

2nd Tonbridge (Parish Church) Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

GSL Report

22nd March 2016

I should begin by apologising for missing this important meeting. I think it is the only one I have missed in 34 years. Also to thank Jon for agreeing to play my part in the proceedings.

At the 2016 national Census we recorded the following numbers ;-

Beavers	13 boys	2 girls
Cubs	22 boys	5 girls
Scouts	18 boys	2 girls
Leaders	3 male	4 female
Assistants	3 male	1 female

This year we need only pay subscriptions for the children and none for the adults and saving us almost £400. Since the above were counted , there have been more children joining and another couple of adults have been persuaded to join us. I had removed 2 adults from our list, as they were not able to help the sections during the past year.

Wendy in charge of Beavers now has 2 Victoria's to help, Maureen with Monday cubs has Derek assisting and Linda has Joan on Thursdays. Clearly we need to attract extra help for the packs. Jon has Nick and Mark assisting and Samantha has agreed to help. Jon also asked for help from the District Explorers.

During last spring, our beavers learned about Tonbridge Castle and the Town, had a mini Election and visited Tunbridge Wells Cinema to see SPOOKY. Cubs studied the weather and made periscopes. 20 went to Howletts. Cub Camp took place at Wilberforce Camp Site in Keston and they all had a great time. Scouts began the year with night games and then an evening hike from Shipbourne Church back to this Headquarters. They also practiced pioneering in preparation for our 90th Year Camp.

If you wish to read more details of the section activities, please see the individual reports pinned to the wall behind you.

We had a good number from all sections at the St. Georges Day Parade and I would remind everyone that as Tonbridge High Street is in turmoil, this year there will be a very short parade starting from the upper Castle car park, passing through castle gateway and down on to the normal lawn. We will gather from 2pm, leave at 2.30pm and expect to finish about 3.30pm.

On 24th July we held our 90th Year Celebration Camp in a friend's field in Hildenborough. It was a good camp enjoyed by many of us. With cooking on open fires in the old fashioned way and testing the 3 rope monkey bridge. After Jon's eldest has tried it out for us. We even had young Miss and Mrs Burgess walk the rope. Several of us had the experience of transporting toilet waste to the end of the field for disposal. On the last evening we held a camp fire singsong and stunts. The whole event was well organised by Jon and for that I thank him.

The Christmas Carol /Scouts Own was another success and there were special items by the Beavers and another by the Cubs. The hall was filled with singing parents and Maureen's refreshments were much appreciated. One of the parents offered to help as our group Secretary.

After the postponed Operation Founder in September, our Base 2 was awarded best incident base for the event. The Trophy is a tilted tent pole in a wooden base and is shared with the 3rd Tonbridge Scout Group, as they sent several adults along to help.

Operation Founder has again had to be delayed until the Autumn, as the usual land owners, all six of them, have not agreed to the event on their land this spring. We hope that one of them will have a change of heart in the coming months.

The Tonbridge District Camp is now on again and will be held at Adamswell Camp Site Tunbridge Wells between 28th and 30th May. We have been allocated site 4 on the field and have been asked to provide a good sized pioneering project and make it available to other groups. We intend building an Aerial Runway, as done in the past, the 2nd Tonbridge Leaders will operate this item. We are informed that 130 children are expected on site for the camp but this prediction may change as time goes by.

Tonbridge Carnival takes place on 19th June and we have booked our usual pitch for the Crazy Kitchen on River walk beside the memorial. I received a comment that the original kitchen dresser was badly damaged. I guess someone must have thrown wooden balls at it. After consulting users, I have built the folding Mk II version, which is with Jon for a spectacular paint design.

I hope that you have looked at the 2nd tonbridge.org.uk web site generated by Jon Launder and showing a number of our activities, leaders and contact details. This has produced a number of interested enquiries and several more children in the sections. A great asset to this group.

Our Jumble sales were well supported and generated well over £1000 from two sales. The usual clothing collection has ceased so it was necessary to find another outlet. A local company known as "Recycle4cash" has taken most of our clothing but are very strict on quality. But at least most has gone and we are a few pounds better off.

Ken is keeping the hedges trimmed alongside the HQ but it seems time we gave the building a lick of paint and perhaps an eye-catching "2nd Tonbridge Scouts" logo on the front of the building.

I must now thank all of the dedicated leaders and assistants who do so much more than just run their section. And thanks to all members of the Executive who are well aware of the needs of the children in our care. Also my thanks to Norman for his years of guidance and help with the Jumble Sales and a speedy recovery.

Thank You all Ted Jones GSL