

Lauderdale Scout Group

AGM Report

2021 - 2022



Chair Report

First of all, it's really good to return to holding AGMs in person rather than online. Online AGMS perform the required function, but nothing else. Our AGM is the only time that parents and families from all sections of the Lauderdale Scouts community meet up, it's the cross over between Explorers, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and (for the first time this year) Squirrels. The videos and photos of the year serve as a memory jog, talking point and also to whet the appetites of the youngest as they look ahead to the future. In the past few years Lauderdale Scouts have been represented in Switzerland and the USA; next year Korea and Japan will be added to the list. Who knows where Scouting will take the Squirrels and Beavers of 2022?

2021 saw the gradual return of full-on Scouting, including the first overnight camps since 2019. It also marked the 100th anniversary of Scouting here, and we need to thank the Borders District Executive for agreeing for a grant from their Legacy fund to allow for the memorial stone that now sits proudly outside the hall. We had hoped for a parade through the town to mark the anniversary, but the virus had other ideas.

The other thing that has been delayed, again due to the pandemic, is the acquisition of the car park. This is crucial to our long term plan for the hall, which involves an extension where the storage container currently sits. The storage container is great but we can't make it the permanent solution. I'd like to close by thanking the leaders. They kept the Group going online while others stopped; they went back to the hall and the woods as soon as they could; they spend huge amounts of time training and planning. When Storm Arwen devastated so much woodland, and our beloved Scout Wood lost so many trees, we had people there clearing the trees to make it serviceable. It feels wrong to single out individuals (and once I started it would be hard to stop) but I can't fail to mention Andy Beaumont. He's been an invaluable source of advice and support to me in my time as Chair and I'm not sure I could have done it without him.

Yours in Scouting
Andrew Meldrum
Chairman

GSL report 2021/22

I seem to always start my reports by saying it's been another great year for Lauderdale Scout Group but it has been another great year for Lauderdale Scout Group despite the pandemic scouting continued in all sections, numbers were good. When we started in 2021 and they continued to grow. As soon as the green light was given to go camping late Summer the Explorers closely followed by Scouts were out there doing what we do best.

Section badgework has been amazing over the last 12 months with exciting new ways of achieving badges. A massive congratulation goes out to all our young people that have achieved their Chief Scouts Awards in the last 12 months and well done to the leaders and their sections for helping them achieve that in these difficult times

2021 was our centenary year and despite the pandemic we still recognised this amazing achievement for our group. The focal point was probably the unveiling of the memorial stone in the scout garden by local celebrity and former Lauder Cub - Jack Lowden.

As 2022 came round the good work continued within all sections and camps were once again on the agenda with the Beaver section being the first to benefit from a longstanding booking at Hawkhurst. With more camps planned for the rest of 2022 we will have lots to talk about at next year's AGM.

Squirrels Scouts - from the very first mention of Squirrel Scouts or Hedgehog's as they were initially named for the pilot programme in Northern Ireland, I was keen to give it a go, and as soon as the green light was given for all groups to try squirrel scouting, I took the opportunity to see if there's any support amongst the local parents of Lauderdale.

On national squirrel appreciation day (21st January) I held a taster session and was so pleased when 6 mums step forward to take on the challenge of setting up our brand-new squirrel Drey. Myself and Abbey assisted in the early days of running the Drey however they didn't really need our assistance as within a few hours of running squirrels they looked like they've been doing it for years and I hope their enthusiasm for Squirrel Scouting will roll out across the Borders District.

As well as building our numbers I'm keen for our group to continue to improve our Scout Hall. the Executive Committee have supported this development and we have now employed an architect to take forward our plans to increase our storage and kitchen area within the scout hall, not only making it a better resource for the scout group but also a more versatile rental opportunity for private lets

lastly, I would like to thank all the leaders who form up this amazing group of Lauderdale Scouts not just the adults that wear a uniform week in week out delivering the programme to the young people but there was a behind the scenes executive committee. As always, we are looking not to rest on our laurels but to expand our team and if you would like to be part of this great journey of scouting in Lauderdale, please let me or any of the leaders know.

Andy Beaumont - Group Scout Leader

Friday Squirrels

We started the first Lauderdale Squirrel Drey on Friday 25th of February.

All our leaders are new to Scouting, and mums of Squirrels themselves, Jill, Frey, Janie, Alex, Susie and section leader Trisha.

As a new group of leaders, we have taken the time to plan our sessions and get started on the achieving badges for the Squirrels.

