



# 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) Scout Group

Registered with The Scout Association: 15th March 1957

Group Registration Number: 33108

Registered Charity Number: 308193

**Annual Report 2015-2016**

[www.kemsingscouts.org.uk](http://www.kemsingscouts.org.uk)

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# 1 Chairman's Report

I am delighted to report that Kemsing Scout Group now has the beginnings of a support structure that will help the Group to thrive. At the last AGM there were just four parents in attendance, the only position that was filled on the committee was the Secretary role and the Group was given a three month deadline to ensure an Executive Committee was in place or risk closure. By the time of the 2016 AGM the picture is very different and I need to thank those parents who have contributed and created a committee that is helping to take the Group forward.

To summarise:

- Chris Arnold has taken on the Treasurer role.
- I accepted the role of Chairman, with Matthew Henning as Deputy.
- Sarah Forrett, Tara Anderson and Fiona Thompson are leading with fundraising and events.
- Our new hut team includes Michael Schwarz, Bertie Downard (both from Sevenoaks District) with Matthew as lead.
- Richard Anstead has taken on a role to help with communications.
- Chris Thorburn has accepted the Quartermaster role.
- The search for a new GSL resulted in the appointment of P'Nut Holden.

Not to mention attendance at committee meetings from all our Section Leaders. I am sure you will agree that is significant progress in a short space of time.

The Group is keen to continually improve the way it communicates with our young members and parents. Over the course of the past six months, we have started a number of different communication channels, including a Facebook page, the [kemsingscouts@gmail.com](mailto:kemsingscouts@gmail.com) email address (from which the bulk of messages should now originate), more recently a newsletter was published to parents and now we have a dedicated website for the Group [www.kemsingscouts.org.uk](http://www.kemsingscouts.org.uk). We are conscious about overwhelming people with lots of information from different sources so are keen to get feedback on our members' preference(s).

Our next goal is to raise awareness of our fundraising schemes and the plans to build a new hut. If you have ideas as to how we can best communicate our situation to the wider community and can offer any support it will be most welcome.

Fundraising efforts have included the usual Jumble Sales which have been profitable and well supported by parents. A Quiz Night was held at Kemsing School that was well attended and provided a great opportunity to let the community know about plans for the new hut. As ever, a few more parents helping out with events such as these would enable us to spread the load.

One area that has not had a huge amount of attention is the current hut. There was a very useful clearance morning in March that helped us to clear out a significant amount of rubbish from the garage. A working group is planned for some maintenance on the floor, together with some redecoration and clearance (rubbish from inside and foliage from outside). There is a lot that can be done to give the hut a bit of a tidy up, with a range of tasks that can suit everyone, so all helpers would be welcomed.

I wanted to close by saying a very big thank you to all those who have been involved – those who attend weekly meetings, those who have joined the Committee and those who have helped at fundraising events. As you take in the Section Reports from the respective Leaders and learn about our future plans (including what could be an exciting partnership with the St. Clere Estate) you will understand the potential that this Group brings and how Scouting is really making a difference to the young people who are involved.

Anthony Hitchings, Chairman

## 2 Treasurer's Report

The following provides an extract of the accounts (presently unaudited).

Whilst the Group's on-going running costs are being met, significant fundraising efforts will be required to move the proposal for the construction of a new headquarters forward. If you have any ideas for fundraising events, knowledge of grant applications or charitable giving schemes then please do contact a member of the Group Executive Committee.

Accounts prepared by Chris Arnold, Treasurer

<b>Receipts and payments</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2014/15</b> £	<b>2015/16</b> £
<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	2,221	2,162
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	(1,258 )	(1,657 )
Net membership subscriptions retained	962	505
Donations	316	115
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Fundraising (gross)</b>		
Jumble Sale November	1,414	1,783
Boot Fair / Fundraiser	61	215
Other		27
Jumble Sale March	1,400	1,471
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>3,496</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Bank interest	6	
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	54	59
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Total Receipts for the year</b>	<b>4,213</b>	<b>4,175</b>

<b>Payments</b>	<b>2014/15 £</b>	<b>2015/16 £</b>
<b>Charitable Payments</b>		
Youth programme and activities	616	690
Water and Sewerage	33	46
Electricity and Gas	401	427
Insurance	731	778
Contribution to camp costs	404	404
Uniforms	253	125
Donation	35	35
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>2,505</b>
<b>Fundraising expenses</b>		
Jumble Sale	144	146
Boot Fair / Fundraiser		139
Jumble Sale 2	291	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>Total Payments for the year</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>2,790</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,385</b>

### Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	<b>31st March 2015 £</b>	<b>31st March 2016 £</b>
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank current account	6,498	3,386
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	10,500	15,000
Cash/Floats	204	414
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>17,202</b>	<b>18,800</b>

### 3 Group Scout Leader's Report

So, my first GSL report. Eek! I'm going to work on the premise that if I make a hash of it, at least things can get better... As I only took on this role at Easter, I am not able to talk too much about the Group's prior activities and achievements so please take the time to read the Section reports that follow to enjoy the fun they've had.

