



**Scouts**

**1st Ince and Elton**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ince and Elton Scout Group**

**Trustees Annual Report**

**2019/2020**

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## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: 1<sup>st</sup> Ince and Elton Scout Group  
Charity Number: 1025963  
Principal Address: 23 Ryecroft, Elton, Chester, CH2 4LR

### Trustees

Natalie Tudor	Group Chairperson
Linda Canham	Acting Group Secretary
Sue Butler	Group Treasurer
Linda McKay	Assistant Group Scout Leader
Sarah Price	Section Leader – Beavers
Graham Proctor	Section Leader – Cubs
Ashley Proctor	Section Leader – Scouts

Sharon Lennon  
Alex Weale  
Callum Linger

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Governing Document

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.

### Group Scout Council

The Group Scout Council is the electoral body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. Membership of the Group Scout Council is open to:

- Scouters
- Colony, Pack and Troop Assistants
- Administrators
- Advisers
- Patrol Leaders
- All parents of Beavers Scouts, Cubs Scouts and Scouts
- any other supporters including former Scouts and their parents who may be admitted by the Group Scout Leader, the Group Executive Committee, or the Group Scout Council

## **Constitution**

The Group is operated as an educational charity under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the Group Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents.

## **Trustee Selection**

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Group's constitution and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

## **Group Executive Committee**

The Group is led by a Group Scout Leader and managed by a Group Executive Committee. They are accountable to the Group Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the Group.

The Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout Group, and in the best interests of its members to:

- Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
- Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the Group.
- Manage the Group finances.
- Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
- Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fundraising activities.
- Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
- Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally.
- Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
- Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-Committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-Committees.
- Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the Group.
- The opening, closure and amalgamation of Sections in the Group as necessary.
- Appoint Administrators, Advisers, and Co-opted members of the Executive Committee.
- Approve the Annual Report and Annual Accounts after their examination by an appropriate auditor, independent examiner, or scrutineer.

## Chairpersons Report

Welcome everyone to our first and hopefully our last online 1<sup>st</sup> Ince and Elton AGM, I hope you are all well.

I'm Nat and I'm proud to be the chair of a fantastic group of volunteers, I can't thank you all enough for what you are doing for our young people in our community and I'd like to thank you all.

We are also always looking for new volunteers, either on the main Exec Committee, Fundraising Sub-Committee, or the HQ Sub-Committee. As such I would like to extend our opportunities for offers of help. Your help in any capacity would be very much appreciated.

Full details of our policies and governance documents can be found on our website for you to read in full if you wish to do so.

This year has been very eventful as always, camps on our own, joining with other groups and our young people learning so many skills (I wish I had joined when I was younger).

Other highlights include our Summer BBQ, we joined Elton Parish Council for the Christmas Light Switch-On, Quiz & Curry Night and now we've near enough finalised the interior of HQ, we can start to concentrate on the exterior.

Also, a huge THANKS to Elton Parish Council - they have agreed to extend the land our HQ sits on meaning that we can have our own secure area. We can now look at funding to have it fenced off and tidied up to allow for overnight camps, backwards cooking and so much more!

Shortly, we will hear from our Section Leaders (or their representatives) to get in insight as to what they have been up to throughout the year and from our Treasurer Sue. We will also welcome new members of our Exec committee and re-elect our current committee for our sins.

We also have a guest speaker who has kindly agreed to join us, our District Commissioner Oliver Chambers

Onto more recent events, while face-to-face sessions are currently suspended it's been a cracking effort from all sections - it has been fantastic seeing all the online activities that our kids have been up to during the lockdown, I think you've really kept them engaged.

To our parents, I know it must be difficult to juggle work, home schooling, baking, Joe Wickes daily workout, Tik Tok routines and being a Beaver, Cub or Scout Leader. Please do not worry if you cannot manage it all. It is not the end of the world. As long as you and your children are safe and well, that's all that matters and of course, we see you when we return.

We have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for you all.

A special thanks to Ash for all his help with this AGM, literally could not have done it without him.

