>25,635</u>	<u>9,600</u>	<u>18,991</u>
341	Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	(2,577)	2,549	(6,914)
<u>12,183</u>	Fund Balances Brought Forward	<u>14,760</u>	<u>12,211</u>	<u>14,760</u>
<u>12,524</u>	Fund Balances Carried Forward	<u>12,183</u>	<u>14,760</u>	<u>7,846</u>

The funds of the Group continue to be unrestricted, no resources are restricted.

**MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2016**

2016-17 Budget £	INCOMING RESOURCES	2015-16 Actual £	2014-15 Actual £	2015-16 Budget £
7,200	Membership Subscriptions	7,115	7,718	7,500
(3,200)	Less: Paid to Headquarters	(3,063)	(3,249)	(3,400)
4,000		4,052	4,469	4,100
-	<b>DONATIONS AND GRANTS</b>	1,597	41	-
-		1,597	41	-
	<b>INCOME FROM ACTIVITIES</b>			
1,900	Camping	2,417	1,327	1,500
900	Trips	913	938	900
200	Activities	(8)	67	200
3,000		3,322	2,331	2,600
	<b>FUND RAISING</b>			
-	Bedding Plants 2015	1,441.80	1,567	1,450
1,400	Bedding Plants 2016	30.40	-	-
-	AGM Meal	-	-	60
50	Section Fund Raising (Quiz / Crafts / Beaver Café)	-	190	100
200	Beaver sponsored swim	315	370	200
1,550	Burns Night and Whisky Tasting	1,573	1,555	1,550
-	Cubs sponsored silence	-	430	-
40	Easy Fund Raising	34	-	-
400	Bag Packing	692	-	400
3,640		4,086	4,111	3,760
	<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
1	Building Society interest	3	-	1
6	Bank Interest	22	7	6
7		25	7	7
	<b>OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
10	Badge and Uniform Sales	-	10	10
1,000	Hire of Hut and Camping Equipment	1,320	1,180	800
2,000	Gift Aid	582	-	-
-	Hut Upgrade Project	8,075	-	800
3,010		9,977	1,190	1,610
<u>13,657</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>23,058</u>	<u>12,149</u>	<u>12,077</u>

**MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2016**

2016-17 Budget £	RESOURCES EXPENDED	2015-16 Actual £	2014-15 Actual £	2015-16 Budget £
	<b>PREMISES</b>			
450	Rent	438	432	440
1,000	Light and Heat	1,042	1,532	1,600
900	Insurance	766	547	900
500	Repairs and Renewals	420	425	600
2,500	Hut Upgrade Project	16,450	-	8,400
5,350		19,115	2,935	11,940
-	<b>DONATIONS/GRANTS</b>	(30)	-	-
-		(30)	-	-
	<b>ACTIVITIES EXPENSES</b>			
1,900	Camping	1,943	1,240	1,500
1,100	Trips	987	1,219	900
1,296	Activities	938	882	1,296
4,296		3,867	3,341	3,696
	<b>FUND RAISING EXPENSES</b>			
-	Bedding Plants 2015	974	1,136	1,200
1,000	Bedding Plants 2016	15	19	-
40	AGM Meal	17	-	40
20	Section Fund Raising (Quiz / Crafts / Beaver C	-	-	20
90	Beaver sponsored swim	75	75	75
800	Burns Night and Whisky Tasting	712	784	800
-	Cubs sponsored silence	-	-	-
-	Bag Packing	45	-	-
1,950		1,839	2,014	2,135
	<b>ADMIN/ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES</b>			
100	Training	15	-	100
60	Resources	19	101	60
60	Administration - Stationery and Postage	24	24	60
220		58	125	220
-	<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	-	24	-
-		-	24	-
500	<b>PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>	(60)	310	-
500		(60)	310	-
1,000	<b>PURCHASE OF UNIFORM &amp; BADGES</b>	846	851	1,000
1,000		846	851	1,000
13,316	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	25,635	9,600	18,991

# MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2016

	2015-16 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	31-Mar-16 £	31-Mar-15 £	31-Mar-14 £
<b>MONETARY ASSETS</b>						
Building Society Accounts	440	438	438	662	659	659
Bank Current Account	000	1,043	1,043	6,005	14,101	11,552
Bank Deposit Account	000	788	788	5,517	-	-
Cash in Hand	000	430	430	-	-	-
	<u>17,940</u>	<u>2,699</u>	<u>2,699</u>	<u>12,183</u>	<u>14,760</u>	<u>12,211</u>
<b>Represented by:-</b>						
General Unrestricted Funds				12,183	14,760	12,211
	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,845</u>	<u>1,845</u>	<u>12,183</u>	<u>14,760</u>	<u>12,211</u>
	000	1,845	1,845			
	000	1,845	1,845			
	1,800	1,845	1,845			
	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,690</u>	<u>3,690</u>			
	1,800	1,845	1,845			
	-	18	18			
	40	-	12			
	30	-	-			
	78	78	78			
	800	1,845	1,845			
	-	-	45			
	<u>2,100</u>	<u>3,814</u>	<u>1,838</u>			
	100	-	15			
	60	107	18			
	80	24	24			
	<u>220</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>57</u>			
	-	24	-			
	<u>220</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>57</u>			
	-	310	500			
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>500</u>			
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>500</u>			
	<u>18,981</u>	<u>8,700</u>	<u>10,925</u>			

## Vision 2020

This document outlines our collective vision of what our group should be in the year 2020. We held several exec and trustee meetings in 2016 where we pulled together ideas of what an awesome Scout and Guide group should be and refined this into this vision statement.

Some of the vision statements we already do very well; and they are included to ensure they remain important to us. Other ideas provide us with new challenges and opportunities for us to grow as a team. Over the next few years we will use this vision to guide us in our planning and when reflecting on the progress we have made.

Please have a read through our vision; is there something that you can help us do?

### We put safety first

We discuss safety at every meeting of adult volunteers

We encourage our young people to think about safety at every meeting

We continue to carry out regular background checks on volunteers in line with Scout and Guide organisation policy.

All our adult volunteers continue to be trained on the safeguarding and safety policies of our organisations and this is refreshed regularly.

We challenge ourselves to deliver adventurous activities, ensuring all our activities are carried out within organisation rules. They are delivered safely, minimising risk as far as is reasonably practical.

### We work together as one team

We are all one family; leaders, parents, and young people.

Parents are engaged and supportive in all sections

Through improved communication, parents and leaders are all aware of group events and activities

Programmes include cross-section activities to build cross-organisation links

Trustees include scout and guide section representation to ensure both organisations share equal importance in the group.

## We are visible in the community

We have a strong identity and are proud of who we are and what we do

We are a visible part of the community and benefit from mutual support from community groups

We partner with local charities to help raise awareness/lend a hand with their aims

We engage with local clubs, societies, charities and community groups to deliver activities that supplement our badge and activities programme.

We are known and respected in the community through positive press and our online presence

## We are welcoming and inviting

The door is always "open" at the start and end of meetings for parents to meet our volunteers

Parents are involved in helping to deliver activities and regularly join in with events

Sections are full to capacity; young people and adult volunteers want to join us, and want to stay with us.

We welcome everyone, regardless of special needs, faiths and beliefs.

We welcome ideas and feedback on what we are doing, and follow up respectfully and openly.

## We value and grow our volunteers

Volunteers are valued by everyone. We are all volunteers in the group and together we are supported and valued by the young people and their parents.

All volunteers are regularly thanked and recognised for their contribution in a meaningful way.

Young leaders are valued and nurtured to ensure they become great leaders in the future.

All young leaders and adult leaders have a mentor and a training plan. The leaders of today support and train the leaders of tomorrow.

Opportunities to gain activity permits are created and followed up – the group is able to offer a wide range of activities, and where we do not have the required permits, we are able to partner with groups or volunteers that do have them.

## We deliver a great programme

We provide challenging, varied and enjoyable programmes in all our sections.

Every young person is aware of the awards for their section and what they need to do to get them.

Progress records are up to date and are used to drive variety and attainment in the programme.

Each term includes several opportunities for outdoor based activities / away from the hut.

Our young people have regular opportunities to input into programme planning.

We run programmes that attract adults and young people so they want to join us.

## We have a strong infrastructure

Our building reflects an active and alive scout and guide group. It's an advert for what we do and who we are.

Our building helps us drive income to support our activities. It is available for community use, including private hire, but use by our sections takes priority.

Finance is well managed, with good reserves available and with little admin needed by section leaders to keep cash flow moving.

