

# 1<sup>st</sup> Stoke Gifford Scout Group



## **REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 2010**

### **Group Overview – by Ian Butcher, Executive Committee Chairman**

[www.stokegiffordscouts.co.uk](http://www.stokegiffordscouts.co.uk)

This has been another successful year for the group, with all sections healthy in terms of both numbers and their programmes. As you will be aware, we do however face leadership shortages again – particularly in the School scout troop where the leaders have indicated that they will be standing down this summer. Parent support is still needed in fundraising (there hasn't been enough interest to form the fundraising committee we spoke about at last year's AGM), and in particular to help run the various BBQs which generate a significant part of our income.

Last year's AGM was dominated by discussion of financial matters, as our spending had for several years been more than our income, a situation which was clearly unsustainable. After much debate, we decided to increase subs by more than the normal 'inflation' factor, and introduce a £2 per night camp levy to help fund new equipment. These steps, plus lower than expected spend in some areas, mean that we had a good year financially.

The Group's activities would not be possible without the support of the leaders and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, and also Executive Committee members. I would like to offer the Group's thanks to all.

### **Group Scout Leader's (GSL) Report – Paul Smith**

All of the sections are flourishing and we have been able to offer a place to those on our waiting list within the age groups, with some exceptions. We have regular attendance of 130 young people and 20 Adult Leaders and helpers.

All sections have had a very good year. We doubled the number of badges awarded to our young people and all sections have had varied programs. We continue to set our focus on earning badges, teaching new skills and having fun. We try to camp at least twice a year plus numerous visits and activities, Archery, Rifle shooting, Climbing and others, and have just completed a very successful camp with 70 Scouts, Cubs and adults attending.

Our excellent team of leaders have completed various training courses, compulsory first aid, child protection and other specialist modules. Several have in the past year been awarded "Wood Badges" (Recognition of completion of formal training), Camping permits, and Long service awards for 5, 10, 15 & 20 Years Service to Scouting.

Whilst we've had a great year, we urgently need new leaders to support and run the school scout troop in particular, but many other sections have less acute leadership challenges, or could just use a bit more help. If you could help in any way please contact Paul Smith, the Group Scout Leader, or talk to any of the uniformed leaders.

### **Reports on individual sections**

#### **Scout Troops (Wednesday St Michaels School and the Old School Rooms)**

The Old School Rooms troop has 24 Scouts enjoying an active program, supported by two Leaders and 3 parent helpers. The Scouts have just returned from a joint camp where they learnt about survival skills. They built fires, had lessons on axe Craft and shelter Building - some of the scouts even slept outside in the shelters on Saturday night - braving the cold. At the end of Camp 15 badges were awarded.

The School troop currently has 16 boys and 4 girls. It has 4 well established patrols with the oldest scouts taking the responsibility of patrol leaders and assistants. The Spring term highlights included climbing, a valentines disco, outdoor activities at Woodhouse and playing the 'Trading Game' to explore global issues. We also took advantage of 'election fever', spending an evening campaigning and voting for our own newly created political parties.

This term we look forward to ice-skating, canoeing, and visiting the Portishead Lifeboat. Four scouts successfully took part in a very cold district hike in January and a majority of the scouts attended the joint camp in May.

This is the last term for all of the leaders as we move on to pursue other ventures in scouting or take a break! It was a hard decision for the leaders to make and we thank the group for their support over the last three and a half years. The existing leaders and group will be looking for new leaders to continue the success of the unit.

### Monday Cubs

We currently have 15 members but arrival of a number from Beavers over the next few months will bring us back up to 20 +. We have very recently had a successful camp where the cubs all had a go at archery and built rafts, which we sailed around the pond. During the last year we have written a code of conduct, completed the scientist badge, visited Patchway Fire Station and most of the also completed their creative challenge, for which they had to write poetry, make Chinese Lanterns and creating works of art for the leaders to enjoy. We are all looking forward to the coming term, which the cubs helped to plan. Due to the warmer weather we will be going to Woodhouse, attempting the cyclist badge and the athletics badge.

### Tuesday Cubs

Since the last AGM, we have been running with 20/21 cubs, lower than in previous years due to a steady flow of cubs leaving to scouts, and a temporary lull in beavers coming up, and uncertainty on leader numbers. The section currently has 2 uniformed leaders (1 of whom may go back to Monday cubs from Sept), 1 parent helper (due to go into uniform soon) and 1 or 2 young leaders (depending on their academic work).