If you are wondering who I am and where I have come from I moved to the village from Bromley a little over two years ago and hearing that the Group had recently hit difficulties I offered to try and help ensure that there remains a Scout Group in Kemsing when my sons – aged just 5 and just 2 – reach Beaver age and beyond. I have been involved in Scouting ever since I joined as a Cub and have previously been a Beaver Scout Leader, Scout Leader and most recently a District Scout.

Just four weeks after making some initial enquiries about the Group, I found myself back in uniform (with shiny new badges hastily sewn on the night before) gathering with the rest of the District for the St George's Day Parade and Service. During the service, a selection of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts delivered a presentation on the theme of 'celebration' – reminding us all of the things we should be happy about, such as 30 years of Beavers, 100 years of Cubs and chocolate!

St George's Day is arguably the most important in Scout's calendar as it is the time that all members – youth and adults alike – renew their Promise and reflect on what it means to be a Scout. The dedication shown to this Promise by three of our adult supporters was recognised during the service as Ann and Ash were each presented with the *Award for Merit*, and Chris Arnold was awarded the *Chief Scout's Commendation*.

Looking to the future, in Section 7 of this report, you can see the details of the Vision for Kemsing Scouts that the Section Leaders and I have discussed to plan for and measure development of the Group over the next three (and a bit) years. This development is not just about growing in numbers, but also improving the opportunities our young people are offered, recognising their achievements, strengthening our Group identity and building links with the wider community. To make all these aspects a reality, the Group needs a sound foundation from which to operate; by which I mean a suitable place to meet, stable finances and a cohesive network of adult supporters, both uniformed and not.

We are all, I am sure, aware of the plight of the current hut and that in its present condition it is teetering on being unsuitable as a meeting place. Similarly, we share in the disappointment that the plans for the North Downs Scout Centre now seem out of our reach in terms of finances and time, especially given the hard work that went into it. We have accepted that a more conservative approach is the best way forward for the Group and are looking at replacing on the current site with a building of similar proportions, which should be more achievable in terms of cost and time.

Section 8 provides more information on our ideas so far. We anticipate that the new hut will cost approximately £150,000 so please check down the back of your sofas in case there's anything down there that can help! Alternatively, fundraising ideas and offers of support would be just as welcome – perhaps your employer has a fund matching scheme that could be exploited?

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sevenoaks (Kemsing) Scout Group was registered on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1957, so 2017 will be a landmark year for us as we reach and surpass our 60th 'diamond' year anniversary. This provides us with a fantastic opportunity to celebrate Kemsing Scouting: what we have achieved in the past; what we do now; and how we want to shape the future. There will be lots of events and activities to get involved but two things I am keen to achieve are 60+ youth members by July 2017 and to be meeting in a new hut by Christmas 2017. Ambitious? Maybe. Achievable? Definitely.

For the Group, the Sections and our members – young and old(er) – to achieve their potential within Scouting requires a great deal of support. Our uniformed Leaders, Assistants and Helpers are at the front line of Scouting delivering the programme to our young members in fun and engaging way. Behind the scenes is the Group Executive Committee, in place to help with administrative functions such as looking after the Group's finances and helping with communications. Additional support is always welcomed and we can find a role to suit anyone according to their skills, knowledge and the time they can commit. We desperately need someone to join the Cub team and eventually take the lead in this Section. For the new hut to move forward, we need professional advice for the construction and planning process. If you or someone you know might be able to help out then please do come forward.

We all, particularly our young members, must recognise and appreciate the time and effort our Section Leaders, Assistants, Helpers put in to ensure an exciting weekly programme of activities and events is offered, as well as coordinating attendance on the bigger District and County events. In particular, I would like to thank Karen for the support she has given to Ann and the Cubs over the past couple of terms on top of that she already gives to her own Cub Pack at the 4<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the Group I would like to thank District Commissioner Lesley Rutter and her two Deputies Caroline O'Mahoney and John Talbot for their support and advice through a difficult few months. Also to Mike Schwartz and Bertie Downland for their helpful advice in considering the replacement of the hut, whilst I am personally grateful for the messages of support received from others around the District.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents and friends of the 6<sup>th</sup> whose continued support is invaluable and much appreciated. The next few years will see a lot of changes within our Group and I look forward to seeing these develop alongside you and celebrating the many successes to come.

