



Annual Report

2019



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MINUTES OF AGM 2018

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Macclesfield Parish Church Scout and Guide Group

AGM

Friday 7th June 2019

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Approval of GSL appointments
 - Chairperson
 - Auditor
3. Approval of 2018 minutes
 - Matters Arising
4. Acceptance of Executive Reports (contained in the booklet)
 - Chairperson
 - Treasurer
 - GSL & Leaders
5. Election of officers
 - Treasurer
 - Vice Treasurer / Gift aid secretary
 - Secretary
 - Vice Secretary
 - Vice Chairperson
 - Chairperson of Fundraising Committee
 - Hut project manager
 - Quartermaster
 - Parent reps – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rangers
6. Any Other Business
7. Chairperson's Closing remarks
8. District Commissioner's Closing remarks

Chairman's Report 2019

Well another exciting year at Macclesfield Parish Scout & Guide group. The group seems to be going from strength to strength.

We have a meeting place that is superb, is well looked after and treated with respect. We have amazing leaders that are delivering programs and activities that are challenging and interesting to the members. Just check out Facebook to see what they have been getting up to. We have amazing member that put their all into all the activities offered. We have great parents that come and help when they can to support the group.

So, if we ask ourselves how and why the group is growing and improving all the time, then we have some simple answers.

Feedback. we asked for feedback and we have acted on that, we need that to ensure we are doing things right. If there is something you are not happy about then let us know, you can contact, the leaders, the GSL or any of the executive committee. We can then feed that in and act on it in a constructive way. The other side to that is what are we doing right, we need to know so we can do more of that. Every person that helps in this group does it for free, they give up their time to help your children get the most out of their time in Scouting and Guiding. Positive feedback or a thank you to the leaders is what makes giving up their time worthwhile. That leads me on to the next this that is helping our group grow, the leaders. We have a fantastic group of leaders that are dedicated to providing your children with skills and opportunities that would not get elsewhere. Well not without spending a fortune on memberships of various clubs and activity centres. The leaders are the heart and soul of the group, it's their drive and desire to give a great program that make the group what it is. They are all volunteers and having been a leader, I know how much of their free time it takes up. Personally, I can't thank them enough for what they do.

Finally, we have to give a special mention to Mike Brown, our GSL (Group Scout Leader). He is there with the leaders every step of the way, he helps at meetings, he supports the leaders with training. If the leaders are the heart and soul, then Mike is the Brain that controls it all. We can not underestimate the impact Mike has had on the group over the last few years. He solves all of the issues that our leaders come across, calmly, positively and with a smile. If you see him, either today or else where please, shake his hand and say thank you. If you want to know what for, then look at the smile on the children's faces, a lot of Mike's hard work that is behind that smile.

So as parents you can help this amazing group, when a call goes out for some help or support, please try and give an hour or so of your time. It means a lot to everyone to have that support from the parents. We all have busy lives, but without people sparing an hour or two things are difficult for those that do help.

I set a challenge to all the sections at the beginning of the year (September 2018) where I offered points to complete various activities within their program, from Climbing activities, to meeting with other groups and sections. The points would be added up over the year and the winner announced at the AGM. The Prize was a medal for each member of the winning section and £50 in cash of my own money to have a celebration party. It seems to have gone down well, with the points being close all year. If the feedback I get from the sections is good, I will run it again next year too.

One last thing..... I am doing a SkyDive with the Red Devils (British Army Parachute Display Team) to raise money for the Group and the British Heart Foundation. If you could spare a few pennies for 2 great causes, please donate to the link below (and don't forget to gift aid please)

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NeilOwens3>



Chairman's challenge 2018 - 2019

I have been around scouting for more years than I care to admit, so I want to pass on some of the exciting things I have done over the years and let the next generation enjoy them.

The challenge should you accept it is to complete as many of the challenges as possible. You must record what you have done and post pictures on the FaceBook page for all to see. Plus email Me and Mike and we will record and score your progress. I will of course attend any event I can (if invited, to witness for myself)

What's in it for you?

When the completion ends the final scores will be worked out and the winning section will get £50 (cash) from me to spend on an end of term party, plus a winners medal for each member of the winning section.

Challenge	Points	weighting
Learn 10 knots and their uses	10	Same for all sections
3 Hikes Longer the distance the more points will be scored	1 per mile	Rainbows and Beavers 3 points per mile Brownies & Cubs 2 points per mile Map my run is a great free app to measure the distance walked.
6 nights camping	10 per night	Beavers and Rainbows 20 points per night
1 target sport activity this could be archery, air rifle shooting, laser clay pigeon shooting etc	50	Younger sections can be inventive, but it must still be challenging and fun
2 Pioneering projects Done on 2 occasions, might be small scale.....washing up stands, tables etc or larger, balusters	Up to 50 per event	The more impressive the project the more points awarded. Younger sections can do this with elastic bands and garden canes, but must still be impressive. Points awarded will be decided between GSL and myself
1 Community project. Something your section does that contributes to the local community	100	Same for all sections
Get your section in the Local Paper. With pictures if possible	50	Same for all sections
1 climbing activity	50	Same for all section.....

