



Annual Report

2017

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Chairpersons Report



This year has been a packed one, with the refurbished hut being fully utilised and not only appreciated by those that have used it, but also well cared for. There is more work to be done, which is currently being planned in.

The group as a whole is taking strides forwards in both member numbers and the programmes that are offered. This is no accident, but down the hard work and dedication of the leaders we have. I can't begin to thank them enough for all the work they do. We should remember that they give up many hours of their valuable time outside the weekly meeting planning and preparing the activities for the members.

I would like to make a special mention to Mike Brown who a GSL provide invaluable support to all sections and individuals and is a key driving force behind making the group the best it can be. So I will put out a plea that if Mike (or any of the leaders) asks for help that we all do what we can. Many hands make light work as the saying goes. As parents, your involvement is invaluable and a vital part of the constant improvements we are all trying to make. Even an hour can make all the difference.

I am very excited about the future of the group and encourage everyone to be part of what is and always has been an exceptional group. I will finish this report with a huge thank you to all the leaders for their continuing dedication, and everyone who has helped in any small or large way. Your help affects many people in a positive way.

Here is to a great 12 months

Neil

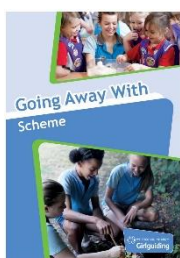
Growing the Group – GSL Report 2017

It's been a fabulously busy year for us in the group; taking a look at this annual report and the photos on our Facebook Page pays real testament to the hard work and dedication of all our leaders in every section. The range of activities we offer at such low cost continues to amaze me and it's truly fantastic that we can offer these opportunities to young people. Particular highlights for me have been the Beaver Sleepover at the Abney Centre; watching the Rainbows nativity play; JOTA camp and Parent/Child camps with Cubs and Scouts; trips to Jump Heaven with the Guides; and a very fun day including Archery, Climbing, Abseiling and Orienteering at Teggs Nose organised by Diana. A big THANK YOU goes out to all the leaders and volunteers that makes all this happen.



Over the year we partnered with the Just Drop-in centre on Duke Street – launching this with a walk up to White Nancy as part of “Children’s Rights week” and then building the relationship with JDi running some activity evening with us around mental wellbeing; both in our hut and also at their centre on Duke Street. Our Scouts also partnered with McDonalds to help tidy up litter on the Silk Road; the Guides spent some time working toward their “Claire House” badge, and the Cubs had a visit from Cats Protection.

We also strengthened our identity with the launch of our group neckerchief badge, and good turnouts at Remembrance Sunday and St Georges Day Parades have given us a visible presence in the community. We still have some work to do to build our identity further in St Michaels and I’m hopeful that we can get better support for church parades in future to support that. Partnering with their ECO group for this year’s AGM event will also help with this partnership.



It's great to see our leaders making great progress with training; with Craig Bennett and Ryan Bennett both completing their “wood badge” training this year and Amanda Bennett receiving a long service award. Alison Griffen also completed her Guide Leader Training. We have more of our Scout Section Leaders close to completing training; more work to do in pushing support of Guiding training; and I’m looking forward to more presentations next year as leaders complete the programme of qualification.

So what's ahead for 2017/18?

We are already talking about taking the group to Cheshire’s “Chamboree” camp in August 2018. For Scouts, Guides and Seniors this will be a full week of activities in an international Jamboree sections to take part in this.

There is a new programme of badges for Girl Guiding that has just launched; we hope this will re-invigorate guiding in the group by bringing a wider range of activities into the guide sections. We had lots of great feedback from our vision 2020 survey; read on to see some of the areas we are focusing on over the next 12 months.

Again, a huge thank you to everyone who works so hard for the group. I’m proud to be a part of it.
Mike Brown, Group Scout Leader



Vision 2020 update – Mike Brown, GSL.



