



Scouts
19th Whitley Bay
(Earsdon)

Annual Report & Accounts

1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

Group Leaders & Officials

Group Lead Volunteer	Dave Hunter- 07588705500
Group Chair	Ross Teeley- 07824390648
Group Secretary	TBA
Group Treasurer	Susan Yarde- 07794066669
Group Trustee Board	Heather Hunter, Angela Smyth, Stephanie Gott, Richard Cole, Martin McGuinness
Beaver Scout Leader	Liz Clark- 07905088238
Assistant Beaver Leaders	Karen Smith- 07766057790
Beaver Scout Asst	Ashleigh Cain- 07940503939
Cub Scout Leader	Alex Ridley- 07706684709
Assistant Cub Leader	Barry Swindle- 07881367616
Cub Assistants	James Jeffs, Warren Hunter
Scout Leader	Will McDonald- 07400474922
Assistant Scout Leader	Dave Sproat- 07793109459

Group Trustee Chair Report

Four years in, time flies when you're having fun! I can honestly hardly believe I've been involved this long. It only seems like six months ago that Dave Hunter, our Lead Volunteer, asked if I would like to get involved with the Trustee Board, which quickly transitioned into the role of Trustee Chair.

This nicely leads me to publicly thank the two new volunteers who have joined the Trustee Board this year, Richard Cole and Martin McGuiness. As I say at every AGM and group event, we would warmly welcome additional volunteers to support fundraising, weekly activities, or the Trustee Board, as any level of help makes a real difference.



I may be a little biased, but the 19th Group has some of the best leaders in the District. Alex and Will both hold Lead Cub and Scout roles respectively, while Elliot is the District Adventurous Activities and Explorer Team Leader, and Dave Eardley is the Hillwalking Lead. Liz is also well known for making the best camp hot chocolate in the District!

Every year, when I reflect on the last 12 months, my first thought always goes to the amount of time and effort our volunteers give to ensure our young people have opportunities to learn, try new things, and have fun in the process. This thanks goes to everyone behind the scenes, from those making sure expenses and bills are paid on time, to those who turn up week after week to deliver activities, and those spending late nights planning camps and events.



I can't mention everyone individually, but on behalf of the entire Trustee Board, I would like to thank all our volunteers for making the 19th what it is, a fantastic Scout Group. I am pleased to present this report, with the subsequent section reports highlighting the achievements and activities of our Scout Group over the past year.

Achievements & Highlights

Membership Growth

Our group membership remains strong, with waiting lists across each section. We have seen good uptake through our new website, although nothing beats recommendations through word of mouth, thank you for spreading the word!

Skills Development

Our Scouts earned numerous badges and awards, demonstrating their commitment to learning and personal growth. During the 2025/26 year, more than 330 badges were awarded, clearly showing how active and engaged our young people are week to week.

Community Service

Our Scouts have been actively involved in community events throughout the year, including the Remembrance Parade. We are also exploring further ways to support and benefit our local community.

Camping & Activities

Following successful grant applications and our infamous Pig Night, we have continued to improve and update our equipment while also subsidising various activities. Dave Eardley, aka *Fellmandave* on YouTube, continues to support the group through generous donations via his YouTube channel and outdoor connections.

The group remains financially secure, with budgets in place that allow us to focus on delivering an impressive programme with reliable equipment and resources.

However, we remain heavily reliant on Gift Aid contributions and fundraising activities. If you work for a company looking to support a local charity, we would be more than happy to speak with you.

Detailed financial statements will be presented by our Treasurer later in the meeting.

We have exciting plans for the coming year, including a range of activities, a Group Family Camp for the Beavers, and the District Camp. If you have suggestions, or would like to help deliver events or activities, please let us know.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all leaders, helpers, trustees, and parents for their dedication and hard work. Without their efforts, our Scouts would not have the opportunities they enjoy today.

I am delighted to be part of the group and to see the effort our volunteers put in week after week, creating fantastic memories and valuable life skills for all our young people.

