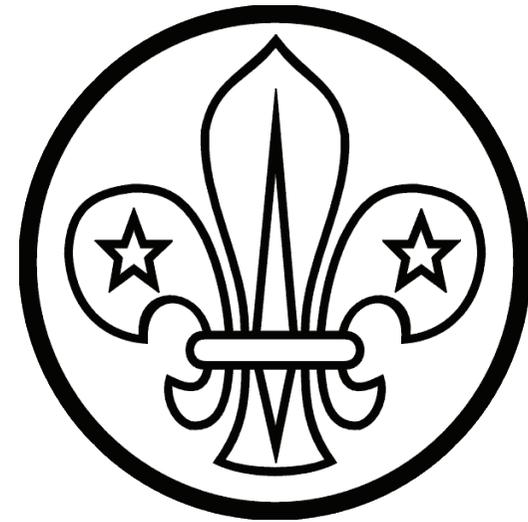


Darwen District Scout Association  
Annual General Meeting



June 8th 2010

## Darwen District Scout Council AGM June 9th 2009 Minutes

The meeting started at 7.34 pm

George Grime led prayers, welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to Jennifer Turner ACC Cub Scouts as guest representative from County

The Minutes of the last AGM where accepted.

The Group Reports where approved

Approval of the District Accounts proposed: M Rogers, Seconded: A Graham unanimous

Nomination of Chair G Grime by M Grime unanimous

Nomination of Secretary I Morris by M Grime unanimous

Nomination of Treasurer M Pickup by M Grime unanimous

Nomination of Auditor Zoe Clough by M Pickup unanimous

District Executive made up of ADC's, GSL's, DC, Treasurer, Secretary and DESC, there were no other volunteers

County Executive Committee nomination M Grime

Mick Grime thanked everyone for attending the meeting and those on the District Executive

George Grime thanked Mick for carrying on as Acting DC and thanked Highfield Scout Group for the use of their facilities for the meeting

The date of the next AGM Tues 8th June 2010

Meeting finished at 7.58 pm

## HIGHFIELD SCOUT GROUP REPORT 2009/2010

Our scout group during the past year as normal try to support our Districts and County Activities. Scouts and Cubs held a joint weekend camp at Bowley in June 2009 ,the cub pack camped for 5 days in July 2009 at Ashworth Valley, Beavers have been on a sleepover at Bowley during the year.

Thirty members from our group went to see the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at the Thwaites Theatre at Ewood on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, those who went had a great time , many thanks to the Freemasons who donated the tickets .Our scout Group helped out with the raffle run by the Darwen Markets when they had their fun day in the town centre. The Boys and Girls in our group continue to gain their Badges with various activities. Six members from the cub pack won the Jepson Trophy so congratulations to all the team members.

Our scout Group fully supported the Gang Show which was held in November they all had a Brilliant Time leaders included, we have bag packed at Sainsburys`.

We welcome new leaders in the beaver section Natalie & Michael Sweeny, Andrew Hacking & Liam Pearson in the cub section. Pauline Mcloughlin is now with the cub section as the time for cubs is better for her with her work commitments , we wish her well in her new post.

Congratulations go to Brian Walsh Scout Leader who received The Medal of Merit earlier on in the year.

On our District`s Saint George`s Day along with other Adults and Leaders who received awards, I received The Silver Acorn from Chris Creelman , I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all members of our Group Past and Present for all your help and support over the years a special Thank You to Jack my husband who thankfully is involved with scouting for is valuable help and support, A big thank you to all Parents and Friends of our Group and all the Leaders and Helpers in all the sections.

A big thank you to Michael Grime our District Commissioner (Acting) for all his Help during the past year.

Thank You  
V. Baron G. S. L.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Turton St Annes' Scout Group Report 2010

This year has been another busy and active time for our Group. Beavers has flourished under two new leaders. They have organised a fantastic programme with lots of badge work.

Cubs have also been doing lots of badge work and trying new activities including a cold but interesting trip to Manchester Airport and canoe polo.