This time last year we launched our “Vision” for how we want the group to be by 2020. To check how we are doing on the journey towards this, we sent out an anonymous survey in May to get feedback. We received 39 replies total – 29 from parents and children; and 10 from leaders and supporters in the group. Here are the highlights of the responses, and ideas of where we need to work harder to get to our vision.

Safety:

- + The majority of respondents felt that we ran safe activities and had good focus on safety.
- We need to involve the children more in identifying risks during activities.

Team spirit:

- + Most respondents said we had a good team spirit but that we need to be much better at communicating with parents about activities in advance.
- There is still an unequal balance between Scouting and Guiding in the group

Community:

- + We have made a good start with building community links; we need to keep that momentum.
- We need to be more visible in the church community

Welcoming and inviting:

- + Everyone agreed that we are welcoming and inclusive group.
- Parents indicated that we are still not very good at including them in activities or getting them to support our programmes. It's great to hear that parents want to be more involved; there is a lot of work to do and we can't do it on our own!

Valuing and Growing volunteers:

- + The work of our volunteers is highly valued by everyone
- We need to do more to celebrate and show appreciation for the hard work that our leaders put in; nobody in the group is paid – the only currency is a smile and a “thank-you” for all of us.
- As GSL I need to work harder to nurture the younger talent in the group to build an ever-stronger team of leaders.
- We need to resolve blockers to training in the Guiding sections.

Programme:

- + Everyone agreed we run a varied and enjoyable programme.
- Parents want to know how their child is progressing through award schemes and to know what activities are coming up over the next term.
- The availability of camping and outdoor experiences in the Guiding section could be better.

Infrastructure:

- + The improvements to the building have made a big difference to the environment and safety of the meeting place.
- There are a lot of jobs left to do and we need more hands to do them

Two core areas stood out; enabling leader training, and better parent communication around what is on programme and how individuals are progressing through badge schemes. Watch out for changes in those areas in 2017/2018!



We began the term with a welcome back meeting for eight rainbows, and spent the first half of the term looking at the seasons through various celebrations and festivals. We explored the weather, looked and explored the autumn colours, held a celebration of light, and an autumn sleep night. After half term we had a science theme where we explored magnetism. We held a family Christmas craft night with a special challenge for parents to design a Christmas Eve snack plate for Santa, and a good time was had by all.

In December we wrote our own nativity designed our own scenery and ended the term with an 'Alternative Nativity' Play for parents and invited guests – all the rainbows played the parts of animals, birds and insects that may or may not have seen the birth of Jesus. At the end of term we said goodbye to three girls as they jumped over the rainbow to Brownies.

We began the spring term with eight rainbows who explored the concept of self-esteem and confidence through chats, dance, acquiring new skills with a circus skills evening, and creating our very own all about me tree with each girl describing themselves in positive terms. We ended with one rainbow moving up to Brownies. After half term we celebrated Pancake Day making our own healthy pancake stacks and enjoyed eating them too. We had a story telling night with the rainbows making up their own stories. The next week we held a very, very noisy musical evening where we made street music with anything that we could find – great fun and used up lots of energy. We crafted for Mothering Sunday and then enjoyed making Easter baskets and cards and ended with a visit from the Easter bunny that filled our baskets with goodies.

During the summer term we have been looking at change – in the environment, the world, ourselves, and animals and insects. We came back after half term and designed a new badge for Rainbows 30th Anniversary celebrations and we are continuing to look at change through dance, exercise, history and looking at the local area too.



We've averaged around 16 Beavers for the past year and are delighted to have three enthusiastic Young Leaders – an Explorer, a Scout and a Cadet.

We have worked through many badges over the last year such as Air Activities, Musician, Creative, and Faith. Ruth Mock visited us to show us her puppets and we then made our own and performed a song for the parents. We attended the District Christmas Party with over 100 other Beavers and everyone was mesmerised by Dazzle the Clown. We completed our Disability Awareness Badge with Sanjay Vaja and Callum's Mum who helped us understand what it is like to use a wheelchair. We had our own sponsored swim and raised £274.20 for Group Funds. We are going to ask the Beavers what they would like this to be spent on. We are expecting some creative ideas! We attended the Group activity day at Tegg's Nose in September and travelled Around the World at District Beaver Fun Day without ever leaving Barnswood Scout Camp.