Ross Teeley

19th Whitley Bay Group Trustee Chair

Group Lead Volunteers Annual Report

Another year has passed and as a group the 19th Whitley Bay (Earsdon) continues to thrive. Our numbers are continuing to grow and our waiting list into Beavers is also growing. This is very positive for our group, clearly showing that parents would prefer their kids to be part of the 19th rather than other groups in the district.

That also shows what an amazing team of volunteers we have here, a team who are prepared to give up their spare time for the good of the kids in our area. I am so proud to lead this group and thank everyone who continues to do their role week in, week out. This group would be nothing without their hard work, determination and commitment... so from me a huge **Thank You**.

As I mention every year the work of our volunteers is so important to the success of

our group and there are times when some simply aren't available to attend one of the meetings due to other commitments. Put as simple as possible, we need more volunteers to help us across all 3 groups. The last thing we want to do is cancel a meeting because we haven't the leaders to run the night, but this does happen from time to time.

As a parent we would love to have you on board, even if you can't make every meeting, you would help us to guarantee the meetings will go ahead. If you are interested then please ask myself or one of the leaders who will answer any questions you may have.

As always there have been plenty of activities taken place in the past 12 months but I will leave our Leaders to go through those with you.

As a final remark, I would also like to thank the members of the Trustee Board who help keep the 19th safe and legal, a very important role that often gets overlooked.

Thank you all for attending and here's to another 12 months of fun and excitement!

Dave Hunter

19th Whitley Bay Group Lead Volunteer

Beavers Annual Report

Where do I start?

This has been another busy and exciting year for the Beavers. We have welcomed many new members to the Colony and also had a number of Beavers move up to the Cub section. Between them, the Beavers have gained a total of 330 badges, which I think may be a record! 5 of these were Chief Scout Bronze, which is the highest award a Beaver can achieve.



As ever, activities have been varied throughout the year. We visited the RNLI station at Cullercoats in October, where we learned about water safety and lifeboats. The Beavers listened carefully and asked very pertinent questions. The most important being what to do if you were floating to stay alive and a shark came up underneath you, and whether the dry suits protected you from the fish.

We enjoyed making rafts and getting them to float, visited the pantomime, learned to cook, completed disability awareness activities, completed lego challenges and even learned how to sew!



In the summer term, we always take the opportunity to have outdoor activities. So far, we have made sand sculptures, dug for treasure, investigated rockpools and put up tents. The ultimate was probably lighting fires and then cooking marshmallows and damper bread. There were quite a few sticky faces after this one!



It might be nearly the end of the school year, but that doesn't stop us. We have a Sleepover planned at Beamish in a few weeks and we would love to see as many of you as possible at family camp at the end of August (watch out for more details very soon).

Without the Beaver leadership team, none of this would be possible and I would like to say thank you for all their help each week: Karen and Warren (Leaders), Shay, Sam and Will, our Young Leaders, Sarah, Julie and Martin (parent helper) and all the other parents who have given their time to help when we needed it.

Any help that you can give is more than welcome and is much appreciated - whether helping on a Friday night, coming out with us in a visit, teaching a skill, helping with admin, or joining the Trustee Board.

Liz Clark

19th Whitley Bay Beaver Scout Team Lead

What a year it's been for our Cub section!

It's been absolutely jam-packed with all sorts of brilliant opportunities – all thanks to our amazing team of adult and young leaders who give up some of their precious free time for the young people. We've seen huge growth in the Cub section with a waiting list now in place for the first time in many years, so we must be doing something right!

The flip side? We're now at full capacity, and to keep offering these brilliant experiences (and ideally to even offer them to more young people), we really need more volunteers. Whether you can help on a Friday night, fancy sharing a hobby or skill, or have access to cool resources through work – every bit of help makes a difference and is hugely appreciated by the Cub team.

Massive shoutout to our awesome parent helpers too – you keep things running safely and smoothly even when it's a last-minute request. We couldn't do it without you!

What we've been up to...