## Group Scout Leader's Report

Well what an unusual year this has turned out to be!

It started out fine with all the usual events, Harvest Festival, Firework Display, Remembrance Parade & Service, and the village Christmas Lights switch on as well as all the section meeting and activities. I will leave you to read individually what each section has been doing. The Troop even got some Cheshire Hike practice in.

Then WHAM! Covid-19 hit. Lock down.

I must say all the Leaders stepped up and produced lots of things that the sections could do at home and still gain badges. Thank you is just not enough to say.

Scouting is continuing although in a different way. We even did St. George's Day with a difference, each renewing our promise at home videoed by a member of their household and sent to a leader. Ashley mixed them together and put on our website.

Last year I mentioned that Alex was away with work for six months. Well I am glad to say he is back. Callum did take over as GSL but due to other circumstances he has stepped down from this role. We all wish him well and he will be welcomed back with open arms anytime.

That leaves us with a vacancy for this role so if you know of anyone who may be interested please let me or any leader know. We are always looking for volunteers so if you have a skill or just a few hours to spare occasionally we can always find something for you. Just ask you will be most welcome.

Scouting will continue as we are, and we look forward to when we can be face-to-face again.

I cannot thank enough all our leaders, helpers, and committee members for all their hard work as without them this group would not exist.

Many thanks to you all and Stay Safe.

Linda McKay (Assistant Group Scout Leader)

## Beavers Section Report

It has been a very busy year for our Beavers.

We have taken part in many activities outside the hut:

- We joined the group and went on a walk on the Baker Way ending with a picnic in Grosvenor Park.
- In July, our end of year bash, allowed beavers to bring their friends to a group celebration and Beavers received lots of badges and awards they had earned over the previous months.
- In September, we welcomed new beavers into the pack and participated in a McMillan night. Beavers made cakes and raised money for cancer research.
- At the end of September, Beavers attended a church service at St. James's in Ince and donated food for the local food bank.
- Beavers attended our bonfire extravaganza in November
- In November, Beavers, took part in the remembrance parade, starting in Elton and walking to Ince and remembered the fallen soldiers.
- As part of our Space badge work, we took a trip to Jodrell Bank. We did lots of space activities and learnt about the stars.
- In December we had a Winter sleepover in the hut. We played games, ate pizza, and watched films.
- We also went to the Hayrack to see Father Christmas. It was a lovely way to finish our year.
- In January, we had more beavers join us taking our total to 15 members.
- In February, we joined the Scouts and the Cubs at the Chester Gang Show. The Beavers really enjoyed this night, and some wanted to do our own!!

Our programme this year has changed slightly, in that we have focused on completing a badge on a 2-week rota. This has had a positive impact on the number of badges the Beavers have achieved.

We have participated in lots of activities including:

- Arrow Trails
- Nature Walks
- Air Activities
- Map plotting and reading
- Cooking
- Disability Awareness
- Decoding
- Safety
- Team Building exercises
- Crafts

From these and other activities, 95 different badges have been awarded. We have awarded 6 Chief Scout Bronze Awards to those Beavers that have moved to Cubs.

Some of these badges have been achieved through 'Scouting at home' where our fabulous Beaver parents have become honorary Beaver Leaders doing activities in their own homes. We are so amazed by how much effort they have put in to support us to carry on, this includes helping their children to renew their promise for St Georges Day. We have currently 25 Beavers in our group and a small waiting list.

I would like to thank the Beaver Team, Hayley, Viki, Jaimie and Stewart for all their hard work over the past year.

## Cubs Section Report

Since the last AGM the Cubs have been very busy. We had grown to 24 Cubs by September. Although we will be losing 6 to moving up in September and 2 have moved away from the village, so expected numbers in September will be around 16. We have 5 leaders, 2 young people and helpers whenever we need them.

Cubs enjoyed a joint summer camp with 3<sup>rd</sup> Frodsham Sea Scouts at Tatton Park, where the Sea Scouts helped us out with water activities while we offered a long hike and nature treasure hunt, and more traditional scouting activities along with a resident chef! It was very well attended.