It has taken some to get to grips with OSM but this is getting easier as we use it more and we are planning around 6 weeks in advance, and have our badges planned.

We have planned a trip to the Fire Station for our first session back and will be working on our 'Local Superhero' badge.

We've been enjoying getting to know the new squirrels and for them to get to know us and all the other children too. We currently have 16 Squirrels with a waiting list to start after the Summer. The squirrels are now familiar with the scout promise, and we had 13 invested at the last session for the term.

Attendance rates have been great, and the kids all come in and leave with smiles on their faces!

They have settled into a nice routine of sitting in a circle, listening to each other, singing the squirrels song, and hoisting the scout's flag.

We are particularly proud of the squirrels for following instructions so well outdoors!

We are planning to be outside in the Scout woods for our next term which will be exciting but may bring some added challenges regarding leader to children ratios. We are hopefully that we can enlist parent helpers to make sure the Squirrels are able to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible.

We have planned to work on our 'All about Adventure' badge and have our first campfire and marshmallows!

The squirrels have been working on their 'let it grow' 'Story time' & 'all about me' badges and have all shown to be great artists, keen gardeners & avid readers!

It's been a fantastic 5 weeks so far and we are so proud of our little Squirrels', these children are only 4 and 5 years old and are showing great interest in the Scouting world, they want to learn more and most importantly they are up for lots of fun!!

Feedback from parents has been very positive so far, and we believe inviting them along to our end of term party with a great success, everyone loves some cake!

Trisha Barker

On behalf of our Squirrels team.

Monday Beavers

It's been another fantastic year for Monday beavers. It's hard to believe that it has only been a year since we have been able to properly resume face to face scouting. To kick off our return back to scouting we had a Beavers activity day at scout wood where the beavers got to do some soft archery, low tight rope, blind rope trail, rope swing and finished with a camp fire and songs.

During the summer term we had lots of fun lighting fires, backwoods cooking – where we made chocolate bananas, smores and cinnamon bread twists, and den building for our outdoor challenge badge. We also worked on our navigator badge learning how to read maps, use a compass, and discuss what we need to take on a hike, before using the skills on a very hot sunny hike. We also did our safety and health and fitness badge activity badge. We finished our summer term with a very fun pirate night – where the beavers went on a treasure hunt to find the pirate treasure and marshmallows, and build a catapult before ending with some pirate songs.

After the summer we had a packed programme. We were back up to scout wood with some archery, then campfire and marshmallows. We had a visit to the Oxton Bird Garden learning about all the amazing animals they have, followed by two weeks of the health and fitness badge and we did 3 weeks of first aid, all before the October holidays. After the October holidays, back in the hall, we had a visit from the Tweed Valley Mountain rescue team – the Monday beavers got to try on all the gear, use some of the equipment, race down the hall with a stretcher and have a play in the landrover – we only turned on the sirens once. We have had a very sticky chocolately Halloween party where the beavers had a go at making chocolate apples. We finished off the international activity badge, the beavers had been learning how to say hello in 17 different languages, we tried fruit from around the world and found out about scouting in 4 different countries. We rounded off the term with the space badge, a skills night, some Christmas crafts and a movie night.

During the winter term we doing lots of activity badges – we did animal friend where we had a lots of furry, feathery and scaly visitors, money skills, global issues and camp craft badge where we were looking at camp blankets, put up tents, cooking on camp stoves, fire lighting and campfire songs. As we finish off this term and year we look forward to our first beaver camp in 3 years. It will be a very fun weekend at Hawkthirst with lots of fun activities.

In the last 12 months we have awarded an amazing total of 515 badges including 15 Bronze Scout Awards to Heather Potter, Charlotte Potter, Issac Santini, Matthew White, Jackson Elliot, Clarissa Jackson, Joel Stewart, Ewan Abram, Harrison Curry, Clara McDougal, Matthew Custard, Emrys Patterson, Alice Murray, Catie Boyle, and Thomas Matthews. We have had 16 Beavers moved up to cubs and invested 17 new Beavers.

I would like to finish this section report with a thank you, to all of our parent helpers and our young leaders – Jonny Laing, Aaron Aitchison, Amelia Scott and Rose Aitchison. Of course none of the last year would have been possible without the amazing leaders that are part of the Monday beaver section, a massive thank you to Hannah Park, Pete Matthews and Natalie Herdman.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to seeing what the next year has to bring.