you can be inventive again with this one...not giving any clues		
1 Joint activity with another section above yours	10	Same for all sections Where there is no section above you can do below by 2 sections. Ie Scouts can meet with Explorers, or pick a section below, not already used in other challenge.
1 joint activity with another section below yours	10	Same for all sections Where there is no section above you can do below by 2 sections. Ie Rangers can meet with Guides and Brownies, or Brownies and rainbows
1 joint activity with another group	20	Same for all sections
1 joint activity with the opposite movement (Scouting with Guiding or the other way round)	30	Same for all sections
Pitch and Icelandic tent (correctly and well) in under 10 mins	20	Scouts, guides and rangers only For Younger sections. Pitch a tent of any available in the QM store. Must have an understanding of the principles of putting up a tent. Ie tight canvas to stop the rain.
1 night Backwoods camp (no tent) This is pushing you back to survival stuff, build and sleep in a shelter & backwards cooking	100	This will apply to Guides, Scouts and Rangers. For the younger sections, receive instruction about backward cooking and shelters. Then build a shelter suitable for sleeping in. or a backwards cooking activity
Learn 1 new skill as a section	30	All sections the same
Water Challenge	50	Do 1 activity on water

These don't have to be completed individually, you can combine them. So you could do a Brownie and Guide camp, where you do a hike.

The competition will start 1st September 2018 and final scores will be counted the last day before the AGM where the winner will be announced and the medals awarded. Then you will have time to plan your party and enjoy your victory

Good Luck, Neil

GSL Report 2019

What a year! 2018/19 has seen the group continue to grow in both numbers of members and in the range of activities offered to our young people. We had a fantastic time at Chamboree, it was great to be part of an amazing team of volunteers that worked closely together to make the weekend and the week a success. Personal highlights for me were the visit to Liverpool and getting on the TV, meeting scouts from Kenya, being presented with my 25 years long service award, and watching our very talented scout Thomas Wright win the Chamboree's got talent competition!



It's been heartening to see all our sections step up to complete the Chairman's Challenge. This range of Challenges set by Neil has encouraged some "grass roots" activities in our Scouting and Guiding sections and as well as promoting some healthy competition has also provided opportunity for our sections to work together. Thanks again to all our leaders and supporters for all you do to make safe, fun adventures possible for our young people. The range and sheer quality of the experiences we offer at such low cost never ceases to amaze, and this would not be possible without so many people giving up their free time to volunteer!

In December, we said "Goodbye and Thank You" to Lynn McKay who stood down as our Rainbows leader. With support from local Guiding Commissioners, we are pleased to welcome Anthea Maure to the team who has volunteered to keep the section running. We were also pleased to welcome back Aled Rhys-Williams to the cub section, and to welcome Laurence Angier to the Scout section as assistant leaders. Craig Bennett and Sam Bancroft also transferred to support and grow the Scout section.

We stepped up our community involvement this year, with some sections holding litter picks, and the scout section raising an impressive £230 for WHAM homeless night shelter by sleeping under shelters as part of a survival camp. A joint team of Cubs and Guides raised £125 for our group and £125 for the Rotary Club at this year's swimathon. Some of our extended scouting family also recently volunteered to help lay network cabling at Bollinbrook Primary School.

Congratulations go to Craig Bennett, Judith Amey and Neil Owens on being nominated for a Chief Scout's Commendation for service to Scouting.

This year we made some investments in additional camping equipment including 2 new tents, a gas burco and outdoor benches. We need to continue to invest in our outdoor equipment to modernise what we have available. We also need to refocus on buildings maintenance as the roof is leaking and parts of the flooring need to be replaced. We are looking for a volunteer to manage building and premises related projects, working with local suppliers and tradesmen. Is this something you could help with? Please get in touch!

It's been 4 years since we set our group vision – "Vision 2020" and it feels like we are close to being where we wanted to be. We still have work to do though... succession planning for the next generation of Leaders and Executive, building more opportunities for partnering with parents, and discovering the next iteration of our "Vision" are all areas we need to look at in the next 12 months.

Our group is growing. To ensure that we can continue this growth (and avoid the need for waiting lists) we do need your help. If you have skills that we could use, please do let us know... to coin a phrase from a well known supermarket... Every little helps!

Mike Brown, Group Scout Leader



After many years as Rainbow leader Lynn retired at Christmas and Donna also decided to stand down at the same time. We have a new leader, Anthea, who is now working towards her leadership qualification. She is joined by Rosemary, who has returned to guiding having previously been a brownie leader. Welcome to the team!

We also give our thanks to Linda Pearson and Vivien Mcalpine from District Girlguiding for all the support they have given the section and new leaders since Christmas.



With the new leaders, the Rainbows jumped straight into the new Girlguiding programme after Christmas. They have completed their first skills builder badge, innovate stage 1, which has involved several science-based activities. They have also worked on various unit meeting activities from across 3 of the theme areas. Of course, they have still made time for other favourite activities such as games and cake decorating.

We currently have 4 Rainbows so are keen to recruit more members. Rainbows are girls aged 5 to 7 years and meet at 5.30pm on Mondays.



6th Macclesfield Beaver Scout Report September-June 2019

This year we have achieved probably more badges than ever before – as well as tackling parts of the six challenge badges needed for the Chief Scout Bronze Award, we've completed Nights Away, Faith, Animal Friend, Communicator, Digital Citizen, Air Activities, Hikes, Disability Awareness and Musician, and many Beavers have also achieved the Sports, Hobbies and Collectors badges.