We finished the year with the Athletic badge in a sixes competition on the field, a fun and games night, with the obligatory water fight – AKELA!! We awarded many badges at the end of year BBQ.

Cubs started back in September with a Nature walk and a camp to Dunham Massey with 6<sup>th</sup> Runcorn, where some of the Runcorn Cubs gained some outdoor camping experience with us and we all made new friends.

We have continued to develop traditional skills with Axes, Knives and Saws so that the Cubs are safe before they move to Scouts and we took part in the Harvest Festival. We took a visit to the Fire Station and completed First Aid with Burns before the Bonfire Night and Fireworks. We attended the Remembrance Parade with good numbers and managed to fit in the Astronomer Badge and some Christmas crafts with Lynne and Linda and have a Christmas themed sleepover at the HQ before we broke up for Christmas.

In January we held a Burns night, with new foods, poetry, and Kaylie dancing. We were kindly offered the school ICT suite to complete the Digital Citizen and completed lots of wacky experiments for the Science badge. In February we had a 'Bug Camp' at QCW which was packed. Every bed was full and finally before being closed down in March we managed to squeeze in the Disability badge with a visit from the Guide Dog.

A very successful year, a great group of Cubs and a fantastic Leader team is helping us deliver a fantastic program. Graham would like to thank everyone for all their hard work.

## Scouts Section Report

It always seems to be a difficult task when this time of year comes, and we are tasked with trying to cram our activities over the last year or so into a single page of text. Where do we even start?

Let us look at some of the exciting trips and activities we have done first, which include:

- The Scouts "Take Over" Day at RAF Cosford
- Taking on nature at the Manley Mere Adventure Trail
- A tour of the BBC at MediaCityUK, followed by a visit to the Imperial War Museum.
- We were back at Deeside Ice Rink for some Ice Skating for what has now become a bit of a troop Christmas Tradition.
- The return of a true troop classic – The Chippy Walk!

Moving on to Nights Away – unfortunately, we have not been away as much as we had liked over the last 12 months. This is most definitely something that we are going to look at improving in the future.

With that said, we did manage a camp at QCW in what felt like the hottest weekend of the year last year (suffice to say there was plenty of water thrown around that weekend) and we did manage a fun “overnighter” at our HQ earlier this year.

Our focus for the weekly meetings continues to be completing elements of the Challenge Badges that make up the Chief Scout Gold Award. The very good news this time round, is that since the last AGM, we’ve had 5 Scouts complete their “Chief Scouts Gold Award” and after a “mini” break, they have either moved on to Explorer Scouts or have remained here at 1<sup>st</sup> Ince and Elton as Young Leaders with our Younger Sections (in some cases both).

Looking over our programme for the last year, it seems that both cooking (indoors and outdoors) and hiking have become a regular occurrence. Not only does this tick off elements of important badges, but it also serves as prep for the annual Cheshire Hike. Sadly, this year’s Hike was cancelled due to the significant amount of rainfall we had at the beginning of the year, which in turn led to some incredibly poor conditions on the ground. Fingers crossed for 2021!!

Speaking of recent events, it would be hard not to mention the current situation with regards to the Coronavirus. This unprecedented event has led to some significant changes to our way of life, which includes Scouting. While we may not be able to meet face-to-face now, we have – and will continue to adapt, to allow our members to continue their Scouting journey from the comfort of their own home.

Finally, our numbers have thankfully remained stable for the last year – and we look forward to welcoming the next lot of older Cubs into the section over the coming weeks.

On a personal note, I’d just like to express my thanks to Steve for his continued support as Assistant Scout Leader, and I would also like to thank Sarah for stepping up and helping us out a great deal. Last but not least, I can’t forget Nick who has stuck with us and helped us out every Friday – your help is very much appreciated!

## Treasurer's Report

### 2019 (All figures rounded to nearest £100)

2019 saw us finishing off the refurbishment of the interior of the hut, which included the toilets, entrance hall, and the installation of the water heater in the kitchen.