Abbey Beaumont – Monday Beaver Section Leader

Thursday Beavers

Thursday Beavers have seen another busy year. We currently entertain 20 beavers and over the past year have seen 7 move onto cubs and welcomed 14 new members.

This year we have been lucky and have only had a handful of meetings conducted over zoom, however this past term has seen weekly numbers struggle with the outbreaks in local schools, we have very much enjoyed being back face to face scouting.

Our first term we celebrated being back in person with a Pirate theme running throughout all the activities including learning to read treasure maps to find the pieces of eight. This year we were invited to visit Thirlestane Castle and received a personal guided tour from Edward Maitland-Carew and wonderful history lesson. We were also lucky enough to visit Bird Garden Scotland CIC in Oxtun and meet everything from Wallabies to Flamingos as well as some new residents in the grey parrot enclosure, although the highlight may have been talking to the Turkeys.

During the year we have handed out a total of 337 badges including 11 chief bronze scout awards and 66 challenge badges. As well as handing out a snowboarding badge, this year saw us complete our animal friend badge within the meetings, with visits from; working dogs, mountain rescue, tortoises and leaf nymphs.

The Thursday leadership team is lucky to have a dedicated core of Sonya, Hannah, Steve, Marie and Susie and also be able to call on Kristian and Nyssa when they are available. A general move within Scouting will see Sonya moving over to lead Tuesday Scouts and Hannah and Steve will take over the leadership of Thursday beavers. Sonya will still be on hand to make sure we are on the right path.

We wouldn't be without our young leaders; Alexander Scott and Isla Pow, their enthusiasm and engagement is second to none. We have also welcomed Olivia Ramsey who is completing her Duke of Edinburgh award with us and we hope to entice her to continue supporting us. Huge thanks go to everyone mentioned about, without whom this simply wouldn't be possible.

Moving forward we are hoping to bring Monday and Thursday beavers together and provide the same programme on both nights, treating the beaver group as one. Working together as a cohesive group to provide the best scouting experience to the beavers and it may also allow leaders to help on alternate nights.

Hannah – Thursday BSL

Monday Cubs

Monday Cubs have had a relatively normal year with In-person sessions and just a few adaptations due to Covid.

As a group we have worked on the World, Skills and Teamwork Challenge badges as well as the Home Safety, Local Knowledge, Digital Maker (stage 1) and Emergency Aid (stage 2) Activity badges. Some of our Cubs did some extra badgework as part of the 'Badges at Home' scheme. We have handed out 199 badges over the past year which is excellent. The best news is that seven Cubs from the Monday Section achieved the Chief Scout Silver Award.

Chief Scout Silver Award recipients:

Finn Richardson, Ruari Little, Ross Erwin, Heidi Kunkel, Thomas Redmayne, Ellen Hamilton and Ewan Dickson

Well done to all the Cubs for another fantastic year!

I reported last year that our numbers had dropped during the first year of the Pandemic however I am pleased to say that we have steadily grown back to normal with 26 active Cubs on a Monday.

The Monday Cub Leadership Team has changed over the year with Leader Nina Kunkel moving on to Scouts and Young Leaders Dylan Theedam-Parry and Amy Sewell finishing their time with us.

Thanks again to all three for their invaluable help with the section.

Steff Potter has joined us from Beavers and Emily Potts has joined us as a Young Leader.

The Team currently looks like this....

Section Leader – Crawford Laing

Assistant Leaders – Tom Little, Steve Leach & Steff Potter

Section Assistant – Emily Collin

Young Leaders – Jonny Laing & Emily Potts

We are always looking to add to this Team and if you would like to give it a go then please get in touch (no Scouting experience necessary!).

Looking forward we are excited to be returning to Camp with trips to Hawkhurst (May) and Canty Bay (September) planned as well as a session at Longcraig Scout Water Activity Centre (September).

Thank you all for your continuing support,

Crawford Laing, on behalf of the Monday Cub Leaders.

Friday Cubs

It's been a great year for Friday Cubs, spending lots of time in the woods and making use of the open space playing new games and working in teams, then in the hall during the winter months.

It has been fantastic to see our Cubs moving onto Scouts and welcoming Beavers to the pack, we currently have a head count of 20 and average 17 Cubs each week.

Both Clive and myself are proud to have supported four Cubs to achieve their Silver Scout award, with a further six well on their way to achieving it in the summer term.