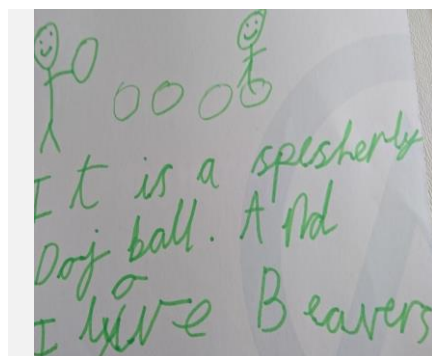
Beyond our Wednesday meetings, we've attended district events – the Christmas Party, The District Challenge, the Faith Badge day and Remembrance Sunday. We've had a joint adventure afternoon with 1st Tytherington Beavers at Barnswood with the support of 1st Tytherington Scouts. We've also had a joint mindfulness night with our own Brownies. We've had our own weekend events – a Woodland Sleepover in October, a hike in January and we've still got a watersports day at Rudyard to come, and another sleepover at Group Camp in July.

But it's best to hear from the Beavers. We have four Beavers moving to Cubs at the end of this term - Seth, Rachel, Ingrid and Xav, and I asked them to tell us their favourite moments and how we can make Beavers better in the future. Here's what they said;

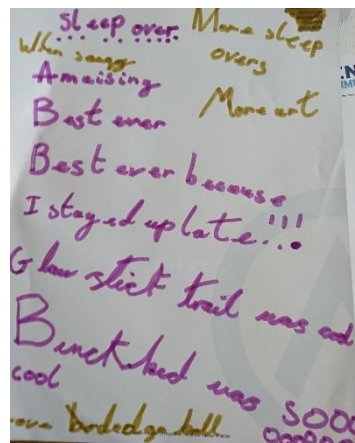
Ingrid's favourite moment was making S'mores out of chocolate biscuits and melted marshmallow over a candle



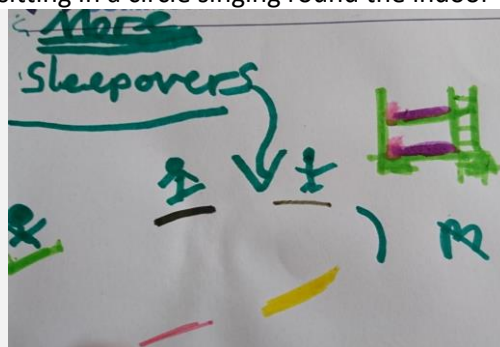
Seth's favourite game is dodgeball



Xav wants more sleepovers and enjoyed singing and the glowstick trail. He also loves playing dodgeball in the hut



Rachel loved the bunk beds at the sleepover and sitting in a circle singing round the indoor campfire



The leader's favourite moment of the year? We've loved it all but it has to be the Beavers adapting one of our games so that it was fair and fun for Sanjay to join in using his electric wheelchair. The thoughtfulness, consideration and inventiveness from every Beaver was just incredible and a lesson to us all in just how utterly amazing 6 and 7 year olds can be.

Caroline Smith
Beaver Scout Leader

Brownies

This year the Brownies have been adjusting to the new Guiding programme, which means lots of new badges to earn and new Theme Awards to work towards. We have also been taking part in activities to earn points for the Chairman's Challenge. We currently have 12 Brownies in our group, with 3 leaders and a young leader, so we do have space for a few more members.

We recently enrolled 4 new members, and the existing Brownies have done a fantastic job of making Alice, Betty, Emily, and Kadence very welcome.

Both the Brownies and leaders have enjoyed trying out lots of new activities from the new programme, including making sock puppets, making up a fun dance routine based on the Macarena, and drawing ideas of possible future inventions. The Brownies are well on their way to completing the Skills Builder badges for the Express Myself theme, and will then be ready to start working towards another theme badge.



In the Spring term, the Brownies also worked towards an Interest badge at home, choosing between Painting, Baking, and Performing. Some Brownies have shared their delicious baking with the group, and some have even performed for us all – Tessa and Iris played their recorders together beautifully, and Merryn, Iona, and Lola treated us to a fantastic group ukelele performance.

As part of the Chairman's Challenge, the girls have joined the Beavers for a walk around a very muddy Tegg's Nose, learnt some new knots, and have put up tents!

Outside of the programme, the Brownies have enjoyed taking part in some completely new activities. Ali joined us for an evening to let the Brownies help with planting seeds for the bedding plant sale – and they have enjoyed sharing photos of how tall their sunflowers are growing! The Brownies also joined the Beavers for a mindfulness evening, which was really fun, as well as very relaxing. This mindfulness session will also count towards the Brownies' Mindfulness badge, which we will complete later this term.



Overall this year has seen a huge variety of activities, and the Brownies have enjoyed the joint activities with the Beavers – massive thanks to Caroline for organising this, and we look forward to more of these joint events!

Coming soon... The Brownies are looking forward to taking part in Group Camp in July as always, but this year they also have the option of staying overnight!

Michelle, Lorraine and Amanda



This year we have aimed at getting the cubs well prepared for their silver awards and getting the cubs who are close to completing to actually achieve their awards.