The Scout troop continues to expand as the varied programme encourages the Cubs to carry on into Scouts. Because of the numbers of Scouts we were able to enter 3 teams into the canoe polo league and won the novice league.

We are extremely lucky to have a qualified kayak instructor amongst our leaders and both Cubs and Scouts have had taster sessions on Jumbles reservoir.

We have had lots of whole Group activities this year including a summer water slide, a camp fire sing along and a talent show. We also entered a team into Sport Relief raising over £700.

A successful PGL trip was run in May which we are repeating this summer. A lack of experience within the leaders means that we have not yet managed a 'real' camp but we hope to rectify that next year.

A huge thank you must go to our leaders and two young leaders who juggle jobs, exams and young children in order to run the sections.

## District Commissioner (Acting) Report (AGM June 2010)

I have been in the DC (Acting) position since 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and agreed with the then County Commissioner that I would take on the role as DC (Acting) for a period of 12 months. Over 3 years has passed and I am still in the role. Glen Fendall took up the appointment of County Commissioner in June 2009. I have represented Darwen District at East Lancs. County meetings.

**Appointments:** There have been several new appointments, ceased appointments and changes of appointment during the last 12 months.

There are 86 registered Adult Appointments on the HQ database as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

Lower Darwen Cub Pack has amalgamated with Huddlesden St Paul's.

2 leaders were relieved of their positions from the association.

There has been a decrease in membership in the District by -3.2% (13 members)

I have been privileged and honoured to present Wood Badges & Long Service Awards to Adult Leaders and Badges/Awards to all sections. My sincere congratulations to all recipients and special congratulations to leaders who were recognised by the HQ Awards Committee for their continued outstanding service.

A "Thanks" plaque was presented, in August, to Rushton's Bacon Stall (Market Hall) for their continued support.

St George's Day Parade and Service 2010, Remembrance Day Service 2010 were both well attended and a St George's Day meal was enjoyed by 60 members at Whitehall Country Hotel.

I have made visits to some groups and intervened in decisions where necessary, however, I don't have all the answers and self-help should be the first line.

Most groups are enjoying success, however, there are groups that are having difficulties with low membership, lack of leaders, funds & communications and these are still being addressed.

### **Local Training Manager**

I am pleased to report that 15 new leaders have completed the necessary "Getting Started" elements of the training scheme and are now continuing their training to gain their Wood Badge.

Brian Walsh (Highfield) and I represented Darwen District on the Skills & Chills weekend at Bowley demonstrating and passing on the skills of wood-carving, safe use of axe, knife & saw & friction fire-lighting techniques.

### **Adventurous Activities**

2 Adventurous Activity permits have been presented. This is excellent as it allows the young people to further enjoy an exciting and challenging programme.

### **Nights Away Advisor**

During 2009/2010 I have assessed some leaders, on their camps, and presented Nights Away Permits. A current First Aid qualification is a prerequisite for this permit and leaders are reminded of this.

Overall I have enjoyed being your DC (Acting) in Darwen District, however, I have agreed to continue in the role until a replacement is found. However, I would encourage GSL's / Leaders in charge, to take ownership of group issues and seek resolutions. This will allow me to concentrate on District/County issues. I will, once more, try to represent you and assist you to the best of my ability and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, whatever role you fulfil, for your assistance, encouragement and support during my term of office.

Michael Grime (DC Acting).....still....

# Whitehall Scout Group Annual Report : June 2010

When I look back over the last twelve months there have been one or two things that are particularly noteworthy during the past year.

Firstly one Sunday afternoon in December we moved our annual Carol Service outdoors and had a 'walking Nativity Service' in Whitehall Park. About 75 of us, members and parents, wandered through the park, telling various parts of the Nativity story at different locations – finishing off with refreshments in the cabin. Everyone agreed that it had been a great success and we will probably repeat the whole thing again next Christmas.

Secondly two of our scouts have been selected as part of the East Lancashire contingent to attend the next World Jamboree in Sweden next year. This is a great opportunity to take part in Scouting in its widest international context and the lads are sure to enjoy the experience – I'm sure that they can't wait for next year to come around.

