

Official Newsletter of the Guides and Scouts of Europe
1st Gateshead Group

Foreword by Paul Hammond Group Chief of 1st Gateshead FSE and President of GSE UK

Welcome to our second newsletter!

In Pastor Mark Batterson's book "Play the Man", he talks about how zoos are great, but that "looking at caged animals isn't nearly as exhilarating as witnessing a wild animal in its natural habitat - it's too safe, it's too tame, and it's too predictable."

He describes his family's visit to the National Zoo in Washington DC: "As we walked through the ape house, the four-hundred-pound gorillas looked so bored, so emasculated, behind protective plexiglass."

One could argue that our culture and institutions today are not dissimilar from zoos and that we have become repressed as a result.

Here at 1st Gateshead FSE we are trying to help boys become men of virtue. We resonate with Mark's statement that "the way we play the man is by overcoming obstacles, by meeting daunting challenges. We may fear the wolf, but we also crave it. It's what we want, it's what we need."

He continues, "Jesus went off the grid for forty days. You have to put yourself in situations where everything is stripped away... at the mercy of the elements and test your limits. That's how you discover what you're capable of. That's how boys become men and men become men of God."

I hope you will all be able to join us at our summer camp. The camp is the highlight of the scouting year and is the event to which all other activities build up. Come and join the other wolves: we crave it; it's what we want; it's what we need!

"A man discovers who he is in the wild.
He also discovers who God is."



This issue:

Foreword by Paul Hammond
PAGE 01

Latest with the Yellow branch - Akela
PAGE 02

Latest with the Green branch - Kaa
PAGE 03

Latest activities - Raksha
PAGE 04

Fundraising
PAGE 05

Upcoming schedule
PAGE 06





Latest with the yellow branch (wolf cubs)

BY AKELA

Following the training camp weekend with Jean-Luc and Valentine, the leaders now have a better understanding of the scouts of Europe wolf cub pedagogy. I am aiming to improve and introduce certain things with the pack. There will be a few changes which I will briefly mention:

i) council rock - a very important part of the pedagogy which has been slightly overlooked. The training has helped me understand how important it is. Together, we will practice how to be summoned to council rock and how to enact it properly.

ii) summer camp - we have some good activities to perform at the summer camp now following the guidance of our trainers. Also we have learnt some practicalities which should help organisation etc.

iii) activities more based on jungle book - including big hunts and small hunts more relative to the jungle book and the scouts of Europe pedagogy. Hopefully getting wolf cubs ready for their time in the scouts when the time comes.

iv) promise ceremony and stars - we're hoping that almost all of the boys will be able to perform their promise ceremony at the summer camp. This is a special time for the boys. We just have a couple of final things to complete from the mowgli booklet.

v) badges - these should technically be done after the promise, first and second stars have been awarded. We will focus on stars in the coming months before any more work on the badges.

vi) take more serious uniform and mowgli booklet - please ensure your children attend every session with their full uniform and mowgli booklets. This is very important to help us all appear equal, smart and part of a "happy family". I will be doing regular uniform inspections from now on.

Cub of the month - Inigo

Well done to Inigo who has really excelled the last couple of months. I am particularly impressed with his desire to look after and protect our newest tenderpaw, Junior. He is always willing to help Akela and leaders with tasks such as carrying items from the fire area to the peace garden at Minsteracres, for example. Keep it up!

Congratulations also to John Hammond and Junior for coming in the top 3! I am proud of your dedication and behaviour boys.



Our outdoor adventures in cubs are incredibly fun! We learn new skills, work together with others, and I love that everything we do is about loving and serving God

INIGO - GREY PACK





Latest with the green branch (scouts)

BY KAA

Members:

Jewel has joined our Bull patrol and, with Emmanuel, is now working towards his Scout Promise, with help from Alfred.

Activities:

Activities this past quarter have included learning about the scout virtue of devotedness/dedication; rigging up a TV and roof-top aerial for watching the Grand National; using walkie-talkies and radio receivers; making wooden skis to race on; learning the left-handed handshake and different types of salute; practising reef knots and "crow's foot" knots; participating in the Flag Day Parade at Beamish Museum; helping to clear the land and construct a footbridge for Our Lady's grotto at Whittingham; recapping on the 27 member countries of the Guides and Scouts of Europe via a flag competition; practising pitching our new canvas dining shelters; making home-made mayonnaise and marie-rose sauce; and creating a "kim's taste" competition.

In addition, some of the scouts attended the Missionaries of Charity May Procession in Newcastle, the MOSJ "Men and Boys' Weekend" in Cumbria, and the Significance Festival at the Youth Village.

