

WHAT A YEAR

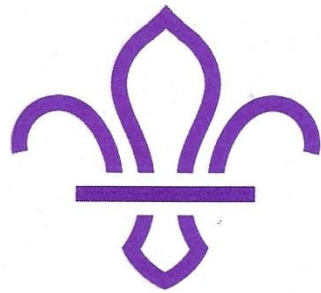
WE'VE HAD !



**ANNUAL REPORT AND
ACCOUNTS FOR**

1ST APRIL 2024 TO

31ST MARCH 2025



Scouts

**19th Whitley Bay
(Earsdon)**

Group Leaders and Officials

Group Lead Volunteer	Dave Hunter	07588705500
Group Chair	Ross Teeley	07824390648
Group Secretary	TBA	
Group Treasurer	Susan Yarde	07794066669
Group Executive	Heather Hunter	
	Angela Smyth	
	Stephanie Gott	
	Patricia Baldewick	
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	David Eardley	
	James Jeffs	
	Warren Hunter	
Scout Leader	Will McDonald	07400474922
Assistant Scout Leader	Dave Sproat	07793109459



Group Trustee Chair Report

This is now my third time as Group Chair at the AGM, some would say third time lucky! Over this time the group has gone from strength to strength, getting back on keel after the dreaded COVID years. We have invested heavily with some kind donations, replacing some aging kit, and improving our storage area at Eccles Hall..

I am pleased to present this report, highlighting the achievements and activities of our scout group over the past year.

Achievements and Highlights:

- **Membership Growth:** Our group's membership remains strong, with growing interest from new potential members. We're pleased to report we now have a waiting list for our Beaver section, that generally feeds the wider section membership. We have seen good uptake from through our new website.
www.19thwhitleyscouts.org.uk
- **Community Service:** Our scouts have been actively involved in various community services throughout the year, such as the remembrance parade. We are looking at other ways or projects to benefit and support our local community.
- **Camping and Outdoor Activities:** On the back of the previous years' camping equipment investment, we have received some generous donations through our own David Eardly, aka [Fellmandave - YouTube](#). Through his youtube channel and outdoor connections he has made some valuable, and expensive, contributions for the group. Please check out his channel some great content. Thanks Fellman!
- **Skill Development:** Our scouts earned numerous badges and awards, demonstrating their commitment to learning and personal growth. Over the 24/25 financial year the following were achieved
 - Beavers presented with 68 badges

- Cubs presented with 98 badges
- Scouts presented with 140 badges
- Special mention to Alex Ridley, Cub Section Team Leader who attained his Gold DofE award
- **Digital Presence:** We launched our own 19th Whitley Bay Webpage over a year ago, this has been instrumental in attracting new members to our group.

Financial Overview:

- Last year we made the hard decision to adjust our subscription costs due to rising expenses, including Scout fees and rent. This along with the gift aid contributions and the GoCardless scheme has provided financial security and allows us to budget and plan focusing on delivering an impressive programme with kit that we can rely on
- Gift aid contributions and fundraising activities are crucial for our group's operations. Detailed financial statements will be presented by our Treasurer later in the meeting.

Future Plans:

- We have exciting plans for the coming year, including some great activities, increasing community engagement, and taking on board peoples feedback will try again with a full Group family camp. If you have suggestions for events or activities please let us know.

Acknowledgements:

- A heartfelt thank you to all leaders, helpers, and parents for their dedication and hard work. Without their efforts, our scouts wouldn't have the opportunities they do.
- Couple of special mentions and thanks to Dave Eardly and Elliot Rodgers who, while still being involved in the group have stepped back. Both Alex Ridley (Cubs) and Will McDonald (Scouts) have stepped up to lead each respective section. Well done and thanks to all. Lisa Tait has stepped down as Group Secretary.

Call for Support:

- We need additional support, especially for fundraising, full or part time assistance on weekly nights and planned activities. We are always wanting additional bodies in the Trustee Board.

- Volunteering doesn't require extraordinary skills; any help is appreciated.

Closing Remarks:

- In conclusion, I am proud of our achievements and excited about the future.
- I am delighted to be part of the group, seeing how all our volunteers put in so much effort week to week creating some great memories and skills to boot.
- Let's continue to work together to provide an exciting programme and enriching environment for our scouts. Thank you for your continued support.

Ross Teeley
19th Whitley Bay Group Trustee Chair



Group Lead Volunteers Report

Every year I start by saying how proud I am to be the Group Lead Volunteer here at the 19th Whitley Bay, and this year is no exception.

We have a fantastic group of kids who attend every week and to, put it simply, enjoy themselves, and that is what Scouting is all about. They learn new skills and behaviours that set them up for the rest of their lives. Why would I not be proud of something like that.