Every week we spend the sessions doing a variety of activities from learning knots, finding out about our community and wider world around us to first aid, building structures or making up stories or designing logos for fictional businesses. We have worked on various activity badges alongside the challenge badges with Scientist and Entertainer being favourites for the Cubs.

We are looking forward to being able to join up with Monday Cubs at the first camp a lot of the Cubs will have had the opportunity to attend.

Friday's leadership team has been bolstered with Kristian joining Clive and myself supported with parents each week. We are always looking for others to join the team to bring new ideas, support, games or just have some fun on a Friday evening

Many thanks for your continued support, we are looking forward to another fantastic year

Rob, Clive and Kristian

Tuesday Scout Report

Tuesday scouts have seen several changes since the last AGM. We said goodbye to Vicky Hammersley who ran Tuesday scouts for 7 years, then Sunday Scouts merged with Tuesday scouts and Craig McBeath took over the reins. I then took over as Section Lead at the end of January 2022.

During the early part of 2021 the scouts met via Zoom. They undertook their Personal Challenge, World Challenge activities and took part in Escape Rooms, Music presentations and various other suitable online activities.

When face to face meetings were allowed the scouts took part in:

- Night Hikes
- Map reading skills
- Fire lighting
- Knives & Axe work
- Teamwork challenge
- Skills Challenge
- Mechanic
- Remembrance Parade
- Burns Night

During the last 12 months (March 2021 – Feb 22) we awarded 92 badges. We have a number of scouts who are very close to gaining their Gold Scout Award.

We have welcomed Nina Kunkel as a Tuesday Scout Leader, said goodbye to a few scouts who have moved on to pastures new and welcomed some new scouts from cubs and new members to the group.

We are now going to be running a very similar programme to Thursday scouts to ensure all young people have the same opportunities and experiences.

I would like to thank all the Tuesday & Thursday leaders for their support through the transition while taking over and assisting with delivering a quality programme to the young people.

We are looking forward to joint activities with Thursday scouts including the Expedition Camp May 2022, Hawkthirst June 2022 and Canty Bay later in the year.

With the youth numbers on the rise, we are keen to expand our leadership team, so if you can spare some time, please get in touch.

Sonya Beaumont
Tuesday Scout Leader

Thursday Scouts

Thursday Scouts have bounced back well after what seemed like an eternity of Zoom meetings. We are back doing what Scouts do best – working together, proficiency badges and most of all, having fun!

Just a quick round up of some of the things we have done since March 2021:

- Knives, Axes and Saws - how to use safely
- Completed our DIY practical project – laying a water pipe with working tap at Scout Wood
- Outdoor Pizza cooking
- Environmental conservation badge
- Night hikes
- Westruther Scout Camp 1 (July 2021)
- Westruther Scout Camp 2 (Sept 2021)
- Tree planting
- Orienteering Badge
- Forester Badge
- Remembrance Sunday preparation and parade
- Warhammer Model Maker Badge
- Movie Night!
- World Challenge Badge
- Lots of knots – and the infamous 'tripod rope burner game'
- Map reading skills and preparation for the Expedition Challenge Badge

Many Scouts have carried out badges at home work as well during this period. We are proud to report 5 of our Scouts were awarded the Chief Scout Gold Award since the last AGM.

We have welcomed 6 new Scouts to the troop and said goodbye to a few who have moved onwards and upwards to Explorers.

Thursday Scouts have had the privilege of knowledge and expertise of former Thursday Scouts Bruce McDougall and William Green – both have joined us as YL's and have been invaluable members of the team.

A warm welcome also goes out to Mike Jeffrey who joined us as an ASL

Our Thursday Team is currently made up of:

Section Leader: Rory Jackson

Assistant Leaders: Jenny Archbold, Sonya Beaumont, Mike Jeffery, James Collin & Bob O'Donnell

Looking forward; the Scouts are attending an Expedition Weekend in May which they have been working on for weeks. This will qualify them to achieve their Expedition Challenge Badge. We are also visiting Hawkthirst Scout Camp in June.

Want to join in with the adventures we have? Thursday Scouts needs you to make everything happen – contact me directly to join the team.

Yours in Scouting - Rory, Bob, Jenny, Sonya, Mike and James
Lauderdale Explorer Scout Unit

Explorer Scout Report

We currently we have thirty-two Explorers in the unit, making us one of the largest Explorer units in Southeast Scotland. Sixteen of our young people are going through the Young Leader program and assisting the younger sections within the group. Our membership ranges from 14 years to 17.5 years old, of which there are eighteen males and fourteen females. Our members are drawn from across Lauderdale, Melrose, Earlston, St Boswells, and Kelso.