We kicked things off with scarecrow hunting, bike ride, TVLB Watch-House visit, air rifle shooting, science experiments, a trip to see Cinderella at the Seaton Delaval Arts Centre, and ended with an action-packed Nerf gun Christmas party again!

In October, we also had a Halloween Sleepover at the Quarry Centre packed with lots of activities from haunted gingerbread house building

to pumpkin carving. It was great to see some of our younger cubs giving their first scouting nights away a try (the first is always the hardest!), camps are essential to learn the skills for life and independence they'll need in the future.



Rolling into 2026...

We kicked off the new year indoors (too cold outside!) with sessions on money skills, paracord (thanks to Karen Smith!), life skills, pancake making, Dragons Den – Crisp Edition (flavours not quite battling with Walkers), first aid, climbing and indoor curling.

Cubs Annual Report

We also had a brilliant **Steel Valley Survival Mission** residential camp alongside the 20th Whitley Bay Cub section. We headed to Whittonstall in Consett where they worked in teams to tackle challenges. The Cubs learnt how to build shelters, solve problems under pressure, and look after themselves and others - all in a safe, fun environment. The Cubs also got to make their own pizzas, cooked in the Explorer Unit's Pizza Ovens kindly borrowed. Huge thanks must go to Barry, Warren, James M & Noah who all had to be my legs for the weekend after deciding

to fall off a climbing wall earlier in the week, without them and 20th leader James the camp would have sadly been cancelled!

Some of our cubs also attend the district's Cub Sports Fun Day at Hadrian Leisure Centre, where cubs had the chance to try five different sports: Football, Basketball, Climbing, Pickleball and Badminton. It was brilliant to see everyone getting involved and giving each sport a go – even when it wasn't their favourite.

And now... the great outdoors!

As we head towards the end of the summer term, we've been making the most of the sunshine (when it shows up). We've had a nature spotting hike, cooked a meal on Trangias, bike ride, grass sledging, fire lighting and had a tennis taster at Beverley Park.

We look forward to finishing the term with an exciting sleepover at Beamish Museum alongside the Beaver section and the rest of our meeting nights with games, beach nights and a Sailing/Kayaking Day lined up.

Huge thanks as always to the **Whitley Bay & District Activities Team** – they go above and beyond learning new adventurous skills outside of group roles allowing them to run amazing sessions for hundreds of young people in our district. We've done climbing, archery, air-rifle shooting, plus about to do sailing and kayaking – some more than once!

Finally, a big thank you to our Group Lead Volunteer, Chair, Treasurer and Trustees for all their behind-the-scenes work. You lot are amazing

Alex Ridley (Akela)

19th Whitley Bay Cub Scout Team Lead

Scouts Annual Report

It has been another fantastic year for the Scout Troop as we continue to provide a varied and exciting programme, helping our young people develop #SkillsForLife. Our #YouShaped programme remains at the heart of what we do, ensuring that activities are influenced by the ideas and suggestions of the Scouts themselves, helping to create a programme that is both engaging and relevant to their interests.

Following the summer break, Scouts returned to a busy autumn and winter programme packed with opportunities to learn new skills and challenge themselves. Activities included campfire cooking, first aid, navigation, pioneering, and a range of team building challenges designed to develop confidence, communication and leadership skills. We also spent time outdoors making the most of the local area through hikes and practical Scouting activities. To celebrate the end of the year, Scouts enjoyed a Nerf Party at John Spence Community High School, which proved to be a brilliant evening of fun and friendly competition.



We began 2026 by taking part in the District Raft Race at Tynemouth Pool, where Scouts worked together to compete against teams from across the district in a fantastic evening of friendly competition. The event was a great opportunity to demonstrate teamwork, communication and determination while enjoying time on the water.

In March, Scouts attended an Adventure Camp at Whittonstall. The weekend provided plenty of opportunities to experience the outdoors, develop new skills and challenge themselves. Throughout the camp, Scouts

took part in a variety of activities including bushcraft sessions, learning practical outdoor skills, and building catapults, which tested both their creativity and teamwork. The camp was a great success and provided many lasting memories for everyone involved.