Over the year, we have camped twice, once last October and on the weekend just finished. We have visited Portishead Lifeboat, Patchway Fire Station and Woodhouse Park several times. Activity Badges have included "Emergency Aid", "Personal Safety", "Animal Carers", "Scientist" and others. A mainly outdoor theme is planned for this current term (weather permitting) as it feels like we have been inside for far too long over the winter.

### Monday Beavers

Currently running on 35 children; 4 girls and 31 boys, but losing a steady stream from now until Sept with 2 leaving May, 3 June, 1 July and 4 in August. This will include all the girls, but we are keen to bring in more to replace them. Have a great lot of leaders at the moment: Sue, Janet, Selina, Christina, Andy, Carl & Jamie – this looks very generous, but you do need this number running with such a large group !

Have just had a fantastic sleepover at Glenny Wood, with 21 children. The Sun shone, and the children had a great time playing in the grounds, and having a go at archery. The next sleepover will be in December.

The leaders have organised a lot of outdoor activities this term with a couple of trips to Woodhouse and a Tag Rugby night at Almondsbury. A parent has also volunteered to come and speak to the children about gliding.

Explorer Unit (Note: this is formally a District unit, rather than a part of 1<sup>st</sup> Stoke Gifford Scout Group).

Our scout group has a direct link to the 'Solar' Explorer Scout Unit that caters for 14 – 18 year-olds and they meet in the Old School Rooms (OSR). Approx. 36 young people attend regularly and numbers are growing. Last year they attended approx. 14 camps and exercises (hikes) in support of the "Duke of Edinburgh" and "Young Leader" training and award schemes. These Young Leaders help us in all our sections and are great help to our own leaders.

## Treasurer's Report

- The figures below are from the 2009/2010 audited accounts. They show that the group is in a very healthy financial state, enabling us to set aside money to purchase much-needed camp equipment in 2010/2011.
- Rent dropped, due to merger of the Beaver colonies, and spend on activities was down on previous years.
- BBQs weren't as successful as in previous years due to bad weather, and the absence of a Corporate £-for-£ match this year. With luck, we will be more successful this year (2010/2011).
- Fund raising will need to be used more as a means to bring in greater income for the group to ensure that activities and camping equipment are the best for the beavers, cubs & scouts.

### Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	2009/2010	2008/2009	
Receipts	£13651.81	£18989.74	-28%
Payments	£12312.51	£19220.57	-36%
	<b>£1339.30</b>	<b>-£300.83</b>	
Last Years funds	£3785.49	£4086.32	
	£5124.79	£3785.49	+35%
 <u>Monetary assets</u>	 2009/2010	 2008/2009	
Bank account	£2049.23	£2896.11	
Building Society	£3068.50	£882.32	
Cash in Hand	£7.06	£7.06	
	<b>£5124.79</b>	<b>£3785.49</b>	

### Outgoings

	2009/2010	2008/09
<u>Building society</u>		
Tax	:	(£9.30)
Capitation to district	:	(£4544.00)
<u>Bank Account</u>		
Rent	: £3930.00	(£4578.00)
Capitation to district	: £4480.00	(B/Soc above)
Insurance	: £124.69	(£121.91)
Consumables	: £1184.66	(£1667.26)
Activities	: £793.59	(£2850.75)
Explorer scout BBQ money	:	(£1129.00)
Leader training	: £370.00	(£216.00)
Leader's Uniforms	: £69.48	(£210.48)
Manuals/Badges	: £679.21	(£1343.59)
BBQ costs	: £438.00	(£290.22)
New camp fund set up	:	(£199.00)
Gift	: £24.97	(£4.00)
Photocopying	:	(£31.65)
Transfer to Building Society	:	(£2000.00)

### Income

<u>Building Society</u>		
Gift Aid	: £2186.18	(£2212.56)
Interest	:	(£46.50)
Transfer from Bank Account	:	(£2000.00)
<u>Bank Account</u>		
Subscriptions	: £9800.50	(£10294.57)
BBQ profit	: £1040.13	(£1446.97)
Charities cheques	:	(£2044.00)
Camp funds	: £120.00	(£122.00)
Moneys back for activities	: £505.00	(£230.56)
Closure of Scout account	:	(£522.58)