Some of the activities we did:

- Disability Awareness- Disability awareness stretched over a few meetings. We learnt about different disabilities and how they effect a person and created challenges for the cubs to complete. One of these was too paint certain things such as a tree using just their feet. We also blindfolded the cubs and had them complete an obstacle course they had to navigate through, purely through communication from another cub. In another meeting we also learned some sign language such as how to spell are name or sign 'hello my name is'.
- Parliament Week- For parliament week we taught the cubs about the voting process and how people will vote. Haley created a ballot box and the cubs even had a go at voting themselves on things such as "Should public transport be changed to the colour pink".
- Knots- in this meeting the cubs learned or re-learned how to do knots such as the clove hitch, the half hitch, double reef knot and the figure of 8, this went towards the chairman's challenge and the pioneering badge.



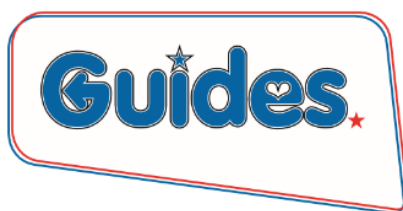
- First aid- Cubs practiced their first aid skills and learnt valuable and key aspects such as the recovery position and CPR.
- Chef Badge- For this the cubs came up with a meal that they would cook for their parents. The cubs decided on cooking a full English which consisted of Toast, Bacon, Beans, Tomatoes, Mushrooms, scrambled Egg and some pancakes for dessert. They also learnt how to make tea and coffee. The next week they cooked this meal for parents learning how to use knives properly and how to be safe within a kitchen or cooking environment.
- Circus Badge- lead by Ellen Brown the cubs learned lots of new circus tricks such as how to juggle, walking on stilts, hoola hooping and making balloon dogs.
- St Georges day- the cubs learned about who ST George was and why he is so important. They then went on to make their own dragons out of cardboard and felt.

- Local Knowledge- This stretched over two meetings. The first where the cubs were taught about Macclesfield and certain landmarks such as the golden post box. They then mapped out a route through the centre of Macclesfield and back to the hut which we then walked the week after and to see the local historical buildings.
- The environment- The cubs learned about the environment through making bird feeders and fat balls being taught how it would effect and help the environment. This helped go towards World Challenge Badge, environmental conservation badge and the RSPB Wild Challenge.



As we head into the new academic year we look set to hit our maximum capacity in cubs, and we do need more help with our meetings. Parents if you can lend a hand once in a while please speak to us!

Haley Bennett, Ryan Bennett, Edward Parish, Aled Rhys-Williams
and our 2 young leaders Jacob and Hayley



We currently have 11 Guides who have enjoyed a full and busy programme over the last 12 months.

As you all know the new Guiding programme was announced last September and the girls have quickly got stuck into new and exciting activities as well as finishing up on some badges from the old programme we were working on. As we progress over the next year we hope to be issuing some theme badges and hopefully some Gold awards!



Trips out/group visits

Our most recent highlight includes a trip to Substation Climbing Centre for a fun evening of bouldering – the girls were all natural climbers (Claire not so much!)

We spent a Saturday in December helping prepare catering for the Beaver sleepover, completing the new Mixology badge as well as other craft, making pizzas and watching the Christmas light switch on.

The girls enjoyed a joint night hike with the Scouts at Macclesfield Forest earlier in the year and way back in September a joint penny hike with the Brownies – interacting with other sections is always a highlight for us and we look forward to welcoming some of the Brownies up to Guides in the future.

Other highlights

We have continued to run a fun and varied programme – we asked the girls for their own highlights of the year and the following activities were chosen:

Lighting fires using flint and steel

Pancakes! (the bonus of Guides meeting on a Tuesday, this will always be an annual highlight!)

Purifying water

Parliament week – we again took part in parliament week debating and coming up with the laws we would like to be passed, including free parking at all NHS buildings, plastic recycling vending machines and increased mental health services in schools

Dingo Dollar challenge night (a personal favourite of mine, some sneaky knots cleverly disguised in games)

To flush or not to flush - who knew that an evening of working out what shouldn't just be flushed down a toilet could be so much fun!

Building camp gadgets

We are very much looking forward to another 12 months of fun. Thanks as always to all the girls for being so enthusiastic and giving their all to every activity. We are so proud of you all.

Thanks

The Guide Leaders

Claire, Sarah and Amanda



SCOUTS[♣]



INTRODUCTION TO OUR GROUP:

We are the 6th Macclesfield Scouts; we number only 7 but have had an adventure full last 12 months! We meet every thursday from 7:30 till 9:00 at the group hut.

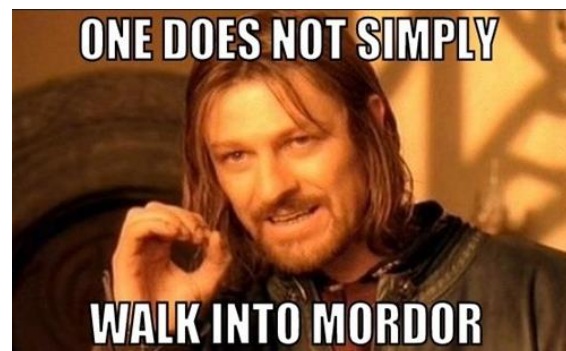
The Programme:

Our programme over the last twelve months has been highly outdoor and practical scouting based. We have been training up our current troop for their Hunger Games survival challenge. The build up to this has included nights like:

- > Lighting fires
- > Cooking over open fires
- > Knife, axe and saw safety and work
- > First Aid
- > Shelter building
- > And lots more!

