**1st and 7th Frome (Jubilee) Scout Group**

**Annual General Meeting Report 2023**

**Chair’s Report**

It has been an incredible year for 1st and 7th Frome Scouts and I’m so pleased that we are here to celebrate the successes of the past year.

I took over as Chair in the Autumn of 2019. It wasn’t the easiest of starts due to the pandemic and then the realization that we did not have enough leaders to keep the Group running, which was a very sad day.

Fortunately, the Three Counties Development Support Team were appointed to help us recruit new leaders and re-start our group. I am so grateful to the Team, but Hannah especially, who has put so much effort. She has recruited a committed, experienced and enthusiastic leadership team for all sections and supported them whilst they got on their feet.

My role as Chair is to support the Leaders, and hopefully ensure that they have all they need to be able to run the sections, as well as working with the Treasurer, overseeing the finances and the assets of the group.

Fortunately, we are in a sound financial position and have a good amount of camping and activity equipment to use. We have been able to purchase around £350 of camping equipment in the recent weeks. Having Subs paid by direct debit is a huge help to us and ensures we have the funds needed for running the group and paying our yearly capitation fee.

As you will be aware though, our Hut is in need of significant repair, mainly due to it being 50 years old. We have agreed to repair the Hut and make improvements so that is a great resource for us and the community. Before starting, we have had to re-new the lease for the land on which the Hut sits, which is with Somerset Council, and this frustratingly took two years, but is now in place. As well as using a large proportion of our savings, we are starting to apply for grants and have been fortunate to receive £500 in funding this week from the Frome Activities and Sports Trust. We will also need to do some fundraising.

All the leaders, myself, Dave as Treasurer, Warren as Hut Manager, are all volunteers. It takes a lot of work to run a group with a small handful of volunteers and it really is a case of ‘many hands make light work’. We would love to hear from anyone who feels that they would like to get involved in running the Group or being a Leader. We have a number of roles that we would love to fill:

* Secretary – this is a very small role where you would take minutes of our meetings, which only happen 2-3 times a year.
* Hut grounds person – someone who can keep the weeds down until we can implement a longer term plan to manage the outside area.
* Fundraisers

Parental support at section meetings is really appreciated and essential to being able to run the meetings so thank you.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated Leaders and Assistant Leaders who put so much effort and time in to making our Scout group a success and giving your children amazing experience and memories and skills which will last a lifetime. They may look like Superheroes but are in fact, just like you and me!

I hope your children are enjoying their time as either a Beaver, Cub or Scout. Thank you for your support.

**Emma Hardy**

**Chair**

**1st and 7th Frome Scout Section**

As we draw to the end of our first year since re opening, the scout section has a lot to be proud of. The group is now 16 strong and we will be soon welcoming the first members from our cubs section into the fold.

The scouts have had a full programme of Monday night events. They have learnt to sew badges, wash up, iron shirts, polish shoes. They have learnt to read maps, use compasses, create routes. They have done crafts with electronics. They have learnt survival skills out at Tedbury Campsite, and they have just started to learn how to do bike maintenance. The group have had hikes and been bouldering.

We have inducted our PLs and APLs – all going on a county training weekend away. The group had a strong showing in the district MasterChef competition, entering 2 teams.

We had a very successful first camp at Easter at Tedbury. They learnt what patrol camping was all about - pitching tents, setting out sites, collecting firewood and cooking over open fires. Despite some really tough weather conditions, they all worked really hard and did a great job.

Most recently we took the group to the District JAWs Activity Camp in Dorset. They had an action packed weekend away, taking part in climbing, abseiling, shooting, archery, kayaking, dragon boat racing and the tug of war competition. It was a really successful weekend and they all came back completely shattered!

Over the past year the scouts have been working on a number of badges, with them gaining the skills badge, navigators badge and many nights away badges. We also making big inroads into athletics, survival skills, communicator and bike maintenance badges – all of which should be completed by the end of the autumn term.

