

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

Welcome to our third newsletter!

A key motivation behind the launch of our 1st Gateshead FSE group was to help build up the local community of Catholic children and youth - not just in terms of building them up individually via our 5 Aims (namely health, character, practicality, service and sense of God), but in terms of building strong friendships that will last for life.

For decades, the practising Catholic children and youth of our diocese have been becoming more and more dispersed and isolated in their parishes and schools; and this was exacerbated by the government's and Church's response to Covid-19. The need to bring young people together on a frequent basis and to foster deep friendships for them is increasingly great! Acquaintances and casual friendships are not enough: without brotherly, loyal friendships, the youth of today will struggle to rise above the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil.

We're keen that such lasting friendships are developed across ethnic groups, social classes, educational options (school, home-ed and hybrid), liturgical styles, and other variations of background and preference. And already, when we look at our fledgling group, we find a diverse collection of members. The Catholic Church is universal. And that is also how our group should be! Thus, within our group, young people have the opportunity to develop wholesome, lasting friendships with a wide cross-section of people who are different to each other in many ways, but who are all on a common journey of Christian discipleship. And this September, the opportunity to develop strong Catholic friendships has extended to an earlier age, with the launch of our "blue branch" for beavers (a special shout-out is needed here for our Great Beaver, Jonathan!).

Psychologists tell us, "If a friendship lasts longer than seven years, it will last a lifetime." For children joining as beavers, they will hopefully progress through wolfcubs/wolvets and through scouts/guides and potentially through rovers/wayfarers if we keep expanding! And perhaps some of these will continue as leaders well into adulthood. Thus, with 15+ years of "window" available, and with a holistic programme of character-building activities, the probability of developing friendships that last a lifetime is high, especially for those who prioritise scouting over the other competing demands upon their time.

And there's more! We're already seeing that it's not just the community of young people that is being built up, but the community of parents, leaders, helpers and priests too. In particular, those who attend our Minsteracres meetings, outings and camps are growing in fellowship, celebrating together, and supporting each other during difficult times.

The final word goes to our founder, Baden-Powell: "The scout is a friend to all." Let's create friendships that will last a lifetime!



This issue:

Foreword by Paul Hammond

PAGE 01

Latest with the Blue branch
- Great Beaver

PAGE 02

Latest with the Yellow
branch - Akela

PAGE 03

Latest with the Green
branch - Kaa

PAGE 04

Latest activities - Raksha

PAGE 05

Fundraising

PAGE 06

Upcoming schedule

PAGE 07

Quiz

PAGE 08



Latest with the Blue branch (beavers)

BY GREAT BEAVER

"The way to be a saint, Dominic, is to be always cheerful, do your duties to the best of your ability, and give your classmates good example. Keep in mind that the Lord Jesus is always with you and wants your happiness."

These words of Don Bosco must have had a profound effect on the 12-year-old Dominic Savio. By doing ordinary everyday things in an extraordinary way, Dominic Savio went on to become the youngest person at the tender age of 14 to be canonised a saint, showing us that God's call to holiness is for people of all ages, including our young people of today. This is why St Dominic Savio, along with St Kateri Tekakwitha, are the patron saints of our Beaver colony. Their example will help our young Beavers to live by the Beaver Law of being joyful, sharing, and helpful to our family and friends, and, most importantly, discovering Jesus and becoming His friend, just as the 7-year-old Dominic Savio on the occasion of his First Holy Communion resolved that "Jesus and Mary will be my friends".

As the first Beaver colony to be established in the UK within the re-launched UK Association of the Guides and Scouts of Europe, we had a wonderful first meeting at Minsteracres on September 21st with 3 boys and 6 girls. We started the meeting off by learning the Beaver Motto, Beaver Salute, and Beaver Prayer. Following Holy Mass and a BBQ lunch, we had a game where the Beavers were shown 5 samples of plants and asked to search the garden for the same (most of the Beavers did really well!). We then took a walk down to the pond (a common beaver habitat) and had story time there reading Chapter 1 of "Friends of the Forest" which is about the beaver colony giving members of the Jones family their names. We followed this up by giving each of our Beavers an opportunity to tell us how they got their own names (many thanks to the parents for helping to prepare this). Back in the garden, we had a fun and lively 3-legged race, and even a 4-legged race with three children strapped together! We ended the day with The Lodge, where we discussed the joys and pains of the day, learned the Song of the Lodge, and had a Final Prayer with contributions from our Beavers.