The aim was to teach skills like map reading and first aid in winter months along with the world famous scout U-Shape cooking nights so that we could use as much of the light in the spring and early summer months.

Map reading skills night... using maps of Mordor created by Laurence.



The Hunger Games survival challenge:

Mike Brown set the scouts a challenge. He set them the challenge to survive a night as a troop at barnswood without leader run activities, food being cooked for them or even a tent. But perhaps more importantly to be sponsored to actually manage to survive it. They readily accepted.

The hunger games survival challenge was a camp where the scouts would have to survive on their own by making their own shelters, lighting fires, cooking their food over said fires with only the aid of supply boxes the leaders carefully hid around camps. Their only clue to where they were hidden was a set of strategic clues sent in via a walkie talkie.

The scouts had been prepared and briefed by all the leaders and so when the time came there was high hopes from the leadership team that they would do really well. The weather was amazing for the weekend and although very few of the scouts got much sleep and they did not quite eat as well as we had hoped they did all survive. There were very few smiles from them as they wandered to the cars but they had achieved something. They had done a proper very real scouting camp with axes, knives, sleeping with the bugs and leaves. It was a good experience and much has been learned by scouts and leaders alike.

The event was designed to act as a sponsorship event for the homeless charity WHAM. Who support the homeless community in macclesfield. The scouts of 6th Macclesfield **raised an entire £230** for the charity and did an amazing job at surviving. We are pretty darn proud of them.

The future plan for scouts:

Sadly, we have one of our scouts leaving us for explorers after the half term but with the arrival of three new scouts coming up from cubs the future looks promising for the troop. The plan for the next months of summer light is to spend as much time as possible in the great outdoors. We have nights such as forestry work, outdoor cooking 2 and fire lighting 2 too look forward too. We will be reflecting on the survival camp and will also be running two more U-shape nights with the scouts.

A massive well done to the scouts from the leaders: Laurence, Craig, James, Sam and Peter

2nd Macclesfield Rangers

What we did 2018-2019

Rangers have been busy exploring the outdoors and starting the new programme.



Before we broke for the summer we did a couple of hikes with BBQs, up White Nancy and to Macclesfield Forest, had an evening bell boating with Potteries Paddlers and learnt to screen print - creating T-shirts and bandanas for Chamboree.

Then 2 Rangers joined the thousands of Scouts and Guides for Chamboree. It was AMAZING! Everything piratical was experienced from wild cooking to surviving the Port of Tortuga.

In September we headed to West Kirby for a High School Musical themed weekend. Sandcastles were built, pizzas and creme brûlée were eaten, Hilbre Island was explored and Penny and I survived all 3 High School Musical films! We also said farewell and good luck to Anna who headed off to university.

The new term brought the chairmans challenge and the new programme. We got stuck in with community activities making peace kites for remembrance, learning to knit to make a blanket for Syrian refugees, and for the 3rd year cooking a meal for the WHAM night shelter. We practiced navigation in the dark on a night hike over the Hollins, carved pumpkins for Halloween and had a bonfire with the Explorers. In October some of the group joined Rangers from across the county at Glenbrook in the Hope valley for a training weekend. They learned about safeguarding and completed level 1 & 2 Safe Space training, tried scrapbooking, got tips on good communication and had a go at abseiling amongst other things. We ended the term with an old school party - pass the parcel and chocolate game included.

The winter/spring term saw us traveling the world doing activities from the "Have Adventures - Explore" skills builder, learning about Sri Lanka at a joint night with St Paul's Guides and going to a special Guide screening of Mary Poppins Returns. I traveled to Sri Lanka for 2 weeks with Bloom North West England region trip. We also learned about healthy eating, exercise and relationships with the "Be Well - Feel Good" skills builder. Since Easter we've practiced pioneering and backwoods cooking at Barnswood in preparation for a camp in June, using activities from the "Have Adventures - Camp" skills builder. We have also been inspired by the chairmans challenge to try darts, go stand up paddleboarding at Tittesworth and bouldering at Substation.

In April Emily Griffen and Anna Wolski were presented with their Chief Guides Challenge badge at the County awards evening. This is the second highest award a Ranger can get (the highest is the Queens Guide award), I am super proud of both of them for completing it. Both Emily Griffen and Emily Fairfoot have begun their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award this year and Emily Griffen has been preparing to attend the 24 World Scout Jamboree in the summer, flying the flag for Macclesfield.

It has been a busy year, but great fun! Ali Griffen, leader.

EXPLORERS

Zulu ESU Annual Report

The Zulu Unit has had another busy year.

Phil has now settled in as a 3rd Leader in the Unit, which has been great. Thanks also to Craig, who is such a constant support for, and much appreciated by, the Unit.

Zulus have participated in lots of activities in the past year, including climbing, lots of camping (Winter Camp at Sandiway and Distriock Camp running adventurous activities, amongst others), Duke of Edinburgh hikes, keeping hikers safe and happy on Macc Hike, and much more.