Well done to the scouts for their continuing successes and especially to Aidan for having led the patrol in such a level-headed and balanced way this year. Let's continue to put our patrol motto into practise: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13)

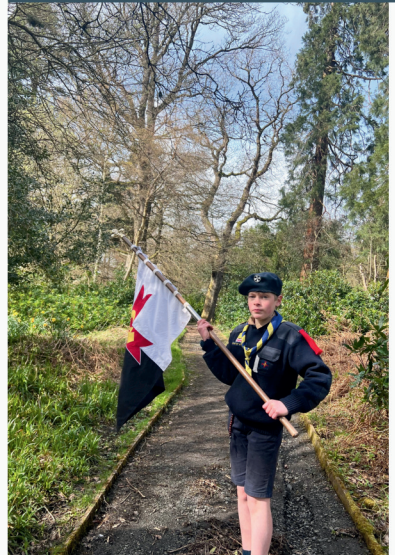
Coming up soon:

At the summer camp, we're aiming to design and construct a coat of arms and a large totem pole for our "Bull" patrol. We're also planning our very first cooking competition.

In the autumn we hope to undertake a "raid" (which is a 2-day group hike with various tests and challenges that need to be completed)

I see Catholic scouting not only as a great source of physical health, practicality outdoors, awareness and servanthood - but a firm foundation of faith with courage and a roadmap to God

GEORGE - SCOUT





Latest Activities

BY RAKSHA (LOUISE)

Beamish Flag Day

The scouts and cubs attended the Flag Day in Beamish Museum on 18th May. It started with a trip around the Beamish grounds exploring and learning from different eras in British history. The cubs and scouts showed some interest with wood working and had the opportunity to learn how tools and furniture were made by hand by the use of simple tools back in the day- something that they need to accomplish as scouts and cubs. The highlight of the event was the parade participated by hundreds of cubs and scouts around the Northeast. They look particularly snappy in their uniform.

Family Day

On the 1st of June, the scouts and cubs together with their families gathered for the family day starting with a Mass celebrated at St. Mary's Church in Whittingham. Fr. David welcomed the group to his parish where snacks were served after the mass. Thanks to our friend, Gordon who taught the cubs and scouts carpentry skills and helped them build a bridge that the boys later took to the stream. Sumptuous barbeque were then shared by everybody before heading to the Breamish Valley for a picnic. Some boys had a great time swimming in the cold, clear spring waters.

Leaders' Training Session

A great event for our leaders to learn from President of UIGS-FSE Jean-Luc Angelis and Valentine who travelled all the way from France took place in the Emmaus Youth Village. The event was also participated by 3 leaders who came all the way from Bedford. The 2-day event was held together with the Youth Festival where the leaders camped and completed activities through the guidance of the French leaders. This will be very beneficial during our scouts' and cubs' sessions. The leaders also participated with the Youth Festival and had the opportunity to speak to the participants regarding our organisation. The weekend ended with the leaders attending the Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Gateshead. It was a productive and weekend full of learning thanks to our French leaders.

"Scouting ministry provides programs that effectively contribute toward the implementation of a comprehensive approach to Catholic youth ministry. Young people need the guidance of happy, healthy, and holy adult role models willing to share their faith in both word and action."

ARCHBISHOP BROGLIO





Fundraising

BY AKELA

Fundraising idea: great north run

Are you considering challenging yourself to complete the great north run? Would you consider raising money for our group?

Any money raised helps us enormously. Allowing us to continue to operate and put on further exciting activities in the future, such as kayaking and mountaineering. We cannot do these without your support. Please consider raising funds for our group.

Paul and George Hammond recently attended an award ceremony at Oscott seminary! We were awarded the sum of £2966. This grant has allowed us to subsidise uniforms and events. Well done, George, for your acceptance speech in front of 4 bishops and many illustrious figures!

Massive thank you to Father David for donating a superb image of Blessed Carlo Acutis (soon to be Saint!)



GSE UK Charity number: 1198968

MONEY RAISED:

GRAND NATIONAL - £52

EUROS - £27

EGGS - £1.50



Upcoming Schedule

Friday 19-22nd July: Summer Camp

- Please remember to book if you haven't already!

Provisional dates for the forthcoming meetings (to be confirmed at the end of July):

Thu 5th Sep: Celebration with Missionaries of Charity on Feast of St Teresa of Calcutta

Thu 12th Sep: Mount Community Centre

Sat 21st Sep: Minsteracres

Thu 3rd Oct: Mount Community Centre

Sat 19th Oct: Minsteracres

Thu 7th Nov: Mount Community Centre

Sat 23rd Nov: Minsteracres

Thu 5th Dec: Mount Community Centre

Sat 14th Dec: Minsteracres



CATHOLIC MEN AND BOYS WEEKEND

4-6TH OCTOBER

KNOCK CHRISTIAN CENTRE, EDEN VALLEY (NEAR PENRITH)

BY THE "MEN OF ST JOSEPH" AND "CATHOLIC MAN UK"

MASS, CONFESSIONS, TALKS, TESTIMONIES, EXPOSITION, RECREATION, SOCIAL TIME, HILLWALKING, FOOTBALL, POOL, TABLE TENNIS, BASKETBALL, BADMINTON, OUTDOOR CHESS/DRAUGHTS