Yours in Scouting, P'Nut, Group Scout Leader

## 4 Beaver Colony Report



Over the last year our average membership has been 19, and currently stands at 20 boys and one girl. There's a healthy waiting list of those approaching 6yrs. of age, starting this Autumn to as far as 2019. Subscriptions have remained at £20 three times a year.

Over the winter, from November to March, we took advantage of an offer from Otford Scout Group to use their Hut for our meetings. It proved very useful and we were able to continue meeting on the usual evening. We have also met twice at Kemsing Library.

Twice a year the Beavers meet at the Cotmans Ash Nature Reserve. Here they can explore the woodlands, have a fire and toast marshmallows. At our regular meetings we practise simple Scouting skills e.g. compass work, tracking, knots and map co-ordinates. Other meetings are specifically planned to gain badges e.g. Space badge, while some are just for fun!

We have taken part in all the Sevenoaks District Beaver events during 2015/16, starting with nine Beavers attending an overnight camp at Ide Hill Scout Hut. This year we joined the Beaver Birthday Hike and Campfire in Knole Park, and we took ten Beavers on the coach to Gilwell Park Scout Headquarters for a Funday. We also attended the St. George's Day parade and service, and the Kemsing Remembrance Day Parade. Next term we intend going to the District Beaver Sleepover in September and a County Day in October.

I would like to thank Chris for her loyal help and efficiency each week, also the parents who volunteer at the weekly meetings or at special events. Thanks too to all the families for their support and encouragement this year which is really appreciated by myself and the Beavers.

Caroline Copleston, Beaver Scout Leader

## 5 Cub Pack Report



This year has seen the Pack grow from eight back in September to 12 by the time the summer term began. We have seen one Cub move up to join the Scouts ☺ and one, unfortunately, having to put their Scouting on hold due to other commitments ☹

We started the year with some 'back-to-basics' including; a recap on ceremonies like Grand Howl and Flag break; writing ideas for a code of conduct; learning some fundamental knots; and taking part in air rifle shooting. As part of the 'Our World' Challenge Badge, we had evenings themed on the *Day of the Dead* and *Diwali* as well as a tour round St Mary's Church. Volunteers from St John Ambulance ran sessions in Emergency Aid and four Stage 1 badges were awarded. We are grateful to Richard Everest for helping eight Cubs gain the Disability Awareness badge.

At Christmas, we made decorations, had a party and attended the pantomime Peter Pan at The Stag Theatre (oh no you didn't!). Once that was behind us, we explored our bodies, exercise and how we can eat healthily. We learned about bike maintenance and safety with eleven pedalling on to achieve the Cyclist badge. Inspired by Tim Peake, we have learned about his mission and the International Space Station, as well as making star charts. Other sciency stuff has included growing crystals, investigating the effect of coins in vinegar and making balloon rockets: six Scientist Badges have been achieved. We have spent a few nights in the summer term practicing our navigational skills, using tracking signs, compasses, treasure maps and codes. Next we will learn how to find the laundry basket at home so we can put our dirty clothes in it when we come back from Cubs!

We have taken part in a number District events, including: the Pinewood Rally (well done William McCully who took 2nd place in the standard cars!); seven Cubs turned out looking smart for the St. George's Day Parade with some involved in our 'Celebrations' presentation during the service; eight attended the Cubs 100 years Birthday Activity Days at Downe campsite where they took part in Abseiling, Archery, Crate Stacking and Pedal Cars; and most recently, nine cubs took part in the District Olympics...and WON!

The year's not over yet though! Still to come, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July at Mill Lane, we will be covering Emergency Aid, Stages 1 and 2 so get ready for us to practice our bandaging when we get home! We will also be completing our Athlete badge at St Michael's School on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

I am very grateful for the help given to the Cubs by our Young Leader, Rhys who bring much energy (and a loud voice!) to the Pack; Karen who has been 'on loan' to us from the 4<sup>th</sup> since Easter; and all the parents who have volunteered their time on nights and at events through the year.