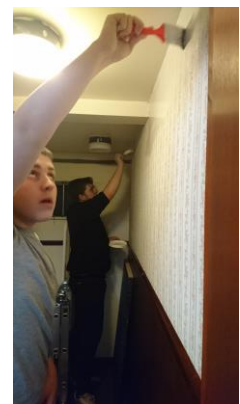
12 Zulus attended Chamboree 2018, again with 6 Scouts and their Leader from the Starehe School in Nairobi, Kenya. A select group of Explorers ran a pre-camp for the Kenyans at Gradbach where, amongst other things, we dammed the Dane to make a swimming pool on the border between Cheshire and Staffordshire! The Kenyans really enjoyed Chamboree, and also had a fantastic week sightseeing across the County afterwards. They said that their highlights were seeing the Manchester City training facilities, being treated to afternoon tea at Capesthorpe Hall by the ex Lieutenant of Cheshire, and just chilling and spending time with the Explorer Scouts, who made them feel very welcome. And staying up til after midnight at Chamboree!

Novel activities have included:

- an overnight navigation exercise
- a team competing in "Dragnet", a 36 hour evasion challenge in Cumbria - our team did amazingly well in this competition
- several Zulus being invited to take part in a wildcamp on Great Gable for Remembrance Sunday. This last was a very special event, and only those with strong skills were invited, so it was a privilege for me to share that time with those chosen.



In the Hut, we have a night of hacking with a real computer network put together by Sam, clearing out the QM store and also a night of Hut maintenance painting, working outside and even planning the use of the slabs for pathways around the Hut.



We have run "link" exercises with Scout Troops including the regular sports night (this time with added rockets!) and Bonfire night event at Barnswood.

Lots of Zulus are Young Leaders in the District, and are enjoying their Leading, and also their training.

We've welcomed 7 new members from 4 different Scout Troops, but have also lost several older Zulus this year: great news, 5 have signed up to become Adult Leaders in the District!

This year we're looking forward to Parish Church Group Camp, District Summer Camp, more wildcamping, and also have several members in the Unit which will go to Gdansk in Poland next year.

All in all, a busy year, and an exciting year in prospect!

Martin.

MACCLESFIELD PARISH CHURCH SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2019

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 charitable trust established under rules that 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 has remained stable at around 77.

Thorough collection of subscriptions combined with fund raising has continued to be important in maintaining the financial health of the Group. Subs collection is consistent with our numbers reported for Census purposes. Collection of subscriptions has continued to be good due to efforts by Leaders and the transition to more subs payments being made on-line by BACS transfer through internet banking. This has significantly reduced cash and cheque handling in addition to improving timeliness of receipt. Monthly payment of Subs by BACS/Standing Order has continued to be popular by simplifying the payment process, avoiding the need for termly prompts and smoothing payments for parents/carers through the year.

There were a number of successful fundraising activities during the year. The Whisky Tasting (and haggis sup evening raised a record £1,157 (2017-18: £1,004). The sale of bedding and vegetable plants in May generated overall income of £687 (2017-18: £490). Both events remain reliant on a core group of supporters, most of whom are parents who no longer have members in the Group. This is unsustainable: we need to attract help from current members and their parent/carers and use as a means of increasing parent/carer engagement. Whilst it is recognised that there are many demands on time, unless these core fund raising activities are better supported, they will become unviable. To replace the lost income, a significant increase in subscriptions of roughly £16 per term would be required. This needs to be avoided to retain the attractiveness of the Group.

Two areas where parents could make additional contribution to the Group without needing to expend significant time or effort are Gift Aid and EasyFundRaising. There are still large number of members where the payer of subscriptions has not completed a Gift Aid form. Gift Aid can provide a significant boost to the Group's funds. In 2018-19, a Gift Aid claim was made for the Tax Year 2016-17 (£1,079). Claims for future years could be boosted if we could get more eligible subs payers to return completed Gift Aid forms.

The Group is registered with EasyFundRaising. This enables internet purchases made via EasyFundRaising to contribute a small percentage of the value to the Group. EasyFundRaising operates with many major vendor like Tesco, John Lewis, Amazon etc. So far only 8 members are making purchases via EasyFundRaising. Even with this small number of users, the Group still received £65 from EasyFundRaising in the year (2016-17: £91, 2017-18: £56). 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) parents would be willing to support.

Our Hut provides both an important resource for the Group but also causes significant expense in running costs, insurance and rent. Although constrained by the building design, since 2015-16 major improvement work has been carried out to make it a more modern facility suitable for the 21st century. Since 2014, £20,638 has been spent on Hut Upgrade improvements. Further (budgetted) work is now needed to repair the roof and stop the ingress of water/damp on the south wall. A parent project manager is urgently needed to manage and coordinate this work.

During the year, investments were made in new equipment for the Group. Effort was made to tidy, and rationalise the Quartermaster's Store. Old and redundant equipment was disposed of.

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 has adhered to this Policy. However, it was required to make an advance payment in February 2018 for members attending the Chamboree in summer 2018. At that time, insufficient funds were available in the Group's current account to cover this payment and retain sufficient current account liquidity. Funds were available in the Group's deposit account but were on 95 day notice. An interest free bridging loan of £2,820 was made to Group to cover the Chamboree payment. This was repaid early in the 2018/19 financial year.