The beavers have 'slept over' at Bowley twice during the year and they always seem to be doing exciting and interesting things as part of their programmes, whether they are 'Wellybob Walking', egg hunting or fishing, they always seem to enjoy themselves. Well done to Sarah East and Oliver Halliwell on completing their training, they were presented with their Wood Badges at the St. George's Day parade.

The cubs recently came joint second with Bold Venture Park in the Darwen Jepson Trophy competition. Three of Whitehall's cubs, along with three from Bold Venture Park, entered for the County Cub Competition and they came first so well done to all involved – the 2 packs will each hold the Chris Creelman Cup for six months.

As I write the cubs and scouts are just returning from a successful camp at Linnet Clough. The activities laid on for them were excellent and they took full advantage of the many things on offer that cannot be fitted in around a normal programme held in school.

The number of scouts keeps constant and it is good to see some of the older ones still enjoying their scouting whilst helping out in the sections as young leaders.

Lastly congratulations to Sandra on being awarded her Silver Acorn and 30 years service award for her service to Whitehall and to the district as ADC (Cub Scouts). Within the group we now have 5 Silver Acorns and if you add up the years of service for the leaders in the group you come to a total in excess of 250 years. It is this consistency that continues to allow the group to function in such a successful way so many thanks to all leaders, helpers, parents and the lads themselves for all that they have done for the group in the last twelve months. On a similar vein thanks to Mick, who should be due an Oscar himself after all his 'acting' as DC for three years now, for all his support not just for Whitehall but for all that happens in the name of Scouting in Darwen.

George Grime (Group Scout Leader)

# St Paul's Scout Report 2010

A lot has happened with the group since last year. We have now welcomed in to the group the Leaders and some children from Lower Darwen, who sadly had to make the decision to close in early spring.

## Beavers

Numbers are still good and now working with Julie, Joanne and Alison we have Collette and Stephen from Lower Darwen , The beavers shared a sleepover weekend in the Den with Whitehall beavers at the end of October, they had a Halloween theme. They also went to see Wizard of Oz in December. Joined in the district sleepover in the Lodge in May. And have also attended the fun days and events in district. Thank you to Julie and her team for all their hard work.

## Cubs

Linda is now running the cubs with Barbara and also has Gareth who is very keen to have them outside to learn fire lighting and do knot work. They have had visit from P.C. Carbery with Rocko his police dog to give a demonstration. They had a weekend camp last August were they did Highland games for as one activity

They are away at Great tower Scout camp again for a three night over the May Bank holiday. Their theme this year is Indiana Jones, they get to look for treasure again which they really enjoyed last year. Their numbers have increased over the last month and are now at 14 the highest for some time.

## Scouts

Scouts are still running well with numbers increasing to around 13 at the moment it is still run by George, Tim and Mark, with Ian and myself tagging along when required. And Ric joining in when he can.

They had a weekend camp at Bowley last August cycling there and home again,

They are about to have an eight night camp at Great Tower near Windermere were they will carry out an Expedition Hike over two days staying at Ennerdale Scout camp for the night.

There scout nights are varied between meeting at St Paul's school, Pickup Bank or hikes out.

Thanks to all our Leaders for their hard work throughout the year.

Ann White Group Scout Leader

# St Joseph's Scout Group Annual Report June 2010

## BEAVERS

Continue to grow in numbers. Attended remembrance service, and on a pack night lit candles to remember other less fortunate in other countries. Took part in a bag pack with the group. Took part in the Christmas experience and the Beaver sleep over. With our scouts we spent an evening in the park and enjoyed an evening fire lighting. We planted bulbs for gifts. Completed several badges.

## CUBS REPORT

St Joseph's Cubs have had a successful year. A number of cubs achieved their chief scout's silver award for the first time in a number of years. The awards have been achieved through the planning of a large variety of activities, the highlights include Chinese new year celebrations and a visits to Bolton mountain rescue and the mayor's parlour. Numbers in the group remain constant showing that our members are enjoying the balanced programme.

## SCOUTS

Last year saw many exciting events for St Joseph's Scouts. Annual camp, held for the 1st time at Great Tower , gave leaders the opportunity to use terrain 1 permits.