One of the best experiences scouting can offer is nights away. We've had 4 sleepovers – Group Camp last July, our own Woodland Sleepover in October at the Abney Centre (never seen so many conkers!), the District Pirate Sleepover in November and the joint Wild West sleepover with Tytherington and Gawsorth Beavers in April. Roll on Group Camp in July for another sleepover for older Beavers and one of our best experiences – working with the other sections in patrols over the weekend.

It is huge fun planning for and delivering the programme for the Beavers. It is wonderful to see them grow in confidence and learn new skills and just have fun. Thanks to our Young Leaders, Diana, Kathryn, Penny and Pete, plus the parents who join in when we need you.

We hope you have seen our pictures on the Group Facebook page. It's a great way to show everyone - but especially the parents - what the Beavers get up to.

Caroline Smith,

Beaver Scout Leader



Brownies

We have welcomed several new Brownies this year, included several from the rainbow group who have now 'jumped over the rainbow', bringing our current total to 16 Brownies. We are also very pleased to be joined by Emily Fairfoot – a current Guide who has been supporting us as a Young Leader for the past few months.

We have been working towards a number of badges this year, including the Booklover and Beatrix Potter badges. The Brownies have worked hard to earn these badges; completing book reviews, learning about different books and authors, visiting Macclesfield Library, and making bookmarks.

The Brownies organised their own coffee evening for parents - making invites and decorations, organising activities, and making drinks for their parents and siblings. There was also an Easter egg hunt for the children, and some very competitive Bingo games! The evening was a huge success, it was great to have all of the parents at the hut, and the Brownies received their Hostess badge at the end of the evening too.



As well as working towards badges, the Brownies have also been having lots of fun and learning new things - they made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, visited a working farm in Marton (we were lucky enough to see a lamb being born right in front of us!), and have been doing lots of craft activities including making friendship bracelets and putting together scrap books.

In February, the Brownies welcomed a new visitor, Wendy, to the hut. Wendy uses a wheelchair to get around, and explained to the Brownies how this affects her. Wendy explained how difficult it can be to use a wheelchair, and let all of the girls experience it first hand by using her wheelchair to complete an obstacle course!

Recently the Brownies and the Guides joined together for a session with a member of England's Netball team, Annika, who taught them basic netball skills and got all of the Brownies competing against each other! Everyone really enjoyed the session, and it was great to give the Brownies an introduction to the Guides.



2nd Macclesfield Brownies have also taken part in other Guiding events outside of our usual Monday evenings. In October, Snowy Owl and 5 of the Brownies attended the Middlewood Division 'Best of British' event, which celebrated all things British. The girls tried dancing, craft, food and games which are all traditionally British, and even earned a badge at the end! In February, Brown Owl and 6 Brownies took part in the Strictly Brownies Blackpool Bonanza – an overnight visit to Blackpool organised by Cheshire Border County Guiding, which included a trip to Madame Tussauds and a sleepover in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom!

Coming soon for the Brownies... A joint activity with the Rainbows, more visitors and activities to complete the Disability Awareness badge.

Michelle Griffiths
Brown Owl



It has been a very busy year for 6th Macclesfield cubs this year, with all of our previous year's cubs either moving up to scouts or moving groups due to changes in after school clubs. However after a difficult few weeks initially running with 2 or 3 cubs turning up, we are now at a healthy 9 cubs, gaining another after half term, one in September and a third in January. Two of our cubs will then be girls bringing new challenges and diversity to our group. With 3 leaders (Ryan, Craig and Edward) and 2 young leaders (Elisha and Jacob) we welcomed in another Assistant Cub leader, Haley into our pack.

We have awarded 2 chief scout silver awards this year and invested all of our 9 new members, 6 from our 6th Macclesfield beavers and 3 from outside of scouting.