The Group's headline cash reserves at financial year end increased to £18,530 (2017-18: before liability £18,401, underlying £15,581) compared to budget of £15,405. This was ahead of budget largely due to higher than budgeted Fund Raising and not spending money on Hut improvements. It is consistent with the improvement path since 2012 (2012: £5,037, 2013: £8,628, 2014: £12,210, 2015: £14,760, 2016: £12,18, 2017: £15,581 underlying) that has been accomplished alongside the major Hut upgrade.

Thanks go to our team of Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Young Leaders, Parent Helpers, Parents of former men 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 and enable the Group to provide successful provision for the development of young people.



J C Amey

Date: 2 June 2019

Macclesfield Parish Church Scout & Guide Group
Simplified summary of 2018-19 financial year

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Incoming resources</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Subscriptions			2,758	
Subs Income	6,195			1
Census		-3,438		
Interest	72		72	
Donations	239		239	
Sub-total Income	6,506	-3,438	3,069	
<u>Activities & Trips</u>				
Camping	3,683	-2,024	1,659	
Trips	596	-948	-352	2
Activities	110	-744	-634	
Sub-total Activities & Trips	4,389	-3,716	672	
<u>Fund Raising</u>				
Bedding Plants 2018	1,795	-1,231	564	3
Vegetable Plants 2018	123		123	
Chamboree	15		15	
Swimathon	85		85	
Whisky evening	2,034	-878	1,157	4
EasyFundRaising	65		65	5
AGM		-1	-1	
Sub-total Fund Raising	4,118	-2,109	2,008	
<u>Premises</u>				
Hut Hire	1,175		1,175	
Hut Costs		-2,238	-2,238	
Rent	-477			
Light, Heat, Water	-610			
Insurance	-853			
Maintenance	-297			
Hut Upgrade Project			0	6
Sub-total Premises	1,175	-2,238	-1,063	
<u>Administration</u>				
Training		-43	-43	
Resources		-198	-198	
Admin: postage, stationery		-95	-95	
Sub-total Administration	0	-336	-336	
<u>Equipment</u>				
Minor Equipment		-87	-87	
Capital Equipment		-992	-992	
Sub-total Other	0	-1,079	-1,079	
<u>Other</u>				
Tax Refund (Gift Aid)	1,079		1,079	7
Badges and Uniform	417	-1,819	-1,402	
Short Term Bridging Loan		-2,820	-2,820	8
Sub-total Other	1,497	-4,639	-3,143	
Total	17,684	-17,555	129	9
Starting Cash available in Bank			18,401	
Closing Cash available in Bank			18,530	

Treasurer's Comments and Notes

- Subs down by £270 on 2017-18 and below budget. Vital to maintain effective Subs collection.
On-line remains the most effective means of collection. Regular monthly payment now popular.
- Trip costs greater than budgeted but offset by Camping income, and lower Activities spend.
- Fund Raising: Bedding plant above budget mainly due to a large order. Need more orders in future years.
- Whisky Evening above budget with highest ever contribution.
- Still disappointingly few parents and GEC members using **EasyFundRaising**.
- No Hut improvement spend in 2018-19 despite funds being budgeted. Need capable parent support.
- Group would benefit if more members signed up for Gift Aid.
- Repaid short term bridging loan from 2017-18 (required for timing of transfer from Deposit account).
- HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2016-17
Still many payers who have not completed a **Gift Aid form**.
- Repaid bridging loan to cover while funds transferred from long term deposit (95 day notice).
- Overall contribution significantly ahead of Budget.

Macclesfield Parish Church Scout & Guide Group
Proposed Budget for 2019-20 financial year

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Incoming resources</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Subscriptions			2,700	
Subs Income	6,200			1
Census		-3,500		
Interest	60		60	
Donations			0	
Sub-total Income	6,260	-3,500	2,760	
 <u>Activities & Trips</u>				
Camping	2,000	-1,500	500	2
Trips	1,000	-1,000	0	
Activities		-1,296	-1,296	
Sub-total Fund Activities & Trips	3,000	-3,796	-796	
 <u>Fund Raising</u>				
Bedding Plants	1,500	-1,100	400	
Vegetable Plants	100	-50	50	
Section fund raising	50	-20	30	
Sponsored swim	300	-100	200	
Whisky tasting	1,800	-900	900	
EasyFundRaising	40		40	
Bag packing			0	
Sub-total Fund Raising	3,790	-2,170	1,620	
 <u>Premises</u>				
Hut Hire	1,000		1,000	
Hut Costs		-2,400	-2,400	
Rent	-500			
Light, Heat, Water	-700			
Insurance	-900			
Maintenance	-300			
Hut Upgrade Project		-1,000	-1,000	3
Sub-total Premises	1,000	-3,400	-2,400	
 <u>Administration</u>				
Training		-100	-100	
Resources		-100	-100	
Admin: postage, stationery		-100	-100	
Sub-total Admin	0	-300	-300	
 <u>Equipment</u>				
Minor Equipment		-200	-200	
Capital Equipment		-1,300	-1,300	4
Sub-total Other	0	-1,500	-1,500	
 <u>Other</u>				
HMRC Tax Refund Gift Aid	1,000		1,000	5
Badges and Uniform		-1,400	-1,400	
Sub-total Other	1,000	-1,400	-400	
 Total	15,050	-16,066	-1,016	

Starting Cash available in Bank 1-Apr-19 18,530

Estimated Closing Cash available in Bank at 31-Mar-20 17,514

Notes

- 1 Requiring Group to retain same Subs income as 2018-19.
- 2 Planning on creating a small surplus on Camping.
- 3 Planning on improvement works to Roof and wall damp. Requires parent support and project management.
- 4 Replacement of essential equipment.
- 5 Claim for another calendar year. Figure could be improved if more signed up for Gift Aid.