Ann Bishop, Assistant Cub Scout Leader

## 6 Scout Troop Report



The last year has been a bit hard hitting on Kemsing Scout Troop with dwindling numbers of Scouts and Leaders. Now down to eight Scouts on the books and an average of five each week. However as always like the Scout I have been bought up to be and the way I teach my troop to be, no matter how many (or few) Scouts we have, we always strive to have fun in an adventurous learning environment.

A few highlights of what we have done this term include Will's investiture a top of the Downs overlooking Kemsing and beyond, we also learnt about fires: their uses; the three elements; fire safety; how to light a fire successfully; and, most importantly, how to cook a really tasty sausage. We have also started learning map work in the hope of a late night hike next term.

We are looking forward to the rest of this term with plenty to still do such as, pioneering, a hike through the hills and most importantly seeing how high we can fire a live rocket! Followed by being able to see its fantastic fall back to earth with the on-board camera. See! Who needs a Drone anyway!

My main focus moving on from where we are now is to get the numbers of Scouts up. Hopefully our presence at the school's Village Fete – regardless of how damp we were! – will pay off with a few more interested in trying Scouting out. I am also looking into the possibility of going to an assembly or two at the school to keep the contact up. I will be visiting the Cub Pack at Seal, accompanied by two of our Scouts, to introduce ourselves and what we do at Kemsing to help their transition when they become old enough to join Scouts. But I can't do it all by myself – I need your help; please talk to local friends and family and make sure people know that we exist and that we have plenty of space for new Scouts. This time next year I would like to be reporting that numbers have at least reached double figures regularly, and personally would love to be saying that there are 16!!!

Lastly I would like to thank Richard for his continued help and support, many of you may not know but Richard once upon a time was one of my Scout Leaders. He has helped me progress to where I am now and continues to do so with all Scouts walking through the hut door. I would like to thank Rhys for dropping his time off to run down and help me out when I need it. And finally I would like to thank my Scouts and their Parents as without you none of this would be possible.

Elliot Arnold, Scout Leader

## 7 Vision for Kemsing Scouts

### Our aim

*The provision of active Scouting for the young people of Kemsing in a safe and sustainable environment.*

### The Scout Association's *Vision 2018*

Back in 2014, The Scout Association published *Scouting For All: Our 2014-18 Strategy*, which provided a Vision for Scouting in 2018:

- Scouting in 2018 will make a positive impact in our communities; prepare young people to be active citizens; embrace and contribute to social change.
- Scouting in 2018 will be shaped by young people in partnership with adults; enjoyed by more young people and adult volunteers; as diverse as the communities in which we live.
- Members of Scouting in 2018 will feel empowered, valued and proud.

It also set out a framework for Scout Groups across the country to work to under the key areas of *Growth, Inclusivity, Youth Shaped* and *Community Impact*.

### Three (and a bit) Year Plan

As Kemsing Scouts is embarking on a period of resurgence part way through the timescale of the Scout Association, it would be unrealistic for us to expect to see significant changes by 2018. With this in mind, so we have developed a Three (and a bit) Year Plan to take us through to the end of July 2019. We have set ourselves targets that encompass aspects of Vision 2018 and the key areas of the strategy that can be summarised as:

- Increase youth membership.
- Increase number of girls.
- Increase adult support.
- Increase number of Nights Away opportunities.
- Increase percentage of youth members achieving Chief Scout's Awards.
- Put in place means for long-term sustainability.
- Promote Kemsing Scouting.

These can be seen in more detail below.

## Youth membership

- Retention within and between sections.
- More diverse youth membership.

	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019
Beavers	24	30	36
Cubs	24	30	36
Scouts	16	20	24
Girls per section	2+	3+	4+

## Adult support

- Increase uniformed Leaders so that each section has, as a minimum:
  - *Beaver/Cub* Scout Leader.
  - Assistant *Beaver/Cub* Scout Leader.
  - Two Sectional Assistants.
- Increase membership of the Group Executive Committee.
- Formalise the Group's Scout Active Support Unit.

## Nights Away opportunities

- Provide more opportunities each year for this integral part of Scouting.

	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019
Beavers	1	3	5
Cubs	5	7	9
Scouts	7	9	11

## Chief Scout's Awards

- Increase percentage of youth members achieving the Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout's Awards.

	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019
Achievement	30%	50%	60%

## Long-term sustainability

- Suitable premises.
  - Complete the rebuilding of the hut in 2017 – our Diamond Anniversary.
  - Put in place processes to maintain it.
- Financial stability.
  - Ensure the Group's ongoing running costs are stable.
  - Establish a Capital Projects fund for future developments.