We have completed many challenges and fun activities already so far this year, earning our cubs a possible 10 badges. Sport enthusiast was run inside the hut where the cubs learnt about 3 sports, football, rugby and cricket, including the equipment needed, rules and backgrounds of each before learning how to play them. Backwards cooking was done at the hut cooking bacon and sausages on small fires and making smores over tea light candles. More backwards cooking was done at our lad and dad camp in March/April where we roasted marshmallows and taught them how to make fully edible apple crumbles over hot coals. Fire safety was carried out at bonfire night along with the scouts watching fireworks and sparklers and an evening consisting of a new safety game, a practise fire drill and learning about fire risks and safety both in the hut and at home. Road safety was also completed learning about the green cross code, how to cross different roads and learning about different road signs.

The Pioneering badge was completed over several meetings doing rope making, tying knots and lashings, which were put to good use at the April camp making a washing up stand and also making chariots to race, also joint cub and scout events.

At Christmas we held a party in celebration of Cubs 100 last year inviting Pat our blind dog representative along for the festivities. Lots of fun was had, including bobbing for apples

and jelly babies in flour hunt. Both Cubs and Scouts thoroughly enjoyed going to the pantomime this year to watch 'The Little Mermaid'.

For their animal carer badge the cubs went to visit Pets at Home to learn how to look after animals and what care and attention they needed. The following meeting at the hut we were joined by a volunteer from the Cats Protection Society to teach us about the charity work they do and we all thanked her by donating gifts for the cats in their care.

The Chef badge was run over two meetings, one to learn about kitchen health, safety and hygiene, and to plan their 2 course meal. The second meeting was the preparation and cooking of sausage, mash and gravy finished with a fresh fruit salad and homemade pancakes, the parents were all invited to be served and dined with us.

At a joint meeting with beavers we visited the Just drop in centre to create links within the community, learning about different problems people may encounter in life and to teach the children where to go and what to do if they need help and support.

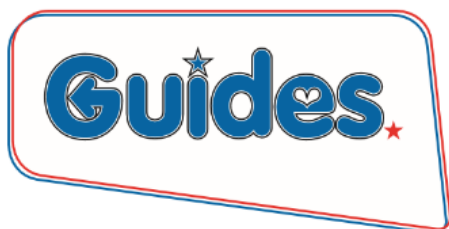
DIY was done over 3 meetings by designing, building and painting two go karts to be used on the cub base at this year's group camp, this involved health and safety, learning about tools, team work and arts and crafts. Orienteering was done as a joint meeting with scouts with a hike up to teggs nose.

In April, Mike Brown and The Cub Leaders held a Lad and dad camp at Linnets Clough for the cubs and scouts where everyone got involved in emergency first aid, air rifle shooting, the cave bus, orienteering with map reading, cooking the camp tea, camping including putting all the tents up and down as a team, archery, backwards cooking, axes and saws and camp fire games.

After half term we will be working towards the athletics badge by having a joint cub and scouts meeting in Riverside Park with parents invited to do a sports day. A litter pick for both groups will also be done for Tesco. The meetings leading up to group camp will contribute to their Environmental conservation badge learning about how to conserve our environment, making and hanging up homemade wildlife feeders and doing a poster on renewable energy sources ran by our young leaders.