We have participated in many varied activities including:

Balsalm Bashing in Sunnyhurst Woods,

Sponsored Water Challenge to Darwen Tower on Palm Sunday, & Annual Scary Night!

We have supported district events, hosting a Highland Games event and participating in the Gang Show and Orienteering Competition. Our Scouts have also participated in county events; we will be represented at the 2011 Jamboree and our team won the mixed category in the Border Sevens Challenge.

St Joseph 's has had a Scout move up to Explorers in 2010 for the first time.

# Bold Venture Park Scout Group

The Bold Venture Park Scout Group has had a successful year & the membership has decreased by 5 members. (92 reported on annual census January 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.) (82 registered January 31<sup>st</sup> 2010) This year the group celebrates it's 44th year.

**Beaver Scout Section:** Beaver Scout Leader – Dorothy Parsons

The Beaver Scout section remains very active, the numbers had reduced but this has slowly come back to capacity and the Leaders provide an excellent & varied programme for to 6 – 8 year olds. Achievements & activities are listed in the section reports.

**Cub Scout Section :** Cub Scout Leader – Linda Lawrence

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 was a sad day for the Cub section with the death of Barbara Timms CSL following 36 years service with St Cuthbert's & Bold Venture Park groups.. We welcome a new leader, Nikki Allen, to strengthen the Pack leader team. The Cub Scouts have enjoyed camp at Bowley with a full programme of events gaining the Cubs many awards. Competitions, Tournaments, Events and a host of activities have been well attended by the Pack and have always achieved excellent results. Recently winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the County Skills Competition with a joint team with Whitehall Cub Pack.

Further achievements & activities are listed in the section reports.

**Scout Section** Scout Leader – Mark McHugh

The Scouts enjoy a good balance of activities from the program and on an ad-hoc basis, dependent upon weather etc...

The Scout Troop has increased in numbers with a good influx from within the group ad direct entrants.

**Explorer Scout -Unit** Explorer Scout Leader - Stephen Lawrence

At Bold Venture Park we still accommodate the Darwen District Explorer Scout Unit. This section does not come under the control of Bold Venture Park, but is administered by Darwen District. However, we are fortunate to have this unit at Bold Venture Park HQ as it is the natural progression for Scouts from the age of 14, without the upheaval of transferring to a different venue. The Unit have negotiated & paid rental charges for the use of the HQ 2009/2010. They are treated like group members and have assisted on many occasions with all of the sections. The Leaders and/or a representative attend the Group Leaders' monthly meeting.

**Joint Activity:** Members from all sections were involved in the Gang Show, December 2009 at the Library Theatre.

## Group Executive

The Group Executive has functioned for the benefit of the Group in all cases and are vigilant with procurements, insurances, financing, tenures & general well being of the Group business under the leadership of our Chairman. The Executive are actively seeking improvements in all of the above areas. Many thanks to June Chippendale (Treasurer), Tony Melia (Chairman) and Secretary David Chippendale, who has been vigilant and instrumental in securing in excess of £1500 in Gift Aid for the Group. 2007/2008 Thanks also to Keith Adcroft – a Trustee of the Group.

**Financial:** See accounts sent to District Treasurer

## HQ

Asbestos survey carried out By BWDBC – all clear again !

Fire risk assessment and documentation completed

Wooden structural pillars replaced/repainted & painted by BWDBC.

Guttering replaced by BWDBC

Front & side footpaths re-surfaced and a disabled access ramp by BWDBC

The hut requires painting inside asap

New toilets and kitchen still required

All of the above mentioned tasks could not have been undertaken without the support of the Leader Team, Group Executive, Lay Members, Parents & Friends. May I thank all leaders & helpers on behalf of the Bold Venture Park Scout Group for your continued support for the benefit of our young people & may I also congratulate all leaders on their own personal achievements in training, service decorations, certificates , 1<sup>st</sup> Aid etc....

I will once again strive to lead the Group to success in a vibrant, challenging & exciting future in Scouting in 2010/2011.

Michael Grime Group Scout Leader