## Promote Kemsing Scouting

- Ensure that we host events that welcome members of our community to attend.
- Publicise our activities and achievements across a variety of media platforms.
- Undertake activities that benefit our wider community.
- Engage in the majority of District events, maybe even win a few!

## **8 New HQ**

### **The present**

The hut is more than 40 years old and its condition is becoming increasingly worse. One of the most significant aspects of the buildings failure is the problem of damp. The parquet flooring is saturated in places to the point of lifting and mould has appeared.

The increasingly dilapidated condition of the Group's meeting place is also a very real concern to parents and during the winter months the younger sections have been forced to use alternative facilities away from the village.

A Volunteer Day is scheduled in July 2016 to help with some hut maintenance to keep the meeting place in a useable condition until our plans for a new hut is realised.

### **The way forward**

The Executive Committee has accepted that the best way forward is to scale back the previous North Downs Scout Centre project to one that is more achievable, supports the needs of our local Scouting community, and enhances the character and appearance of the Common Field Recreation Ground.

Seeking more readily achievable alternatives, we identified a model solution at the home of the 16th Sevenoaks (Ide Hill) Scout Group, whose hut was opened in 2010. The visit held in February 2016 has helped shape our current draft building plans.

The drawing provided below is the latest – and hopefully final – outline version before appointing an architect and engaging with builders to submit quotes. Do you have any contacts for architects, builders, construction project managers or other potential contacts in support of this stage of the process?

### **Planning Permission and funding**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June the Chair and Deputy Chair attended the Kemsing Parish Council meeting and provided an overview of our intentions. We were pleased that they were very supportive of our proposals. Once drawings are available, we can start the Planning Permission application process in earnest.

While we have been finessing the outline designs we have been identifying potential funding grants available to local community groups such as ours. One application we submitted was, unfortunately, not successful. Clearly there is a great deal of work and fundraising ahead to achieve our ambitious target of 2017, our 60th 'Diamond' Anniversary year.

Matt Henning, Deputy Chairman

Proposed New HQ Plan as at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016



## 9 Fundraising and Events

The Group is ever grateful to all the support given to organising, delivering and attending the event that have taken place over the course of the past year. These have included:

- Jumble Sales in November and March (the latter raised approximately £1500).
- Quiz Night in April (raising £800, which was boosted by £500 match funding from a parent's employer).
- The Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic in June (organised by the Kemsing Heritage Association).
- Stalls at the Kemsing Primary School Village Fete in June (organised by the Friends of Kemsing School).

These events would not have been so successful if it wasn't for the dedication and tenacity of our Fundraising and Events Team: Sarah Forrett, Tara Anderson and Fiona Thompson. They're not done yet though. In the pipeline are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016                      Group Social and AGM at the Hut.
- 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016                      Volunteer Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016                      Race Night at Kemsing Primary School.
- More Jumble Sales!
- More Group Socials!

We need to raise a lot of money to replace the hut. If you have any ideas how we might be able to achieve this, we'd love to hear from you. Perhaps you work somewhere that offers match funding or charitable donations. Maybe you're doing a sponsored event and would like the money raised to go to the Group.

Please do continue to support the events we plan and come forwards with your ideas.

## 10 Group Structure and Contacts

### Group Executive Committee

**Chairman** Anthony Hitchings 01959 525212

**Deputy Chairman** Matt Henning 01732 760779

**Secretary** Chris Thompson 01732 762249

**Treasurer** Chris Arnold 01732 762774

**Elected Members** Tara Anderson (Fundraising and Events), Richard Anstead (Communications), Sarah Forret (Fundraising and Events), Fiona Thompson (Fundraising and Events), Chris Thornburn (Quartermaster).

**Co-opted Members** Bertie Downard, Mike Shwarz

**Group Scout Leader** P'Nut 'Stuart' Holden 01959 928963

### Sections

#### Beavers

Beaver Scout Leader Caroline Copleston 01732 761325

Sectional Assistant Chris Thompson 01732 762249

#### Cubs

Cub Scout Leader VACANCY

Ass't Cub Scout Leader Ann Bishop 01732 761077

Ass't Cub Scout Leader Karen ('on loan' from the 4<sup>th</sup> Sevenoaks)

Young Leader Rhys Arnold -

#### Scouts

Scout Leader Elliot Arnold 01732 762774

Ass't Scout Leader Richard Rathbone 01732 522731

### Vacancies

Cub Scout Leader – to take the Cub section forwards.

Group Membership Secretary – to help administrate the young people's records.

Site Manager – to help coordinate the work that needs to be done on the hut.