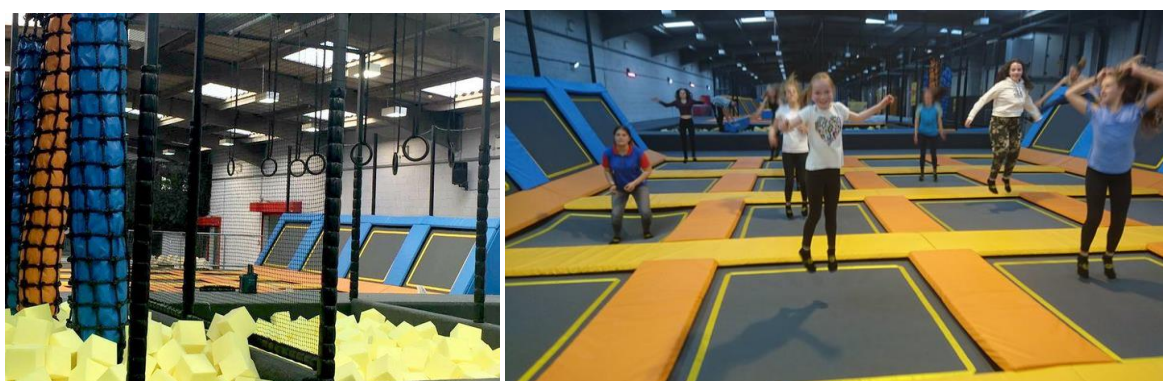
Haley Mellor, Ryan Bennett, Craig Bennett, Edward Parrish





It has been another busy 12 months for our Guides. We currently have 9 Guides some of which will be moving up to Rangers in due course – in addition to fabulous family group actives that the girls have taken part in, our highlights are mentioned below.

Trips out/group visits – Our most recent highlight includes a trip to Jump Heaven to find our inner Ninja Warrior! We entered as slightly nervous amateur jumpers and emerged as somersaulting expert Ninja Warriors. A brilliant night and a trip we will look to repeat in the future.



We have had a visit from England Netball and took the opportunity to hold a joint meeting with the Brownies, all girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found a new love for the sport – watch this space, we will be entering a team into a North West Guiding Netball Tournament after the summer holidays!

We have certainly made the most of collaborating over the last 12 months, we have also enjoyed a visit from the Just Drop In centre in Macclesfield combining our knowledge with theirs to enjoy a highly educational evening on Internet Safety, something I am sure you will agree in the age of Social Media is essential.

Other highlights

Our week by week activities have included healthy baking, weekly meal planning on a budget, scrapbooking, pancake making, a murder mystery evening, festive crafts... the list is endless!



Badge highlights

The girls have been working towards their Clever Cogs badge – a badge designed around engineering and encouraging girls to get into this industry – all elements of this badge are very hands on – we have created egg parachutes, built earthquake proof structures, learnt about oil spill clean ups and much much more.



Awards

A massive well done to Hannah and Emily who have this year completed their Baden Powell award. This is a major achievement so well done girls!

Our future

As you may have recently seen on the news, the future of Guiding is looking extremely exciting with a revamp of the badge programme so now is most definitely the time to get involved – we are currently recruiting for new Guides so spread the word and lets make 2017-2018 a brilliant year for 2nd Macclesfield Guides.

Thanks

Claire Whittingham (on behalf of the Guide leaders)

Guides2ndmacc@yahoo.co.uk



Since last year's AGM, the Scouts have done many activities for badges and because they enjoy them, they have also been to some parades to show respect and to show that scouting isn't long forgotten.

At meetings, we have learnt about each other's hobbies whether they are creative or electronic, we have done lots of cooking from making soda bread for St Patrick's day or cooking a full meal the parents which hopefully was edible (the GSL can still taste the Garlic Bread). There have been camps and other outdoor activities like walking Teggs Nose with a little furry honorary scout – Bertie the Bennett-hound.

Along with all the games treats and activities the boys have suggested and enjoyed, some like woggle making were an opportunity to practice 1st aid skills as well, but fun was still had by all and gave us lots to smile about by the end of the night.

Most of all this year we have seen many of the scouts grow up and see their attitudes change, seen the gentlemen that they can be shine through. 2 have left us to go to explorers but they were ready and their progression has helped the others to grow and will continue too as we look to the rest of this year. Coming up with have more fun packed activities and outings such as an evening at MADS little theatre where they will go back stage and see what it takes for us to put on a show, then of course our year will finish as always with the biggest event of the year group camp for which leaders and scouts alike are excited for and looking forward too.