The Group is strong on numbers, in fact we now have a growing waiting list to come into Beavers, which is lovely to see, obviously word has got round that the 19th is the place to be. It is great but also slightly frustrating that we have kids who want to be here but we haven't got the helpers to give them the chance they deserve. We are always looking for helpers but unfortunately we don't get many offers, so if you fancy it speak to one of the leaders or myself. Your help really is needed across all sections.

If you don't fancy joining one of the sections, then maybe you would consider joining us on the Trustee Board. We officially meet about 4 times a year to ensure the money that you pay is spent correctly and all the Scout HQ policies are adhered to ensuring the kids you place in our care are looked after and are safe. We are looking for volunteers now, so please speak to myself or Ross to get some details.

You will see that all the Groups in this report are asking for more support. This is because we are a group of volunteers we are not always all available to attend meetings. This puts massive strain on our Leaders and Helpers and in some instances we even have to cancel meetings which as im sure you will agree is not good for the kids and certainly not something we want to do, but safety is our main concern and if we haven't got the numbers and cant guarantee that safety then we must cancel a meeting. Hopefully you

will see how important your support is so please help us when you can and speak to one of the Leaders.

I'm also really pleased to mention the 2 promotions we have had this year. Alex Ridley who was Assistant Cub Leader has now taken the role of Cub Leader and Will McDonald who was our Assistant Scout Leader has now taken on the role of Scout Leader. They have both made a fantastic start and hope you find their reports an interesting read.

I would also like to massively thank the other Leaders, Helpers and Trustee Board Members, who without their commitment and support, there would be no 19th Whitley Bay. I would also like to end my review with a special thanks to Elliot Rogers who stepped down as Scout Leader back in January. Elliot has done so much for the 19th over the years in making our Scout Group the best in the District. Elliot has not left us altogether but just stepped back to allow Will to step up. Thank you Elliot from us all for all your hard work and commitment.

Thank you for supporting us over the last 12 months and we are looking forward to the next 12 months of fun and adventure

Dave Hunter (Group Lead Volunteer)



Beaver Annual Report June 2025

Well, what can we say?

This has been another busy and exciting year for the Beavers, and we have welcomed many new members to the Colony. Without the support of our parent volunteers each week we could not have managed the extra numbers.

*Thank
you!*

Thank you so much to our parent helpers who turn up each week for a calm, quiet...oops busy, lively and fun hour with the beavers.

Between them they have gained a total of 120 badges, been on a sleepover, visited district camp, and attended the Remembrance Sunday service where one of the Beavers laid a cross at the cenotaph. Our visit to the pantomime was legendary. The beavers joined in with gusto, and entertained the audience and performers alike (they were hilarious!).

The theme for the autumn term was our planet and we learned about fairtrade (thank you to Will's Mam coming to talk to us), recycling, saving energy and endangered animals. We also had fun at our sleepover and completed some STEM challenges: building bridges, using cogs and wheels, and making balloon rockets.



Our favourite activity in the Spring term was definitely lighting fires and cooking marshmallows. There were quite a few sticky faces after this one! We continued our STEM theme this term with robot building and spaghetti towers. We also became Emergency Superheroes when we learned some first aid.

The Summer term has been focusing on the completing challenge badges; we have learned knots, tied shoelaces (with varying degrees of success), learned how to roll our neckerchiefs, light candles, how to cross the road safely amongst other things. We also really enjoyed soft archery and playing with the big parachute.

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, and all the parents who have given their time to help.

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

Section Team Leader, Beaver Scouts



Cub Scouts Annual Report 2024-2025

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 volunteers. We've seen huge growth in the Cub section, 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. We couldn't do it without you!

What we've been up to...

We kicked things off with scarecrow hunting, bikes and chips (the dream combo), STEM night, some first aid training, a trip to see *Pinocchio* at the arts centre, and ended with an action-packed Nerf gun Christmas party!

In the autumn, some of our Cubs took part in **Gaduron 24** – the first all-section Whitley Bay & District camp in years! It was an epic weekend where they got stuck into firelighting, air-rifle shooting, archery, climbing, building Rolls-Royce rockets (yes, really), pancake flipping, orienteering and loads more. We even had a silent disco and a big campfire – some Cubs experienced these for the first time, and absolutely loved it.

Massive well done to everyone involved.

Rolling into 2025...

We kicked off the new year indoors (too cold outside!) with sessions on money skills, comic-making, life hacks, pancake making, a sunflower

challenge, a visit from Blyth Wildlife Rescue, and even an intense fitness night to burn off some of those pancakes.

We also had a brilliant **Wild Horizons 25** weekend – this time with the Scouts (and no, they didn't smell *that* bad). We headed to Cheviot View in Northumberland where we tackled decoding, hiking in the Cheviot Hills, campfire skills, outdoor first aid, shelter building, and some knife work.

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 cooked a meal on Trangias, had a tennis taster at Beverley Park, played games in the park and brushed up on our tent pitching.

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, sailing and kayaking – some more than once!