Autumn 2021 began with an influx of new Explorers from across the Borders. With the light nights we had several weeks of hikes up Blackhill, Earlston, and the Eildon's, before retreating to Scout Wood as the nights drew in. Our fire lighting, and axe and knife skills were honed, and we had an evening of learning to prep and cook pheasant over open fires. The latter half of the season was predominantly indoors where we covered international issues, dilemmas, and had Explorer led evenings on topics such as Plastic Pollution, and Climate change.

Our Winter 2022 term has been largely hall bound with meetings covering International Women's Rights, back to basics pioneering skills, knot work, a Chinese cooking night and various discussions on managing dilemmas. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine our young people have had a keen interest in understanding why the conflict has come about, and how to help the Ukrainian people. We had an excellent and very informative Q&A evening with a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who had been evacuated from Ukraine at short notice. The unit are now organising various fundraising efforts to raise money to help Ukrainian's get to safety in Europe. Currently sixty-five pounds have been raised from a bake sale at Earlston High School.

Our Summer 2022 term faces disruption from the onset of study leave and school exams, with a significant proportion of Explorers declining to attend Explorer meetings until the exams end in early June. We have about nine Explorers who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme, and they are preparing for their hikes and excursions. Eleven Explorers have already earned the Bronze Award, and one has her Silver Award.

We're now back at Scout Wood where we have been clearing up the storm damage from the winter and practising our fire lighting and knife and axe skills. We hope to round out the season with more hikes and plan a summer hike and light camp.

Kristian - ESL

Lauderdale Scout Group
Receipts and Payments Account
year ended 28th February 2022

	Unrestricted General Fund 2022	Designated Property Improvement Fund 2022	Total Fund 2022	Total Fund 2021
<u>Receipts</u>				
Subscriptions	12,963.00		12,963.00	11,357.32
Fundraising	3,810.45		3,810.45	3,723.09
Donations	750.00		750.00	544.80
Gift Aid	2,954.93		2,954.93	2,312.74
Events	262.05		262.05	
Grant	2,346.00		2,346.00	15,415.00
Rent	3,170.00		3,170.00	2,010.00
Uniform	1,704.18		1,704.18	405.69
Camp	2,986.90		2,986.90	6,679.09
Activities	8.13		8.13	167.66
Bank Interest	0.51		0.51	
Sundry Income				2.42
	30,956.15		30,956.15	42,617.81
<u>Payments</u>				
Activity Equipment	1,634.18		1,634.18	1,243.28
Badges	1,828.25		1,828.25	957.30
Camp	840.19		840.19	9,435.00
Events	258.61		258.61	535.00
Insurance	978.63		978.63	932.59
Membership Costs	7,996.80		7,996.80	2,189.60
Training	430.55		430.55	24.00
Uniforms	2,268.77		2,268.77	896.80
Utilities	2,217.78		2,217.78	2,554.10
Venue Maintenance	1,720.04		1,720.04	--
Grant Expenditure				16,703.74
Sundries	1,116.54		1,116.54	1,048.13
Donations				150.00
Commemorative Monument	1,190.00		1,190.00	
	22,480.34		22,480.34	36,669.54
<u>Surplus of Receipts over Payments</u>	8,475.81		8,475.81	5,947.56
<u>Funds at 1st March 2021</u>	40,325.48		40,325.48	34,377.92
Transfer to Property Improvement Fund	(33,000.00)	33,000.00	(33,000.00)	
<u>Funds at 28th February 2021</u>	15,801.29	33,000.00	15,801.29	40,325.48
Represented by				
Bank Account	9,753.17	33,000.00	42,753.17	40,325.48
Bank Account - Special	6,048.12		6,048.12	--
	15,801.29	33,000.00	48,801.29	40,325.48

NOTES

a. Property

The Scout group own the Scout Hall in West High Street, Lauder subject to restrictions and consequently it is not considered to have a commercial value.

b. Equipment

The group own a quantity of camping and other equipment which has been acquired over many years

c. Related party Transactions

No Trustee received any remuneration. During the year 2 Trustees received reimbursement of expenses wholly relating to the Group's activities amounting in total to £4012.

d. Designated Fund

During the year a designated fund was created in preparation for proposed property improvements to the Scout Hall.