Camping and activity equipment is regularly maintained and refreshed where needed.

We have a strong executive team. All core executive and trustee positions are filled.

If you have any comments on this vision document, please do let us know – [gsl@mpcsg.co.uk](mailto:gsl@mpcsg.co.uk)

*"Dreams, though, are cheap, and the real task comes when you start putting in place the steps needed to make those dreams a reality." — Bear Grylls, Mud, Sweat and Tears*

# Rainbows Report 2015 – 2016

We started the Autumn 2015 term with a welcome back meeting for six rainbows, and spent the first half of the term working towards a cupcake challenge which involved designing, baking and eating cupcakes. After half term we had a story night, then a snow night where we all made marshmallow igloos as a challenge which was such a great hit, we had to do it all again the next week at our family Christmas craft night.



We all took part in a winter games evening, made Christmas biscuits and ended the term with a nativity walk to the Christmas tree and crib in the market square, telling the story as we walked and ending with hot chocolate and marshmallows in Costa coffee.

We began the Spring term with a welcome night for 4 new Rainbows and a parent who began her leadership training.

We looked at the Rainbow promise and what it meant to us all. We then had a make your own monster meeting, we celebrated Burn's night, and we re-designed our new notice board.

After half term we celebrated Mother's day by making cards and a floral present for Mum. Then we spent two weeks having Easter fun and games, we made cards, cakes and a basket for our goodies. The term ended with a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny complete with a basket full of eggs for us to share.

This term ( Summer 2016) we have been using activities from the Aim High resource. We have been "Little Misses", Different kinds of animals, we learned all about frogs, we explored body art, and we talked about germs and our bodies.



This half term ended with a joint coffee evening with the Brownies. The Rainbows used their challenge £10 to make cakes and biscuit, then sold drinks and home-made treats to the Rainbow and Brownie parents and friends. Spivey's Webb had a stall and donated 50% of the profits, and the Brownies had a table activity decorating biscuits. We raised £112 on the night.

## 6th Macclesfield Parish Church Beaver Scout

### Report May 2016 by Caroline Smith (Beaver Scout Leader)

We've had another action packed year and are adjusting to the new Challenge badges which have added a number of new activities we have to complete. Our 18 Beavers join in our activities with boundless enthusiasm as shown in the pictures below. It is huge fun being part of this group and many thanks to the leaders Hawk, Osprey, Kestrel, plus Pete and our Young Leader John (temporarily not with us but we hope back very soon), without which this group would not be what it is. There's nothing better than hearing the Beavers say 'we are the Best Colony EVER' and we strive to keep their thoughts like that! Here's tiny taste of what we've been up to;



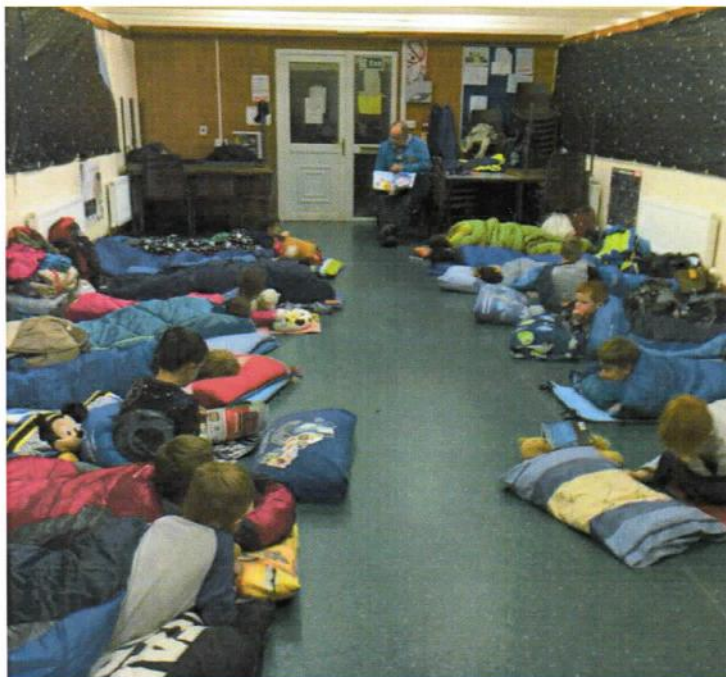
Learning 'on the Water' principles at the hut



A day at Rudyard Lake



Wild West Sleepover with 3 other Colonies at the Abney Centre. We made wagons and danced round the totem pole and crossed a raging canyon. We are already planning a sleepover for October for all the Beavers in our Colony

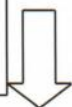


Space Sleepover with 2 other Colonies at Barnswood. Some Scouts from Tytherington taught us some scouting skills of knots, putting up tents and pioneering.