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

Alex Ridley (Akela)





Scouts Annual Report 2024-2025

Since taking over as Scout Team Lead in January, it's been a genuine pleasure to build on the great work Elliot did before me. Scouts have had a fantastic year as they continue to learn #skillsforlife. Our #youshaped programme focuses our activities to the ideas and suggestions from the Scouts.

We kicked off the year in September with District Camp – Gaduron 24, an unforgettable weekend where our Scouts came together for an action-packed programme. Over the course of the camp, they took part in a wide range of exciting activities designed to build essential life skills, foster teamwork, and encourage resilience. It was also a fantastic opportunity for the Scouts to forge new friendships and connect with fellow members from across the district, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Following on from the excitement of District Camp, Scouts embarked on a varied Winter term of activities. The programme offered something for everyone, with thrilling activities such as climbing sessions that challenged their courage and teamwork, and bike rides that took them exploring new routes and enjoying the outdoors. They also got hands-on with practical skills like fish gutting and survival techniques — learning how to stay safe and resourceful in the wild. As the year drew to a close, the Scouts came together to celebrate the festive season with a fun-filled trip to a local pantomime, followed by a high-energy Christmas party at InflateSpace Trampoline Park, where they bounced, laughed, and made brilliant memories to finish the term on a high.

We began the year by taking part in the District Raft Race at Tynemouth Pool, an exciting event that brought together groups from across the district for some friendly competition on the water. Shortly after this, we teamed up with the Cub section for a joint adventure camp at Cheviot View in March. Over the course of the weekend, we embraced the outdoors — hiking through the cheviot hills, building shelters from natural materials, and learning essential outdoor first aid skills. Our evenings were spent around a traditional campfire, where we toasted marshmallows. We also

took part in a knife skills workshop, learning how to safely handle and use knives.

Building on the momentum from our earlier adventures, we had another exciting and action-packed summer term programme lined up. The programme featured a variety of outdoor activities, including backwoods cooking, where we prepared meals using traditional campfire techniques and improvised equipment. We also took part in orienteering sessions, honing our navigation skills as we worked in teams to follow maps and find hidden checkpoints. To round off the programme, we tackled pioneering challenges, constructing impressive structures and obstacles using ropes, poles, and teamwork.

Finally, to round off the year, two of our older Scouts successfully completed their Scout Expedition with the District — marking the final requirement for their prestigious Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest honour a Scout can achieve in their section. This significant accomplishment reflected their dedication, teamwork, and outdoor skills developed over the years. In addition to this, just last weekend, several of our Scouts took part in an exciting Sailing and Kayaking Day, expertly organised by our fantastic Whitley Bay District Activities Team. The Scouts had a brilliant time out on the water, learning new skills, building confidence, and making lasting memories. We are looking forward to our surf lesson at the end of the term as well.

I'm very grateful for the support we have received over the last year, and I would like to say a personal thank you to my Scout Team, Dave, Elliot, Barry, David, the Young Leaders and Occasional Helpers for their continued support, efforts and many volunteering hours they have given up to support our young people. I'd also like to thank the Trustee Board for their support behind the scenes.

Will McDonald

Scout Team Lead



<u>19th Whitley Bay Scout Group</u>					
<u>Receipts and Payments Account</u>					
<u>Year ended 31st March 2025</u>					
			<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>
<u>Receipts</u>			£		£
Subscriptions			9615.50		6318.50
Camps and Activities			10361.21		6560.40
Fundraising			100.87		579.94
Sale of Polo Shirts/Hoodies etc			160.50		5.00
Equipment Grant			570.00	-	
Gift Aid (2 years)			2884.16	23692.24	812.00
					14275.84
<u>Payments</u>					
Capitation Fees			4243.50		3795.00
Rent			2474.00		2800.50
Polo Shirts / Hoodies etc			274.93	-	
Camps and Activities			11009.04		7551.52
Badges and Uniforms			417.50		322.97
Insurance			241.96		302.22
Equipment Repairs and Renewals			2268.25		1190.38
Beaver Expenses			94.19		295.68
Cub Expenses			199.98		63.48
Scout Expenses			206.99		125.94
Software and Printing			186.79		308.88
Website Costs		-			360.00
Fundraising Expenses		-			872.14
Bank / Go Cardless Fees			633.43		47.89
75th Anniversary Expenses		-			360.40
RBL Poppy Wreath			25.00	-	
Gift			40.09	22315.65	-
					18397.00
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year			£ 1376.59		£ -4121.16
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2025</u>					

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash Funds	3144.47	2292.34
Debtors	1759.08	1260.73
Liabilities	-378.17	-404.28
	£ <u>4525.38</u>	£ <u>3148.79</u>
Opening Funds	3148.79	7269.95
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	1376.59	-4121.16
	£ <u>4525.38</u>	£ <u>3148.79</u>

Susan Yarde

Group Treasurer



Scouts

**19th Whitley Bay
(Earsdon)**