

Farewell 2019



Kincladie Wood

It's been another busy and successful year for Dunning Scout Group, 26th Perthshire. From rabbit skinning to star-gazing and from tree felling to bridge building, from haggis hunting to bird box hanging, from sleepovers to camping trips, from tiny sparks to make-a-brew-worthy campfires, from Aberfeldy to Dunfermline, from Little Dunning Fayre to the Remembrance Parade, from Beavers to Cubs and from Cubs to the very first Scout group in Dunning for 40 years its certainly been a jam-packed 12 months of adventure.

As we move into a new year – and a new decade – we wanted to look back on the past year we bid and give you a flavour of what's to come in the year ahead.

Before all that, we wanted to talk a little about resilience. Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts tell us time and time again that what they enjoy so much about Scouting is having fun. Meanwhile though, through their Scouting experience they are building skills which will help set them up for life.

Resilience is a life skill needed as much in the boardroom, in a work huddle or when you're trying to pitch a tent when some of the parts are missing.

Over half of parents believe that life is harder for young people growing up nowadays than it was twenty years ago according to research commissioned by the Scouting Association.

One thousand Scouting parents were interviewed as part of the study with most believing that between increased testing in schools, the onslaught of social media and the sense of competition it can generate there's a set of pressures on young people which simply didn't exist even a decade ago.

Finding outlets which allow kids to build basic life skills can be hard but over two thirds of parents believed that being a Scout helped young people to develop resilience – the ability to cope with pressures around them and, crucially, the willingness to bounce back.

In a recent radio interview, Chief Scout Bear Grylls declared that one of the things he'd take with him on an expedition is "that never-give-up-spirit."

Showing our young people how to develop the courage, positivity and resilience to keep going, even in tough times is something that's hard to quantify and isn't found in the pages of a manual. It's built on continuing to ignite that spark to light a campfire even

when the kindling's a bit wet or working together to pitch a tent in the rain even when your feet are soggy from that hole you hadn't noticed in your boots. It's about hiking that extra bit further when you're tired or persevering at that tricky knot even though your fingers keep slipping.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help as parents and helpers over the past year. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020.

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The Howling

News from the Cubs

Sausage roll sampling at Dunning's Simon Howie Butchers, a trip to Perth Fire Station and scaling the Perth College UHI climbing walls were just some of the Cubs activities this term.

We also took part in the Howling alongside over 700 others (including over 500 Cubs) from packs across the country. Fordell Firs Scout Activity Centre in Dunfermline played host to this action-packed, two-night camp back in September. The camp proves extremely popular every year and spaces sell out quickly so we were delighted to be able to take a group of 16 Cubs with us for a weekend of wall to wall activities, fun and the mother of all campfires. Camping overnight is a great experience for our young people and it doesn't get much better than the Howling! We look forward to returning again next year.

Scott Hewitt (Red Squirrel) has been a welcome addition to the Leadership team, joining Sandy Hunter to plan and lead Pack meetings. With an average of around 24 Cubs this term, the pair have worked to split the Pack into smaller groups than the Sixes to better cover badge work which has worked well. Badges covered this term include the Scientist Badge and Emergency Aid 3. Cat Hewitt has been regularly joining the leadership team along with Ray Smith



Beavers News

Highlights from the term include a trip to Pitlochry where our Colony enjoyed a walk, making a fire, some den building and ice cream! We also had fun at our Camp Craft day and at the sleepover in the Village Hall. Led by Beaver Scout Leader Peter Diver with Helen White, Fi Kimber and Scott Jeffrey, the Colony of 15 Beavers has worked towards 'Global Issues' and 'Air Activities' badges this term. The Beavers are looking forward to Louise Howard returning in January and to Will McMullen taking up a role with the Colony.



The Scouts have landed

We've done it! Progressing from 'Scubs' (Scouts/Cubs) to Scouts, the eight pack members now have their own designated meeting night on Friday and have enjoyed a variety of activities including a night hike up Clow Hill and Bushcraft Day since the pack were established at the beginning of the term.

Thanks to Nathan and Jim Butcher for leading the Scouts – and welcome to the new leader recruits: Ewan Cameron, Susan Whyte and Stephen Broad.

What's Coming in 2020?

Month	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts
January		Night Hike	
February		District Football event Bushcraft day	
March		Local football event	13-15th – <u>Meggernie weekend</u>
April			
May	<u>Whiterigg Event</u>	15- 17th - Parent and Cub camp	16 th - <u>Bushcraft day</u> . Emphasis on fire lighting skills
June	6 th – Little Dunning Market 26 th – Royal Agricultural Show visit	6 th – Little Dunning Market 26 th – Royal Agricultural Show visit	6 th – Little Dunning Market 26 th – Royal Agricultural Show visit 20-21 st – Solstice sleepover. Climb Craig Rossie to celebrate the solstice.
July			23-26 th – Summer Camp
August			23 rd – Visit the Crannog
September		4-6th - The Howling camp	12 th – Canoeing trip
October			10-11 – Big Badge Camp
November			28 th - <u>Bushcraft</u>
December			

Shout out for helpers!

Can you sew? Do you like taking photographs? Anyone with a spare hour out there? We love our adult helpers and frankly, we can't run our meetings without you! But it's not just help with our meetings that we need. As our Group grows, we need helpers for other jobs too.

Could you spare time to come and take photographs at one of our events? Are you able to sew letters onto a flag for us? Would you fancy putting together a display board for our hall? We need your help in any way you're happy to give it to us so please let us know how you can help lighten our load so we can concentrate on creating fantastic meetings for our kids.