With the current meeting frequency being once a month, the Beavers will be working towards pronouncing their Beaver Promise during a ceremony at the December 7th meeting at Minsteracres. In order for a Beaver to make his/her promise, he/she will have to complete the following 4 tasks: know the Beaver Law, perform the Beaver Salute, sing the Beaver Prayer, and obey his/her parents without complaining. We invite all parents to attend and participate in their child(ren)'s Promise Ceremony.

This appeals to the imaginary world. Beavers live in colonies. They are very skilled at building. They are led by the "Great Beavers". They are animals skilled with their "ten fingers". They live in nature. They are both aquatic and terrestrial animals. They are very sociable.

WHY THE NAME "BEAVERS"?





Latest with the Yellow branch (wolf cubs)

BY AKELA

New cubs:

We are delighted to welcome Hayden, Luke and Max into the pack! Max will be joining the Black six and Hayden will join the White six and Luke the Grey six.

Progression latest:

Tenderpaws

There are a few tender paws (boys who have not yet made their promise) who are currently working on their tasks in order to undertake their promise. The next promise ceremony will be held in the November Minsteracres session. Raksha (Louise) will be helping the boys with this. These boys are: Ikenna, Chris, Andre, Max, Hayden, Junior and Luke

1st Star

The cubs who undertook their promise at the summer camp will now be working towards their first star. This ceremony will take place at next year's summer camp. The activities are quite varied and interesting.

2nd Star

We have a few (9) cubs who will be making their way into the scouts in the next academic year. Because of this, Gary is going to help these boys with their 2nd star progression to give everyone the opportunity to complete all the chances a wolf cub should have. Thank you for this Gary. The cubs involved are: James, Tom, David, Kennedy and Edwin. There will be homework involved with this and I humbly ask parents/guardians for their support with this.

Cub of the month - Edwin!

Well done Edwin. Exemplifying the qualities of a good wolf cub, Edwin has really impressed me the last few months at the summer camp, Minsteracres and Mount Community Centre sessions. The pack law is "The wolf cub always listens to the elder wolf, The wolf cub does not listen to himself". Edwin has done well putting this into practice lately. He also had the honour of being our totem pole bearer at Minsteracres. Keep it up Edwin, and keep working hard boys.

"I enjoy cubs because I like making new friends. It is all about socialising with new people and making new friends."

EDWIN - BROWN SIX





Latest with the Green branch (scouts)

BY KAA

Members:

Emmanuel and Leon pledged their allegiance to the Patrol Chief. Leon has joined our Bull patrol and, together with Emmanuel, Ryan and Jewel, is now working towards his Scout Promise. We said a sad goodbye to loyal members Nosazee and Efosa, who have moved to Oxford.

Activities:

The highlight of the last quarter was the summer camp, where the theme was the French Olympics. The scouts created a 24-stage "Hebert Course"; undertook a French themed cooking competition (which included frogs legs, snails, casserole and crepes); and cleared an area of land to make way for a Marian grotto. Lack of funds postponed the construction of a coat of arms and totem pole, but hopefully they will get made this year.

Diocesan seminarian, Emmet O'Leary, came to speak to the scouts (and wolfcubs) about vocation and the path to the priesthood.

The scouts have begun working towards their "2nd Class" award, which requires various challenges to be passed, across 18 different aspects of scouting. The first of these challenges - that of lighting a strong fire without any paper or firelighters and with at most 3 matches - has now been passed by 2 of the scouts. It is more difficult than it sounds! The scouts also attempted to pitch Gary's new tent within 10 minutes, but didn't quite meet the time limit, so will need another attempt!

Coming up soon:

At the October meeting at Minsteracres, Fr Endre is due to teach the scouts some boxing moves, within the context of sportsmanship, virtue, evangelisation and physical health.

"We must change boys from a 'what can I get' to a 'what can I give' attitude."

LORD ROBERT BADEN-POWELL, THE FOUNDER OF SCOUTING.





Latest Activities

BY RAKSHA (LOUISE)

Summer camp

This year's summer camp has brought a total of 24 cubs and 9 scouts. It was held in the Emmaus Youth Village with plenty of ground for the scouts and cubs to play and pray. Each day, a mass was celebrated thanks to our hardworking priests who agreed to take part- Fr. Emmuel and Fr. Luke.

The scouts made a Hebert course which the cubs also enjoyed. Each cub and scout who took part had a role to play in helping with tidying up, meal preparation and serving food. For the cubs, each sixer was tasked to rehearse a show that they then presented in front of their parents during the cubs' promise ceremony.

The promise ceremony was attended by the cubs' parents, guardians and the Missionaries of Charity. It was a successful ceremony where each cub said his promise solemnly to abide by the cub laws and to strive to be a good cub at home and everywhere he goes. Fr. Emmanuel blessed each cub who made his promise in front of Akela and his parents/guardians. A sumptuous feast was then shared.