Building on the momentum from our earlier adventures, we have enjoyed another action packed summer term programme. Scouts have taken part in incident hike activities, wide games, backwoods cooking and a variety of outdoor skills sessions. We have also represented the Troop at several district

orienteering events, giving Scouts the opportunity to put their navigation skills into practice whilst meeting other groups from across the district. These activities have helped to build confidence, teamwork and resilience while ensuring plenty of fun along the way.

Looking ahead to the remainder of the summer, we are excited to be taking part in a Sailing and Kayaking Day at the end of July, organised by the fantastic Whitley Bay District Activities Team.

This promises to be a fantastic opportunity for Scouts to develop new water based skills and challenge themselves in a different environment. We are also looking forward to our surf lesson at the end of term, which is always a popular activity and a great way to finish the Scouting year.

As we look ahead, we are excited for another year of adventure and opportunity, including District Camp in September, which is always a highlight of the Scouting calendar and something our Scouts are already looking forward to.

I am extremely grateful for the support we have received over the past year, and I would like to say a personal thank you to my Scout Team, Dave, Elliot, Barry, our Young Leaders and Occasional Helpers, for their continued support, dedication and the many volunteer hours they give to support our young people. I would also like to thank the Trustee Board for their ongoing support behind the scenes, which enables us to continue delivering such a varied and exciting programme.

Will McDonald

19th Whitley Bay Scout Team Lead

Treasurers Reports

19th Whitley Bay Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31st March 2026

	<u>2026</u>		<u>2025</u>
	£		£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Subscriptions	9797.50		9615.50
Camps and Activities	4245.16		10361.21
Fundraising	1431.75		100.87
Donations	1000.00		-
Easy Fundraising	133.55		-
Growth Initiative Scheme Payment	70.00		-
Sale of Polo Shirts/Hoodies etc	-		160.50
Equipment Grant	-		570.00
Gift Aid (2025 2 years)	<u>1980.17</u>	<u>18658.13</u>	<u>2884.16</u> 23692.24
<u>Payments</u>			
Capitation Fees	4743.75		4243.50
Rent	2535.00		2474.00
Polo Shirts / Hoodies etc	-		274.93
Camps and Activities	4345.78		11009.04
Badges, Neckerchiefs and Uniforms	1015.25		417.50
Insurance	306.44		241.96
Equipment Repairs and Renewals	423.96		2268.25
Beaver Expenses	406.17		94.19
Cub Expenses	155.40		199.98
Scout Expenses	199.29		206.99
Software and Printing	129.00		186.79
Fundraising Expenses	661.12		-
Bank / Go Cardless Fees	524.96		633.43
RBL Poppy Wreath	20.00		25.00
Gift	-	<u>15466.12</u>	<u>40.09</u> 22315.65
Surplus for the Year	£ <u><u>3192.01</u></u>		£ <u><u>1376.59</u></u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2026

	<u>2026</u>		<u>2025</u>
Cash Funds	6479.27		3144.47
Debtors	2050.17		1759.08
Liabilities	<u>-812.05</u>		<u>-378.17</u>
	£ <u><u>7717.39</u></u>		£ <u><u>4525.38</u></u>
Opening Funds	4525.38		3148.79
Surplus for the Year	<u>3192.01</u>		<u>1376.59</u>
	£ <u><u>7717.39</u></u>		£ <u><u>4525.38</u></u>

19th Whitley Bay Scout Group

Fundraising analysis Year ended 31st March 2026

<u>Events</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
AGM - June 2025	744.29	263.15
AGM Pig Racing - February 2026	687.46	397.97
	£ 1431.75	£ 661.12

Other Fundraising

Easy Fundraising	£ 133.55

Donations

The ASDA Foundation	500.00
Cyclife UK Ltd	500.00
	£ 1000.00



Scouts

**19th Whitley Bay
(Earsdon)**