Next year looks to be just as action packed, with many camps, more fun and activities to come.

**Adam Marsh**

**Scout Leader**

**1st and 7th Frome Cub Section**

The Cub pack was relaunched in September following the Covid Crisis and lack of leaders to restart. We currently have 15 Cubs 3 Leaders and 1 Young Leader and are looking to grow that number to 20 Cubs, but the additional of another leader is required.

Hannah Jackson - Local Growth Assistant for Somerset from the Three Counties Support Team

Dave Bird took over the running of the Cub pack in Late October with the assistance of Emma Glover and put a short term program in place through to Christmas. Sadly Emma’s job meant that she would step back from the active running of the Cub pack, but in February we were join by Dan Apps and shortly after Verna Johnson to take the main leadership team to 3.

We have been lucky to have some great parents help us out with evening sessions, with Jess Warnock being our star parent in assisting on multiple nights, sometimes following weeks. We cannot do what we do without the parents help and very much want their involvement in the coming year.

Each term we work toward a number of Activity badges and also challenge badges with the hope that most of our Cubs will obtain the Chief Scout Silver award before they leave, but the activity badges drive the program as the Cubs love being awarded them each term.

As this is a new pack we have all been finding our feet, however that have not stopped us from getting out into the world and exploring the surrounding, either by wide games on the public space, or mapping work and local knowledge around Frome.

We have already planned visits to Tedbury Camp site and are organising Pack events with the team from 5th Frome to make the nights even more enjoyable.

We were lucky enough to be invited to the East Somerset District Cub camp where we took 11 Eager Cubs on camp for 2 nights, which for most was their first nights away from their parents. Without a doubt one of the highlights of the year and one the Cubs will hopefully remember throughout their lives.

I would finally like to thanks all the Parents and careers for their support and for the Committee for helping get the Cub packs back up and running. Can I think Hannah for her continues support as we continue to learn and get this pack back up and running at full speed, and finally a big thanks to the Cubs. Who’s smiling faces, and enjoyment at the activities we are providing make this worthwhile.

Thanks

**Dave Bird**

**Cub Leader**

**1st and 7th Frome Beaver Colony**

Its great to have Beavers return once again to 1st and 7th Frome after the colonies closure at the start of the pandemic in 2020.

It has also been a real privilege to have been asked back, following my ‘retirement’ from the role in 2019, to head up the new team of adults running the section. I am delighted to welcome back Warren Singer as Assistant Beaver Leader, as well as welcoming Laura Emptage and Chloe Raeburn to the team as colony assistants.

Since our delayed relaunch in March due to the snow, we have grown from a small colony of 2 up to our current colony of 16, with plans to expanded to 20 in the Autumn term.

Since our return the colony has had a very full and fun packed programme, 2 local walks, a safety evening, navigation night, lego building session, sports evening, visits to Tedbury campsite and craft evenings to name just a few.

The Beavers have worked incredibly hard and this term most of the Beavers have completed the following badges, Safety Activity Badge, Builder Activity Badge, Navigation Stage 1 Activity badge, Hikes Away staged activity badge, Teamwork Challenge Badge as well as completing work to several other badges as well.

Looking forward to the next 12 months we are looking forward to continuing developing our weekly programme, having our first nights away event, taking part in district events, expanding our numbers and awarding many more badges.

On behalf of the beaver team I would like to thank Hannah and Cam from the regional development team for their help in getting Beavers back up and running attending weekly meetings and assisting with the behind the scenes admin that has been needed to launch and run the colony.

Finally, we like to thank you the parents for your support and patience as we got the colony running again and most importantly we would like to thank all of the Beavers for coming each week and taking part in all of the activities offered, we hope you all have a restful summer and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

**Ben Reynolds**

**Beaver Scout Leader**

**Hut Hire**

We have 5 different groups who currently hire the hut.

We generate £115 per week from those groups, usually during term time.

**Warren Singer**

**Hut Manager**

**Finances – David Truelove (Treasurer)**