Tomahawks anyone?

If you were ever in any doubt that helping out with our groups isn't fun, please take a look at some of these pictures! In December, a group of us took to the wilds of Dunfermline to learn how to throw Tomahawk axes. Once we've gone through more training we'll soon be able to teach the kids what we've learned – with all safety precautions firmly in place of course.

Getting trained in activities like this help us to add an extra dimension to meetings, giving the kids a chance to try new things in a safe environment. We hope to do more kayaking, climbing and hillwalking with our young people so if you'd be up for helping to run some adventurous activities occasionally, come and speak to one of our leaders.



Kincladie Wood



It's always with a heavy heart that we have to wrap up our meetings at Kincladie Wood once the dark nights come rolling in. While we're of course grateful for the space available to conduct our meetings at the village hall, being in and amongst the nature and wilds of Kincladie during the spring and summer is one of the highlights of being in the Dunning 26th.

We've looked at different ways that we can provide space for our winter meetings and with a lack of suitable buildings available, we're now in talks with community groups including Dunning Community Trust and Perth and Kinross Council about building our own meeting hut in Kincladie Wood.

With a focus on an environmentally - friendly, largely self-sustaining build our plan would be to create an innovative yet basic community space which blends in seamlessly with its surroundings and which 'brings the outside in', enabling us to hold meetings with a distinctly Scouting feel.

We will keep you posted on how this all progresses! In the meantime, we gratefully continue to make the most of the winter space we have to bring our young people friendly, fun and engaging meetings!

Annual Membership Census

Every year the Scouts conduct a national census of its membership. You'll soon get an email asking for some information about your child. We'd know it's a busy time of year but would really appreciate it if you could spare the five minutes completing the census takes. The data collected about every Section, Group, District, County, Area and Region within the UK is used to create a detailed picture of the young people and adults making up the membership. Asking for equality data - gender, ethnicity and disability - is vital to ensuring the Scouts has a clear picture of who is a member.

All information is anonymous - Dunning Scouts don't see your individual answers and neither does Headquarters.

The census return also forms the basis for our annual membership fee to the Scouting Association - last year we paid £37 for every Beaver, Cub and Scout. That covers insurance, training and support from HQ.

Leader Spotlight



Sandy & Kaitlyn Hunter

Our Cub Scout Leader Sandy Hunter – Akela - is no stranger to scouting – or Dunning! Having moved to the village as a young boy he was once a Dunning Cub himself. As Head Greenkeeper at Dunning Golf Club, Sandy's main duties include turf care and mowing regimes – as well as looking after the Club's 500 members. Dunning is still home to Sandy where he lives with his wife Kirsty and their three children Kaitlyn, 10, Archie, 8 and Oliver, 4.

1) How long have you been a leader?

I've been a Cub Leader since the formation of the section on April 2018 but was ABL for the Beavers the year prior. Our GSL asked if I'd be interested in being CSL, just on paper, as we would share the load.

2) What does your job as Leader involve?

Good question! Along with fellow Leader Red Squirrel (Scott Hewit) we initially plan the term programme, look at badge requirements for Cubs to earn relevant badges and ultimately create a programme where Cubs can learn life lessons and most of all have fun!

3) Were you a Cub when you were younger?

Yes! We used to meet in Dunning at the original Scout hall down Kirkwynd before it burnt down. I have many memories of Scouting in the village and surrounds including camping up at Montalt farm.

4) Favourite part of the job?

Honestly, the best part is the general interaction with the Cubs and the fact they surprise you every week!

5) Best thing you've done with Dunning Cubs?

Camps are always top of the list and our first ever District camp was one of my most memorable. We had a total of 13 Cubs and the leaders were just as nervous as the Cubs - if not more. It was an experience to remember for all of us and hopefully something they'll never forget.

Some Trumpet Blowing...

We'd like to toot the trumpet for three of our Scouts – Kaitlyn Hunter, 10, Isla Scott, 10 and Archie Cameron, 10. As Cubs they each worked hard to achieve the Chief Scout Silver Award - the highest possible award in Cubs. The award is obtained by doing all seven Challenge badges and six Activity or Staged Activity badges.



The three were awarded their badges and certificates by Robert Anderson, Scottish Commissioner for Cubs at The Howling Camp. We caught up with them to find out a bit more about their Awards.

1) What made you decide to go for this badge?

K: I was one of the older and original Cubs so I got the chance to do it.

I: I liked getting all the badges and wanted a goal to achieve.

A: I knew I didn't have much time left in Cubs and I decided to go for it.

Cont'd

Trumpet Blowing Continued...

2) **How long did it take you to complete the badge?**

K: About 20 months.

I: It took me about two years but if you were more set on getting the award, it might take less time.

A: One or two months for the personal challenge – my final badge in Cubs!

3) **What was the hardest part to do?**

K: The Outdoors Challenge badge.

I: The Challenge badges– you had to plan and work much harder for them.

A: Earning the badges.

4) **What was the most fun part?**

K) Learning new skills and even the harder challenges.

I) Going on camps because you got to do lots of fun activities and have a great time.

A) Being awarded the badges!

5) **How do you feel wearing your badge knowing how much work you put into it?**

K: I feel really good knowing I worked very hard and challenged myself all the way.

I: I feel proud because I put so much work into it.

A: Very proud.

6) **What one piece of advice would you give others going for Challenge badges?**

K: Keep on trying and persevering even though you might not be able to do it on your first try.

I: Work hard, don't give up and most importantly, have fun.

A: Try and never give up.

Here's to more adventures in 2020