This year's summer camp, we have also been blessed with the addition of 3 leaders and volunteers and more cubs and scouts. It was a challenging 2 days and 3 nights as we were not always blessed with good weather, but all in all it was successful with God's grace and guidance.

We are certainly growing in number! See you all and more at our next summer camp!

**"The open-air is
the real
objective of
Scouting and
the key to its
success."**

LORD ROBERT BADEN-
POWELL
THE FOUNDER OF
SCOUTING.





Fundraising

BY AKELA

Fundraising idea: Great North Run 2025

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.

Homemade Soaps

Thank you Billy, Rory, Johnny and family for making the effort in creating homemade soaps. All proceeds go towards the group. The soaps are still for sale, available at each meeting or by contacting Matt James or Rachel James directly. They are £5 each or £9 for 2 and come in Morning Coffee and Night Time Lavender. They are well worth it!

Eggs

Organic eggs are available for purchase. The chickens are raised by the Hammond family. You can be sure of their quality as they are fed only on organic feed and have very high standard of life. They are also a lot cheaper than supermarket cage-raised chickens. Support the cubs and support your well being. 2 birds with 1 stone!



**GSE UK
Charity
number:
1198968**

Upcoming Schedule

Saturday 12th October: Minsteracres

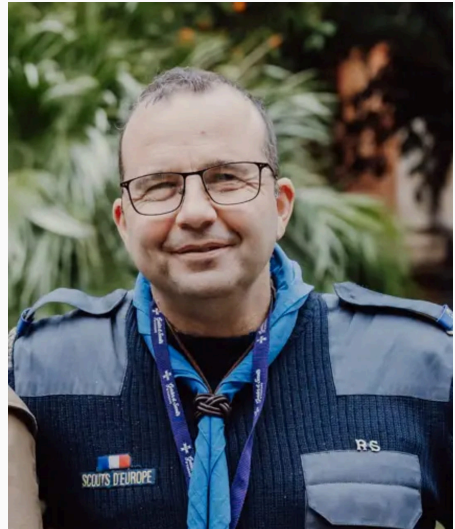
Thursday 24th October: Mount
Community Centre

Saturday 9th November: Minsteracres

Thursday 21st November: Mount
Community Centre

Saturday 7th December: Minsteracres

Thursday 19th December: Mount
Community Centre



CALLING ALL LEADERS AND POTENTIAL
LEADERS!
WE HAVE A TRAINING DAY COMING UP WITH
THE ONE AND ONLY JEAN-LUC ANGELIS.
19TH OCTOBER 11AM - 5PM
HELD IN BEDFORD

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
PAUL HAMMOND AND WE WILL ARRANGE
TRANSPORT.

CATHOLIC MEN AND BOYS WEEKEND

4-6TH OCTOBER

KNOCK CHRISTIAN CENTRE, EDEN VALLEY
(NEAR PENRITH)

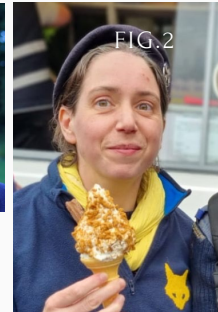
BY THE "MEN OF ST JOSEPH" AND
"CATHOLIC MAN UK"

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



Quiz

1. What is the name of this man and what is his role in our association? (2 points) (see figure. 1)
2. Why is this lady wearing a yellow neckerchief and a yellow wolf patch on her jumper? (See figure. 2)
3. How many leaders of our group have made their scout/guide promise?
4. What is the name of the venue where we first started meeting on Thursday evenings?
5. In which year was the Mount Community Centre built?
6. What is the name of the saint who founded the religious community which lives at Minsteracres?
7. What is the middle name of this scout? (See figure. 3)
8. What type of trees grow along the driveway at Minsteracres, and how old are they? (2 points)
9. What is the name of the river we paddled and swam in during our June day trip?
10. What colour should the function stripes on the epaulettes of the Great Beaver (Jonathan) be? (2 points for the correct shade)
11. Which animal is in the name of the village where this wolfcub lives? (see figure. 4)
12. What is the Christian name of this Missionary of Charity? (See figure. 5)
13. What is this priest making in his heart? (See figure. 6)
14. Who was it that prompted this priest's conversion? (See figure.7)
15. What is the wolfcub motto?
16. According to the Scout Law, the scout is loyal to his...
17. How many countries are in the Guides and Scouts of Europe?



1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be given at the November meeting at Minsteracres. No help from parents is allowed!