We had a camp fire with loads of songs and a night time glow stick trail



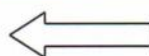
Intense work for the Cook Badge. We also cooked over tealights - proclaimed by the Beavers as the BEST NIGHT EVER!



Making slime with a visiting AstraZeneca Scientist for our Experiment Badge



Hard at work preparing for our Beaver Cafe



Fire Station visit for our Safety Badge





## **Brownie Report**

The Brownies have had a very busy year, filled with different activities and trips, as well as working towards several different badges. Many of the girls have also completed activities outside of the Brownie group, and have been awarded badges for hobbies such as swimming and music.

### **Winter term 2015**

The winter term was busy with lots of outside trips while the hut began its refurbishment. The Brownies visited Tesco to learn about where our food comes from and how it is prepared for us, and all received certificates for taking part. We also went to Pets at Home, where we learnt about lots of different animals and were able to hold some of them - the girls were even brave enough to touch the reptiles! Brownies also took part in the rollerskating evening with the other groups, and had lots of fun testing their balance and improving their skating skills.

### **Spring term 2016**

At the beginning of Spring term the Brownies went to see the pantomime at MADs theatre, this year it was Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, which everyone really enjoyed. The girls also had lots of varied sessions, including baking biscuits, learning more about the Brownie promise, and lots of crafts for mother's day and Easter.

### **Summer term 2016**

The summer term has had a hectic start with organising activities for the £10 challenge! The girls put their fitness to the test by completing a sponsored circuit training evening, which included circuits of press-ups, star jumps and skipping, as well as others! This not only helped us to raise money, but has also helped the girls to earn their Agility badge. Along with the Rainbows, the Brownies held a coffee evening for their parents, where there were cakes and drinks to buy, biscuits to decorate, and lots of exciting gifts donated by Spivey's Web to purchase!

### **Coming up...**

The Brownies are looking forward to finding out which group has raised the most money in the £10 challenge! Almost all of our Brownies are attending group camp for the day this year, and are excited to take part in the South America themed activities!



This year has been 100 years of Cubs.

Cubs have got a pack of fourteen cubs and four leaders plus two young leaders who are a great help with such an exuberant group of boys.

We have tried to incorporate a full range of activities this year; From learning to tie knots, to First Aid, learning about stopping bleeds and how to do C.P.R the Cubs all had a go at trying to revive Annie. We tasted Breads from around the World. And took part in the £10 challenge where we made key holders in the shape of ties and little bird houses which we painted in bright colours.

All leaders and helpers enjoyed the weekend spent at Capesthorpe Hall. All the cubs had a great weekend.

The weather was fantastic which makes a change.

The Cubs had a unique experience celebrating 100 years of Cub Scouting doing different activities from circus skills to bouncy castle races with Cubs from around Cheshire. They even got to wet Ryan when he was put in the stocks.

The next big event will be Group Camp, which this year Ryan will be able to attend as this is his most favourite time in Cubs! The theme being "South America"



Hope your children have enjoyed it as much as we have, please ask them what they have enjoyed and tell us, as it is good to know we are putting the right things together in our programme.



Craig Bennett  
Ryan Bennett  
Edward Parish  
Sam Bancroft



Hi All,

It has been another busy year for the Guides, which has also seen the re-opening of the Senior Section meaning there is a succession plan for our older girls which could not have happened without the time and commitment of our volunteers so thank you all!

We currently have 13 Guides, and have managed to keep around the same number for the last few years which considering our situation only around 3 years ago this is a huge achievement and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Guides for all their enthusiasm that they bring without fail every week to everything we throw at them - you girls are a pleasure to work with.

Our highlights over the last year include the following: A healthy cooking night, focusing on portion sizes and making pasta sauce, incorporating hidden vegetables. We also made fruit snakes, turtles, peacocks and palm trees, though they were eaten far too quickly for me to get any photographic evidence of this! A huge thank you to the team that have worked so hard on the hut, our fantastic new kitchen makes evenings like this far easier to organise and run.

