

82nd Craigalmond (Cramond) Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



The 82nd Group continues to thrive with over 200 youngsters on the books, spread across 2 Beaver Colonies, 2 Cub Packs, Scouts, Sea Scouts and Explorers, with increasing female representation in every section. These sections are supported by in excess of 30 talented, enthusiastic and committed leaders who give generously of their time weekly, through training and at camps.

Beavers have had a fun year, from a brilliant, if tiring overnighter last June to planning the next with lots of fun in between. Our Beavers have been pioneering, made dens, learnt knots and lashings, cooked pancakes, made Easter cakes and enjoyed a Young Leader led Easter extravaganza. We've sung around the campfire and cooked s'mores and dampers, undertaken code breaking and science experiments (including making poo which was very popular!), learnt curling, tried new games and enjoyed old favourites, completed bike challenges, learnt songs and played instruments culminating in a beautiful performance at the Kirk's Youth Service. We have celebrated Christingle with Louise the minister, visited the RNLI at South Queensferry, taken part in various 30th birthday celebrations both as a district and on our own and in all had lots and lots of fun.

Monday Cubs have had a busy year with a new Leadership team in place since January. It's been a big challenge to maintain an exciting programme of events and we are very grateful to the two Andy's (McLennan & Livesely) for a smooth transition. On the activities front the pack have been busy visiting fire stations, building dens, competing in Lego Racer nights and earning their Team Work, Home Help, Fire Safety, Book Reader and Environmental badges to name a few! The Cubs are really looking forward to this September's Cub Camp at Fordell Firs but first it's the annual Football Competition as well as the Bike Ride & Chips meeting which is always well attended before the summer break.

Friday Cubs have had a very adventurous year! Our cubs have done many new activities, learnt many new things and gained an extraordinary number of badges. And all this has helped the cubs grow and develop tremendously - even if it has been sometimes strenuous for leaders. We focused on the Team Leader Challenge badge to assist cubs develop as team members and the Sixers to take responsibility for their six cubs. Taking part in the Youth service in March 2017 meant that cubs added another dimension to the regular Friday evening meetings.

And we went to the Holyrood Parliament thanks to Alex Cole-Hamilton, our MSP, for a really valuable visit, where the cubs learnt about democracy and how to switch on the individual microphones!

We visited the main mosque in Edinburgh with almost as many parents as cubs and had a most enjoyable and educational evening, working towards the World Faith badge and Global Awareness badge. As always, food has been a great success, including Masterchef, cub style and Chinese food as part of learning about the Chinese New Year. Eating rice with chopsticks was quite a challenge for some cubs! There were so many

activities such as going to Cammo for an orienteering evening, bonfire night campfire, Burns Night shenanigans, fitness nights – it's hard to remember them all.



Keir, Abbi and Lauren, our three Young Leaders, who are Explorers and doing the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, are a fantastic help to us in running evenings especially games nights. They are nearer to the cubs in age so get on very well with them but they are greatly respected.

All in all, it has been a succesful year with about 40 cubs and three leaders, two of whom – Margery Naylor and Sarah Gordon - are hanging up their wogges after 16 years. So we are looking for new leaders and helpers to share the fun of leading with Rebecca Mill. We would welcome any one who can help keep the momentum going on and on....



Scouts have had a remarkably busy year since the last AGM. The undoubted highlight was our International Camp in Bavaria where 36 Scouts and 12 Leaders joined 700 Scouts from all over Europe for a Jamboree. The Cramond Scouts made a great impression from the moment we entered camp in our kilts, following our bag piper. We had trips to Munich and a river cruise as well as undertaking many Scout skills and forging friendships across the many troops who attended. Our main programme through the year has focused on our challenge and activity badges to ensure we get as many Scouts through their Chief Scout Gold Award. These included fire safety, meteorology, local knowledge, DIY and supporting the community. More recently we had a great Easter Camp at Lapwing where 30 Scouts undertook pioneering, high ropes, shelter & hammock building as well as other Scouting skills. The planning for 2017 Summer Camp at Loch Tay and 2018 Easter Camp at Canty Bay is underway.

Sea Scouts continues to thrive and is greatly in demand. None of which would be possible without the much-appreciated support from the leaders, helpers and Cramond Boat Club. Through their support the Sea Scouts have enjoyed many sessions for Sailing, Kayaking, Windsurfing and Power Boating. It is pleasing to see the progression in skill levels and confidence, which culminated at the Scottish Sea Scout Regatta. Cramond Sea Scouts managed to win all of the overall trophies for Scouts, Explorers and Leaders, plus for the fourth year the overall winners. The annual trip to the National Sport Centre at Cumbrae is always the highpoint of the Sea Scouts year as the facilities and staff always deliver a fabulous weekend of water sports.



Explorers In another busy year at Explorers, the usual honing of Scout skills has been interspersed with many highlights. September saw us camping with the wider region groups at Philiphaugh in the Borders. The action-packed weekend saw Cramond's Explorers mix with other groups in a range of activities; skinning rabbits, bivvying, kayaking, not to mention the infamous midnight hike. Christmas saw the return of Santa's Sleigh with our collections allowing us to donate a total of £1,000 to Alzheimer Scotland and The Simpson House Sunflower Garden charities. Already 2017 has seen two camps, the first with the District Explorers at Fordell Firs for a glorious sunny weekend, the second a less sunny (but no less enjoyable) night on Cramond Island. With ever growing numbers the unit has also moved from the upper hall to the main hall to give us more room for games and activities. With Stuart McAdam kindly volunteering to support badge admin, we have also been growing our support of the Scout's big award programmes; Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Awards (and DofE). The new year has seen two new leaders join the unit, they replace Woody who sadly stepped down as assistant leader after 8 years at Cramond. To use his words, Woody was "first class" and will be missed, but always welcome at Cramond Explorers