



1st York Poppleton Scout Group Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Hello Everyone

Here we go with another 1st York Poppleton Scouts Newsletter, this one for the AGM.

This year's Annual General Meeting, AGM, is on **Sunday 22nd September** at Poppleton Community Centre, 4 to 6 pm. We have refreshments provided and we will be presenting some awards during the event. Please come and support us!

Last year we achieved a lot and the young people leaving us will be self-assured with their really valuable skills and experiences acquired through scouting, which make all of the leaders and helpers feel very proud.

That's not forgetting the Executive Committee, Buildings Committee and all the other volunteers who, without them, 1st York Poppleton Scouts would not be able to function. A very big thank you to them for giving such an amazing opportunity to the children and all their support to our group.

Volunteers

However, we have a dilemma - we require more volunteers.

We have a lot to do, including a major refurbishment of the Scout Hut, but Mandy, the group Chair, will share more detail of what's planned at the AGM.

For example, in the Scouts section, we have the leader and 2 assistant leaders who both struggle most weeks due to work commitments. Ian quite often travels home long distances to help run Scouts (sometime as far as Southampton!!!), so the Group Scout Leader, GSL, (myself) has been assisting, but I have to also be 'occasional' due to future work commitments including long travel. (The GSL should be able to assist in all sections but I have had to focus on the Scouts).

We require more volunteers in this group so as not to disappoint the Scouts by not being able to run the odd evening.

We also have a Young Leader programme from 14.5 years to 18 years, which offers ex Scouts and others in this age bracket the opportunity to learn leadership and other skills.

There are now 9 Young Leaders, 3 assigned to each section. The majority of our Young Leaders have previously been scouts and are able to help Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with their acquired skills.

Young Leaders are key to Scouting; they will be given the opportunity to run sessions and will continue to develop their skills, and they are a valuable resource for 1st York Poppleton Scouts.

We have had a really good year across all three sections and have waiting lists which we would love to reduce. However as stated recently by Mandy and myself, we urgently need volunteers or sadly one of more of the sections will not be able to operate!

Utopia would be to have 2 sections of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts giving every young person who wants to, the opportunity to try Scouting.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a vital part of the Scout Group and Poppleton Scouts has an established credibility in the local community. It ensures the group are involved with the community, it gives the sections a purpose for their newly acquired skills and without these funds 1st York Poppleton Scouts would not be able to offer such a diverse schedule of skills to be gained for their Bronze to Gold awards throughout the duration of their stint with this scout group.

Unfortunately, our fundraising Coordinator Tess, left to sunnier climates and here is another position that requires filling to support the Scout group with raising funds.

The first major fundraiser for 2019 was in May at Poppleton Children Sports Day, where we sell BBQ burgers and hotdogs and sadly this year was not very busy so takings were down on 2018. This went towards Scout and Group Camps.

Apple day is always a really popular event for all three sections, so I would recommend attending this if you are around, normally held the first weekend in October ; for 2019 its on **Sunday 6 October 12-4pm.**

The scouts and people from the village bring along apples to the Tithe Barn. A production line of a cubs, scouts and parents chop the apples into smaller pieces; these then get put into the crusher, they then are put into the presses, where the juices are collected and folk can take the juice for drinking or even for homemade brews! Plus we have food on offer (hotdogs and possibly burgers) and we have a great tombola. The Brownies also support this event by supplying refreshments including delicious cakes. All the monies this year will go towards funds for the Scout group building.

Bonfire Night BBQ is a major event. We are given the opportunity to supply the public with hot beef burgers (sourced locally for the Viking Butcher). It's a fast paced evening, requires a proactive Scout production line to supply hungry punters. Cubs man the tombola stall. These monies go back into Scouts to help buy new equipment such as tents and other outdoor equipment.

These are the three main fundraising events for 1st York Poppleton Scout Group.

Camp

On this year's Scout Camp, which I attended, the leaders did a 24 hours survival challenge, crashed the Scouts at 5.30 and they were out on their own without any tents until 10.00 the next day. They made shelters or slept out under the stars, cooking wild game which was acquired by our resident "wild man of the woods", but I will leave Ian to tell you more at the AGM.

Group camp - again this was outstanding and surpassed last years, but I will leave Jo and Charles to cover.

But the AGSL (our kitchen porter), reported that the comradery and atmosphere on camp was amazing. The children aspired to fun group activities such as milk crate stacking, cave bus challenge and staying dry kayaking (some leaders struggled with the staying dry part, hey Lydia?) and late evenings with stories and songs around the camp fire. The leaders/young leaders had fun competing with the children and each other. For the first time the beavers stayed in tents on camp and also provided an unearthly, feral, alarm clock for camp!!! Children from all sections went home bushed, happy and hopefully with fond memories to

take with them. And the weather played an important part in this amusing weekend.

New equipment

We also purchased a lot of other camping equipment, which all the sections have benefitted from and will benefit from in the coming year. New tents used on Group Camp (Scouts build their own!!), new stoves including wood burning rather than gas, plus a lot of other outdoor equipment to enable such a varied schedules.

Finally our programs across all three sections are both varied and exciting and that's feedback from not only the young people but district leaders who have visited to see what we do, so I am really passionate about ensuring Poppleton Scouts continues to grow and provide the young people with some really important life skills.

So please come and support us!

If you are not sure, please contact me as I am sure we can find/create a role for you; remember every little helps!

Cheers
Guy

Guy Bolton
Group Scout Leader
1st York Poppleton Scouts