Macclesfield Parish Church Scout & Guide Group

The minutes of the AGM of

Saturday 9th June 2018

Attendees: Neil Owens / Julian Amey / Jonathan Graves / Mike Brown / Diana Stafford / Caroline Smith / Amanda Bennett / Craig Bennett / Emily Parrish / Mark Eden / Sharon Graves / Peter Munroe / James Radmall / Linda Pearson / Nigel Pearson / Martin Stevenson / Edward Parrish / Lorraine Griffiths /

Apologies: Ryan Bennett / James Bennett / Hayley Bennett / Claire Whittingham / Ali Griffen / Penny Heyworth /

- The Chairperson opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending
- The Chair was nominated for re-election by Diana Stafford and seconded by Mike Brown – the group accepted and thanked Neil Owens as continuing Chairperson
- The Treasurer nominated Andy Lee as our Scrutineer, everyone agreed
- Apologies were read by the Secretary (list above)
- The Secretary recently circulated the minutes of the 2017 AGM electronically to all members and had confirmation from Diana Stafford, Neil Owens and Mike Brown that they were a true representation so were accepted into record. The Chair will sign this and the Secretary will file
- Election and Re-election of officers and members:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairperson	Neil Owens	Diana Stafford	Mike Brown
Treasurer	Julian Amey	Emily Parrish	Caroline Smith
Vice Treasurer& Gift Aid Rep	Carole Owens	Jonathan Graves	Amanda Bennett
Secretary	Jonathan Graves	Craig Bennett	Julian Amey
Vice Secretary	Katie Harding	Jonathan Graves	Neil Owens
Fundraising Support	CURRENTLY	VACANT	
Hut Project Rep	James Radmall	Jonathan Graves	Mike Brown
Hut Caretaker	CURRENTLY	VACANT	
Quartermaster	CURRENTLY	VACANT	
Rainbow Parent Rep	Jane Walker		
Brownie Parent Rep	Victoria Adinkra		
Guide Parent Rep			
Senior Parent Rep	Sarah Dane		
Beaver Parent Rep			
Cub Parent Rep	Graeme Wilkinson		
Scout Parent Rep	Peter Munro	Jonathan Graves	Neil Owens
Zulu Rep	Martin Taylor	Mike Brown	Julian Amey
Church Rep	Mike Brown	Neil Owens	Jonathan Graves
Helping Hand	Victoria Adinkra		
Helping Hand	Emily Parrish		
Helping Hand	Nicola Wright		
Helping Hand	Emma James		
Helping Hand	Daniel James		

- Awards: we are delighted to announce the following awards issued:
 - Peter Munro – 10 Year Long Service Award
 - We received the Cheshire Scouts Award for Growth – 2 Years
- Treasurer's report: Mr Amey has submitted a report which is on record and within the AGM booklet. Main items raised were: More camping and outdoor activities. Good fundraising from Whiskey evening/Bedding plants. Disappointing amount of members utilising EasyFundRaising which would be free income for the group with just a click. Roof repairs undertaken and toilet done. Good amounts raised from HMRC via gift Aid – we must chase anyone who has not yet submitted a form. Increase in uniform spend – we have continued to purchase a bulk amount of our new badge and provided group neckerchiefs to all in the Guiding section as part of our "identity for the future".
- Chairperson's report: Mr Owens has submitted a report which is on record and within the AGM booklet. Main items raised were: The great hut improvements and that more is planned. Big improvements in communication, member numbers and programmes – thank you to all the Leaders for doing all this voluntarily. Thank you to all of those who have volunteered and helped in the last year. Thank you to our GSL for driving and supporting all our sections – if Mike asks for help – let's all say yes, even if it's just an hour! Parents, please join and help us in working towards an even better Group for your children.
- GSL report: Mr Brown has submitted a report which is on record and within the AGM booklet. He highlighted lots of amazing achievements and plans, e.g., He thanked all Leaders and Volunteers for their **Voluntary** help over the past year. He also thanked all parents and leaders who had sorted out the tents and stores.
- Scout District Commissioner's closing remarks: Mr Eden congratulated us for being a progressive and successful GEC & Group. He mentioned what an amazing distance we have come and presented the Cheshire Scouts Award for Growth – 2 Years. Our Leader Training, Badge awarding, Finances are really good. He congratulated the 4 members who attended Macc Hike as it was "Extremely Challenging" and they did amazingly well. GDPR is in hand. The Group is in the best state ever for as long as he has been District Commissioner.
- Guiding Middlewood District Commissioner's closing remarks: Mrs Pearson also congratulated the group on fantastic achievements. They have great Floating Rangers groups. She too has seen the group grow in the 3 years she has been District Commissioner. They also have a Leader in our group who will be training in Sri Lanka – good luck Ali.

The GEC would like to say and highlight our immense gratitude to all our Volunteers, both Leaders and Parents