2nd Macclesfield Guides Bake Off - a brilliant night ran by the Senior Section for the Guides which involved 3 teams baking 2 separate dishes - a whole new level of competitiveness was unleashed this evening. I hope that the girls took the opportunity to take what they learned back home and bake you all delicious things!

This year we incorporated technology into the programme by having an evening dedicated to creating imovies based on an emergency call to tie in with the active response badge completed in the first term of 2016. I think the leaders learnt more than the girls on this evening – I am an imovie expert now!

Tying in with the Senior Section Spectacular we have (both Guides and Rangers) incorporated self reliance into many evenings - which has seen us learn skills to help us on our way to becoming independent young women. We spent an evening learning when an emergency call is required, and alternative important numbers the girls should know. We also repaired a puncture, so next time you are out cycling keep this in mind!

We began 2016 with a trip to MADS theatre which is always a highlight of the year, and followed this shortly after with a visit from the Body Shop, teaching the girls about fair trade, whilst of course testing (and winning) many Body Shop products.

All in all another successful year and one we hope to match over the next 12 months and continue to grow the group - and in turn grow the Senior Section.

Thanks

Claire

Leader in Charge, 2nd Macclesfield Guides



## SCOUT REPORT

Hello,

Since Christmas the scouts have attended church parade and been down to games workshop to build and paint war hammer models (examples of which can be seen on the scout table).

They have also been out in the garden regularly at the back looking to see what plants and wildlife we have that they can recognise.

Over the rest of the term we hope to do more activities to attain badges.

We are due to go to a County run scout camp at Tatton with 2nd Bollington as well as the annual Group Camp at Barnswood.

Thanks,  
Scout Leaders

## Senior Section Report – Alison Griffen

The Senior Section started the year with one Ranger and 2 Guides and ended the year with 2 Rangers and 2 Guides, a 25% increase!

Through the year we have had a varied program in the hut ranging from budget planning to running a bake-off for the guides to tie-dying t-shirts. Out of the hut we have been rock climbing at Rope Race, prepared a meal for the homeless shelter, joined the Guides for a penny hike and prepared a town centre photo quiz. We have also raised awareness of the group with our stall at May's Treacle Market.

Before we break for the summer we intend to do more outside with survival skills, camp cooking and a walk to 3 Shires Head all planned. Not to mention group camp!

The girls have been highly involved in planning the programme and delivering a number of the activities, indulging me at times so I can complete elements of my Leaders Qualification. We have begun to make links with other Senior Sections in Cheshire Border. Emily and I have been fundraising with members from Wilmslow for our Girlguiding North West England Adventures in Copenhagen trip in July. And in June we will attend a Splash day at Tatton Park.

In the centenary year of the Senior Section I'm please to say the relaunch of 2nd Macclesfield Rangers has been varied, fun and we have a fantastic group. We have lots more planned for this year, so watch this space!

# EXPLORERS<sup>+</sup>

## Explorers report – Ella Hammer (Explorer)

We went to Alderley Edge to go caving where Angus' screams will echo for eternity.



Of course no programme would be complete without multiple games of Werewolf – almost to the point of boredom.

And who could forget the time we went climbing with Steve and his family of midges?

Our flag stand is a worthy monument to the corner of the Scout Hut.

Recently we had an international game night when we played Empire.

No year passes without the Invisible Man's birthday being celebrated which we did with balloons and water.

The highlight of the year was the Scavenger Hunt, after all any night is made better with free chips. We particularly enjoyed beating the Maasai group at this event.

We also had the chance to make our own pieces of rope with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hurdsfield Scouts.

We enjoyed the bonfire at Barnswood with 80 Scouts and a complicated Wide Game!

At Winter Camp we watched Troll hunter and learnt Laurence doesn't know how to cook a potato thanks to his rebellious stomach.

We went to Laser Quest and shot each other.

We can remember surprisingly little from the Chill Camp and we have forgotten whether we went skiing this year or not.

And finally the glow worms lit up this year's group camp.

## Additional comments – Martin Taylor (Leader):

We must mention the turnout and smartness at Remembrance day this year!



Congratulations to Paddy Waite, James Raval, Sam Smith and Daniel Taylor who received Queen's Scout Awards, and had them presented at Windsor in the last year.