We did continue to raise funds and apply for donations during 2019 for the refurbishment of the exterior and out-door area of the hut while waiting for the lease agreement to be signed.

### Income

Total income for 2019 was £23,200, with a breakdown of income as below:

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Total Income	23.2	38.5
Of which:		
Donations	7.3	18.6
Fundraising	6.9	8.9
Member subscriptions	5.2	5.5
Camps	2.6	2.6
Outing and hikes	1.2	1.0
Other	0.2	1.9

### Fundraising

Our net fundraising for 2019 was £2,350, whilst not as large as 2018 with its increased levels for the refurb, is still a magnificent amount created by a lot of hard work from volunteers and parents alike.

The most successful fundraisers were (all net figures):

- Bonfire £650 (excluding donations of £800)
- Plant Sale £960
- Quiz and Curry £575

## Donations

Our donations were down in 2019 without the push for the refurb. However Protos very kindly contributed towards the costs of the remaining internal refurb, CWAC bought us a brand new troop tent with sewn in groundsheet and CFF contributed towards the group safety which went towards First Aid and food prep courses for our leaders and volunteers, to name but a few.

## Expenditure

Expenditure is also down from 2018 to £18,100

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Total Expenditure	18.1	37.9
Of which:		
Hut Renovation	4.3	21.7
Fundraising	4.5	4.7
Camps	2.0	3.2
Census	1.8	2.1
Outings and hikes	1.6	2.1
Equipment	1.3	1.4
Badges and Uniform	0.7	1.1
Utilities (heat, light, water, maintenance)	1.0	1.1
Other	0.8	.05

Our biggest expenses as usual were the hut refurb, which as I mentioned above, was partially covered by Protos, the fundraising costs which actually earn us money, and the camps and outings which are self-supporting.

Equipment includes the purchase of:

- The troop tent, paid for by CWAC
- Camp equipment

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions remained the same for 2019. These cover the costs of the group, including the Census, hut costs, weekly meeting costs, etc.. We calculate a yearly cost and then divide by 12 for easy monthly payments, so please all be aware that the subs don't stop during the holidays. We are trying to continue with the £12 per month sub fee for as long as feasibly possible.

## Bank Accounts

Amounts held in Bank Accounts or cash as at 31st December 2019 were £13,500

	£'000
Cash and bank balances @ 31/12/18	8.4
Net income	5.1
Cash and bank balances @ 31/12/19	13.5

A full set of the signed 2019 Annual Accounts are included in the appendix on the next page.

## Appendix 1 – Full Accounts 2019

1st Ince and Elton Scout Group				
Annual Accounts for Year Ended 31st December 2019				
Opening Balance as of 01/01/2019				
			Bank	£ 8,014.59
			Cash	£ 410.99
<b>Total</b>				£ 8,425.58
Income		Expenditure		
Subscriptions	£ 5,227.00		Hut Renovation	£ 4,305.00
Donation	£ 7,310.55		Census	£ 1,822.50
Fundraising	£ 6,869.48		Fundraising	£ 4,521.13
Camps	£ 2,591.44		Camps	£ 2,000.36
Outings and Hikes	£ 1,203.00		Uniform	£ 339.86
Rent	£ -		Badges	£ 331.88
Sundry	£ 88.83		Equipment	£ 1,352.07
Go Cardless Fees	-£ 17.96		Outings and Hikes	£ 1,628.78
			Electricity	£ 644.96
			Water	£ -
			Hut Maintenance	£ 385.98
			Insurance	£ 42.00
			Donations	£ 50.00
			Sundry	£ 716.99
	£ 23,272.34			£ 18,141.51
Closing Balance as of 31/12/2019				
			Bank	£ 13,203.62
			Cash	£ 352.79
<b>Total</b>				£ 13,556.41
				<b>Total</b>
Opening Balance as of 01/01/2019				£ 8,425.58
Income				£ 23,272.34
Expenditure				£ 18,141.51
<b>Closing Balance as of 31/12/2019</b>				£ 13,556.41