The Scout Leaders

The Senior Section



The Senior Section has had a Spectacular Year. We are small in number: 5 young ladies, but make up for it in enthusiasm and commitment.

2016 was the 100th anniversary of Rangers/Senior Section and as a unit we embraced all there was on offer, from 'Adventures in Copenhagen' to zip wires at 'Sparkle and Ice' Winter camp.

I asked the girls what we did last year, the picture below is their response.



On a personal level, I competed my Leadership Qualification in August, and am now working towards my Going Away With qualification.

I am delighted to report that Emily and Hannah completed their Baden Powell Challenge Awards in February.

September will be the units 40th Birthday, we are planning a celebration with food (of course!). We are hoping former members will join us to share memories and see what Senior Section gets up to today.

Ali Griffin

**Macclesfield Parish Church Scout & Guide Group - Account Summary
2016/17**

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Incoming resources</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Subscriptions			3,423	
Subs Income	6,368			1
Census	-2,945			
Interest	21		21	
Donations	92		92	
Sub-total Income	3,536	0	3,536	
 <u>Activities & Trips</u>				
Camping	3,710	-3,132	578	2
Trips	1,972	-2,134	-162	3
Activities		-1,060	-1,060	
Sub-total Activities & Trips	5,682	-6,325	-643	
 <u>Fund Raising</u>				
Bedding Plants 2016	1,453	-1,026	427	
Section fund raising	271	-27	244	4
AGM refreshments				
£10 Challenge	653		653	5
Sponsored swim				
Whisky evening	1,553	-756	797	
EasyFundRaising	91		91	6
Bag packing			0	7
Sub-total Fund Raising	4,021	-1,809	2,212	
 <u>Premises</u>				
Hut Hire	685		685	5
Hut Costs		-2,273	-2,273	
Rent	-446			
Light, Heat, Water	-436			6
Insurance	-781			7
Maintenance	-610			
Hut Upgrade Project	3	-782	-780	8
Sub-total Premises	688	-3,055	-2,367	
 <u>Administration</u>				
Training	96	-140	-44	
Resources		-70	-70	
Admin: postage, stationery			0	
Sub-total Admininstration	96	-210	-114	
 <u>Equipment</u>				
Minor Equipment		-286	-286	
Capital Equipment		-105	-105	
Sub-total Other	0	-391	-391	
 <u>Other</u>				
Tax Refund (Gift Aid)	1,822		1,822	9
Badges and Uniform	30	-1,750	-1,720	10
Sub-total Other	1,852	-1,750	-1,720	
 Total	15,874	-13,540	2,334	11
 Starting Cash available in Bank			12,183	
Closing Cash available in Bank			14,517	11

Treasurers report / supplementary accounts notes

1. Subs significantly down on prior year from £7,115 to £6,368 due to declining membership in the first part of the year. It is vital to maintain effective Subs collection. On-line remains the most effective and prompt method.
2. Much higher Camping activity than prior year from £2,417 up to £3,710.
3. Much higher Trips activity than prior year from £913 up to £1,972.
4. Good fund raising contributions from Brownies and Beavers.
5. Strong performance from all Sections in £10 challenge.
6. Still disappointingly few members using EasyFundRaising. Need a significant push to get parents and GEC members to use it given the loss of other fund raising income. Link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/maccscoutguide/>
7. Unlikely that Bag Packing will continue given lack of Co-ordinator and charging for plastic bags.
8. Spend on roof improvements to re-seal the bolts and prevent further leaks; repairs to guttering. Planned Toilet upgrade not carried out but planned for summer 2017
9. HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2012-13 (£870) and 2013-14 (£952). Still many payors who have not completed a Gift Aid form.
10. Very significant increase in Uniform spend. This is over £20 per member. This is in part to increased spend on group badges and neckerchiefs as the group re-launched its' identity and branding. Increased activities has also increased badge spend.
11. Overall performance ahead of Budget but only because of lack of spend on Hut Upgrade for toilet improvements.